PRESENTATION TO

PALO ALTO

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

March 15, 2018

429 University Avenue
Palo Alto
429 University Avenue
Palo Alto

- The Project
- Location of the Art
- Artist Selection
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- Materials
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In support of and as required by the City of Palo Alto’s Public Art Requirement for Private Development, we are making this presentation for public art at 429 University Avenue in the downtown commercial district.

THE PROJECT

The development site is a parcel at the northwest corner of the intersection at University Avenue and Kipling Street. The location is an integral part of the busy and vibrant downtown scene, across University Avenue from the Varsity Theater, and across Kipling Street from the old Apple store. The site is 11,000 square feet. The new building is a modern, mixed-use, 3-story building with a partial fourth story, and two levels of underground parking. The building will have retail on the ground floor, offices on the second floor and three apartments on the third floor. The partial fourth floor will have an office and an open terrace.

LOCATION FOR ART

There are very few options for public art on University Ave as square footage is at a premium and the Avenue is dedicated to retail store fronts. We allocated a beautiful space at the corner of Kipling Street and Lane 30 next to a three story glass stairwell and lobby. We propose placing a suspended metal sculpture which will be visible from the interior building lobby and stairwell as well as the exterior balconies of the building. Since this sculpture is outdoors, it will also be accessible to the public at all times. This visibility of the art to the public was strongly recommended by the Art Commission at our initial meeting in 2014. The suspended metal sculpture is approximately 3.5 ft. x 5 ft. and 10 ft. tall, and will be located about 100 ft. north on Kipling Street from the intersection of Kipling Street and University Avenue.

There are very attractive reasons for this location:

- A nod to the neighborhood - The 400 block of Kipling Street still echoes a residential past, although the current mix of uses is commercial in nature. Several personal services establishments are on that block including a nail salon and a yoga studio, and there is wine bar nestled between venture capital offices. The modern design building at 429 University provides a contrast to the 1- and 2-story buildings of mixed architectural styles in the 400 block of Kipling Street. This art sculpture will punctuate
the change in styles, bring attention to this part of Kipling Street and awaken the senses to its artistic possibilities.

- **Linking communities** – Currently, much of the foot traffic remains on University Avenue. This development will bring a different aesthetic to the location. Access to the upper floors of the building will be from the rear corner at Kipling Street so foot traffic will move up Kipling Street. Artwork at that same corner near the building entrance will bring interest and visual appeal up from University Avenue, providing a bridge between the communities in the 400 block of Kipling and University Avenue, activating the side street and providing a new link between the commercial activity of busy University Avenue and the quieter, often overlooked Kipling Street community.

- **Beautifying the alley** – Lane 30 at the rear of the property is a utilitarian thoroughfare used mostly by the garbage and recycling trucks in the morning, delivery vans during the day, and assorted foot and bicycle traffic. One of the objectives of the City is to beautify and improve the various alleys including this one. The building’s stunning modern architecture with its garden wall on the façade facing the alley will certainly do this. The artwork at the corner will draw further visual interest and aesthetic beauty to the alley and focus attention to this part of the downtown.

- **The backdrop** – The building will have a notch at this corner, framed by balconies at one side, and a 3-story glass-enclosed main stairway for the building’s tenant in the upper floors at the other. An outdoor sculpture at this location will be seen in reflection from the building’s glass walls, and also receive illumination from the stairwell at night. It will be safely suspended in the building’s notch approximately 10 ft overhead, somewhat between the first floor and the second floor.

Artwork at the corner of the alley and Kipling Street will become the focal point on the path of discovery from three sides, animating the pedestrian experience. It will emerge when traveling down the alley, when walking up from University Avenue, and when walking down Kipling Street, thus providing surprising experiences as passers-by view the installation from various perspectives. As an added bonus, tenants and visitors of 429 University can experience the same art as they ascend the interior staircase, and the location of the art near the staircase will benefit from the lighting of the staircase 24/7.

The requisite identifying plaque will be affixed on a concrete column of the staircase that is closest to the corner of Kipling Street and the alley. It will be approximately 4 ft. from the ground and on the alley-side of the column. A rendering of the plaque is shown on Exhibit G.
ARTIST SELECTION

The Public Art Commission first reviewed a proposal for this development project in July, 2014. Since then many artists were considered; a handful were interviewed. One of the artists originally considered for this project has died, others have moved on or moved away. An impediment for another artist with existing art in Palo Alto is the limit of three pieces of public art. In the end, we are fortunate to have Bay Area artist Albert Dicruttalo agree to create public art for this location.

