

Temporary Art Intake Form

The Arts Commission must approve the temporary or permanent installation of any work of art on City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) property.

This includes proposals initiated or funded by other City departments, or by outside third party sponsors, such as individual artists, organizations or commercial enterprises. In considering approval, the Arts Commission must evaluate proposals within the context of its mission to promote a rich, diverse, and stimulating cultural environment for the city's residents, visitors and employees, and to enhance the city's image both nationally and internationally.

Email *

[REDACTED]

PROJECT SPONSOR

Project Sponsor Department *

Big Art Loop

Primary Contact: Name and Title *

Catherine Roscart - Senior Producer

Primary Contact: Email *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact: Phone Number *

██████████

ARTIST INFORMATION**Artist Name ***

Oleg Lobykin

Pronouns that should be used to refer to artist: *

- She/her/hers
- He/him/his
- They/them/theirs


Biography *


Please provide a written bio that concisely summarizes the artist and their practice

Oleg Lobykin is a Russian-American sculptor and master stone carver based in Silicon Valley. Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, he was classically trained in traditional stone carving before relocating to the United States in the 1990s. His work bridges old-world craftsmanship with contemporary technology, combining hand-carved stone, mirror-polished stainless steel, fiberglass, 3D modeling, and digital fabrication to explore the relationship between material form and metaphysical experience. Often centered on what he describes as “harmony in contradictions,” Lobykin’s sculptures balance nature and technology, chaos and order, reflection and perception.

His public works include Talking Heads, an 18-foot