Mr. Dicruttalo has made Oakland his home base for the last twenty-two years. He grew up in a small New York town, attended and graduated from Ithaca College, and apprenticed with well-known Oakland sculptor Bruce Beasley who has public art in Palo Alto. Mr. Dicruttalo has public art on display in Orinda, Walnut Creek, San Mateo, San Jose and a piece installed in 2016 nearby in Sunnyvale. He has exhibited all over California and in selected cities as far away as China, and he is eager to leave his mark in Palo Alto. Please see his curriculum vitae attached as Exhibit F.

ART CONCEPT

The proposal from Mr. Dicruttalo is a stainless steel sculpture consisting of three unique oval loops joined at the tips suggestive of flight or a body in motion. This impression led him to call the work “Avigation”. The sculpture, discreetly suspended from the building’s façade yet high enough to ensure public safety, will allow the viewer to ponder and imagine, and let imagination take flight. The name Avigation evokes aviation and navigation; floating without limits and escaping the limitations of gravity; perhaps a metaphor for having and accomplishing higher ideals. The art may also allude the indomitable spirit of man to seek flight and an undefined yet limitless future. It connects with the dreams and lofty ambitions of the area’s innovative spirit. Some may feel there is a sense of a bird taking flight; others will think it more evokes a man-made contraption that can take flight. The viewer will decide.

The soft curves of the sculpture will contrast with and gain emphasis from the rectilinear architecture of the building and its surroundings. The stainless steel loops will contrast with the metal, glass and concrete of the building behind, acknowledging it owes its location and stability to its attachments to the building, yet its lack of straight lines will boldly declare its independence from the building and other surrounding constructions. As the art cantilevers from the building, its prominence diminishes the importance of its attachment to the building as well as the details of the building itself, such as the staircase and the balcony railings.

As viewers inspect, appreciate and contemplate the art, they might imagine it as a point of discovery (of the neighborhood, of the backdrop building, of their own journey in arriving at that location). The impression of lightness from Avigation will contrast with the horizontal lines
of the floor plates on the building behind, and its installation, suspended in mid-air is intended to evoke questions of tethering vs freedom, rising vs sinking, breaking free vs stagnation.

MATERIALS

The sculpture will be rigid and durable, fabricated in various 3/8” thickness stainless steel, with a burnished finish, subtly tying in with the building’s modern aesthetic of steel, concrete and glass. The three loops will intersect, interlock and be welded together. The material will require no maintenance other than an occasional washing, and will provide a sense of kinetic permanence, boldly announcing its presence, yet quietly suggesting its evanescence. The sculpture’s surface will reflect natural light during the day, and light from the building at night. Its elevation from the street will prevent casual damage and also provide a different way of viewing public art.

TIMELINE

Architect plans are being prepared for building permit submittal. We plan to start construction in 2018, with completion planned for late 2019. At the same time, the sculpture will be fabricated in the artist’s studio in Oakland, and the engineering for its installation will be prepared. On site installation will occur before completion of construction.

The method of attachment and suspension of the installation will be signed off by a structural engineer and the work will be permanently and securely fastened and seismically safe. A rendering of the attachment is shown in Exhibit E.
LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A: Biography of Albert Dicruttalo, Sculptor
Exhibit B: Art Proposal by Albert Dicruttalo
Exhibit C: Sculpture Views
Exhibit D: Renderings
Exhibit E: Curriculum Vitae of Albert Dicruttalo, Sculptor
Exhibit F: Plaque
Exhibit G: Attachment of Sculpture
Exhibit H: Itemized budget
EXHIBIT A

BIOGRAPHY OF

ALBERT DICRUTTALO, SCULPTOR
Biography of Albert Dicruttalo, Sculptor

I grew up in the post-industrial town of Gloversville, New York where my father owned a carpet store and my mother was a social worker. Once the hub of America’s glove making industry, Gloversville is distinguished today by defunct tanning mills, factories and the natural beauty of the Adirondack foothills. This juxtaposition of industry and natural beauty has always been a source of interest to me. During high-school, when I worked in a leather mill, I was drawn to the mechanical forms of industrial equipment – gigantic tanning drums and embossing machines. I was equally drawn to organic forms and nature and spent much of my youth around Adirondack lakes, streams and mountains. As a fine art student at Ithaca College, I worked in various media, but there was never any doubt that my focus would be sculpture. Making art was a constant while I supported myself through various jobs – managing a leather store, fronting a rock band, working in the fishing industry in Alaska.

I became in computer aided design (CAD) and my job as a research assistant in the department of computer graphics at Cornell University let me to an apprenticeship with Oakland-based sculptor Bruce Beasley. Beasley was using CAD technology to design his art and looking for a metal sculptor to build his monumental works. Two years later I established a studio and foundry in Oakland, California where I currently live and work. My sculptures have been exhibited in museums, galleries and public spaces throughout the United States and abroad.

Albert Dicruttalo
EXHIBIT B

ART PROPOSAL BY

ALBERT DICRUTTALO
Art Proposal for 429 University Avenue

Public access to art is one of the many things that make the Bay Area a great place to live. In proposing a suspended sculpture for 429 University Avenue, I designed “Avigation”, a dynamic piece consisting of three unique stainless steel elements suggestive of flight or a body in motion.

“Avigation” will serve as a point of interest for pedestrians, bikers and motorists and become an integral part of the downtown Palo Alto landscape. Fabricated in stainless steel with a burnished finish, the sculpture will enhance the site, encourage contemplation and work in conjunction with Palo Alto’s vibrant academic and business institutions. Discreetly suspended from the concrete façade per engineer’s specifications, “Avigation” will be visible from the interior and exterior of 429 University Avenue. The stainless steel surface will take on the characteristics of the building and its surroundings and require no maintenance with the exception of occasional cleaning with water. The budget for the sculpture will be commensurate with the City of Palo Alto’s art requirement for this building.

As a sculptor based in Oakland for the past twenty two years, I have been commissioned to create numerous art projects in Sunnyvale, San Mateo, Walnut Creek, Santa Clara, Orinda and Denver, Colorado. I’ve also exhibited extensively in the United States and abroad and have a piece in the permanent collection of the Oakland Museum of California. In addition, I have worked as a faculty member at the Academy of Art University and been an artist in residence at Autodesk’s Pier 9 workshop in San Francisco.

I would be proud to have a sculpture in the city of Palo Alto and look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the rich culture that the South Bay Area has to offer.

Albert Dicruttalo

January 15, 2018
EXHIBIT C

SCULPTURE VIEWS
429 UNIVERSITY AVE.
429 UNIVERSITY AVE.
EAST VIEW

UNIVERSITY AVE
KIPLING ST.
LANE 30

EAST ELEVATION
429 UNIVERSITY AVE.

VIEW 1

VIEW FROM ACROSS KIPLING STREET
EXHIBIT E

CURRICULUM VITAE OF

ALBERT DICRUTTALO, SCULPTOR
Albert Dicruttalo
2226 8th Avenue, Oakland, CA  94606  www.albertdicruttalo.com

**Museum Exhibitions:**
2016 Peninsula Museum of Art – Burlingame, California
2012 Sonoma County Museum – Santa Rosa, California
2009 Duolun Museum of Modern Art – Shanghai, China
2008 Today Art Museum – Beijing, China

**Museum Collections:**
Oakland Museum of California – Oakland, California

**Public Art:**
2018 Simon Premium Outlets, - Thornton, Colorado
2016 Christensen Holdings LP – Sunnyvale, California
2014 Essex Properties – San Mateo, California
2014 Santa Clara Valley Medical Center – San Jose, California
2012 Neiman Marcus – Walnut Creek, California
2011 Orinda Plaza – Orinda, California
2011 Orinda City Hall – Orinda, California

**Solo/Two Person Exhibitions:**
2018 Andrea Schwartz Gallery – San Francisco, California
2016 Loaded – Andrea Schwartz Gallery – San Francisco, California
2015 Up in the Air - Liberty Arts Center – Yreka, California
2013 Albert Dicruttalo and Mitch Jones – Andrea Schwartz Gallery – San Francisco, California
2003 New Work in Steel and Bronze – Perrella Gallery - Johnstown, New York
2002 Constructs – 111 Minna Gallery – San Francisco, California
1999 Albert Dicruttalo and Larry Aleshire – Terrain Gallery – San Francisco, California

**Residencies:**
2015-2016 Autodesk Artist in Residence Program – San Francisco, California

**Awards:**
2012 Al Voigt Award - Cloverdale Arts Alliance – Cloverdale, California

**Selected Exhibitions:**
2017 Arts in April – Yountville, California
2015 Upcycle – Bardessono – Yountville, California
2012 Summer in South Park - Andrea Schwartz Gallery – San Francisco, California
2011 Castigation - Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art – San Francisco, California
2011 Relaunch Part II - Varnish Fine Art – San Francisco, California
2011 California Slam - San Luis Obispo Museum of Art – San Luis Obispo, California
2010 Finale - Paradise Ridge Winery – Santa Rosa, California
2010 Winfield Gallery – Carmel, California
2010 Project Wrecking Ball – Varnish Fine Art – San Francisco, California
2009 Intersculpt Biennial – Lorraine, France
2009 E-Form – Jinse Gallery, Conqing, China
2009 Prelude – Santa Rosa, California
2009 Art in the Groves – California Shakespeare Theater – Orinda, California
2008 Five Year Anniversary Show – Varnish Fine Art – San Francisco, California
2008 Mettle – Paradise Ridge Winery – Santa Rosa, California
2008 Au Berge du Soleil – Napa, California
2008 Winfield Gallery – Carmel, California
2007 Paradise Ridge Winery – Santa Rosa, California
2007 Art Exchange – San Francisco, California
2007 Winfield Gallery – Carmel, California
2007 Art Exchange – San Francisco, California
2006 Bay Area Bronze – Varnish Fine Art – San Francisco, California
2006 Contract Design Center – San Francisco, California
2006 Auberge du Soleil – Rutherford, California
2005 California Figurative – Solomon Dubnick Gallery – Sacramento, California
2004 Natural Selections – Paradise Ridge Winery – Santa Rosa, California
2004 Gods of Art and Wine – Varnish Fine Art – San Francisco, California
2003 Grand Opening Group Show – Varnish Fine Art – San Francisco, California
2002 Mill Valley Sculpture Garden – Mill Valley, California
2000 111 Minna Gallery – San Francisco, California
2000 William Zimmer Gallery – Mendocino, California
2000 Faculty Show – Academy of Art College – San Francisco, California
1999 Sculpture Walk – Yerba Buena Center for the Arts – San Francisco, California
1999 Vedanta Gallery – Chicago, Illinois
1998 Terrain Gallery – San Francisco, California
1998 Sculpture Walk Yerba Buena Center for the Arts – San Francisco, California

Education:
1989 Ithaca College – Bachelor of Fine Arts

Professional Experience:
2016 – Welding and Metal Shop Instructor – Autodesk Pier 9 Workshop
1998 – 2000 Instructor in Sculpture – Academy of Art College
Albert Dicruttalo

Images List

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Doppelganger</td>
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2. Triumvirate  
2014  
Stainless Steel  
4' x 17" x 4'
3. Conflux  
2004  
Bronze, Steel  
4’ x 13’ x 4’
4. Truce  2005  Aluminum, Bronze  5' x 11' x 5'
5. Swing Shift 2013 Steel 4' x 4' x 2.5'
6. Doppelganger  2009  Steel  5' x 8' x 5'
EXHIBIT F

PLAQUE
ALBERT DICRUTTAULO

Avigation , 2018

City of Palo Alto Public Art in Private Development Program
Artwork commissioned by private funds

SPECIFICATIONS:

MATERIAL - Aluminum
SIZE - 13.75"w x 4.375"h x 1/8"d
COPY - Recessed Copy-Horizon Stroke
FINISH - Sand Backgrnd w/Satin surface
CLEAR COAT - Semi-Gloss
MOUNT - Plain-No Mounts
PLATE - Raised Aluminum
LETTERING - Recessed 2025 Black Painted
LETTER HEIGHT - Top 2 lines = 0.625"h
- 3rd line and below = 0.40"l
EXHIBIT G

ATTACHMENT OF SCULPTURE
Sculpture
304 SS 5/16" or 3/8"
× 530 Pounds

Heavy plate, I beam, or box beam

Building

Heavy SS bolts

Elevation
**Artist:** Albert Dicruttalo  
**Project:** Avigation  
**Site:** 429 University Avenue, Palo Alto, CA

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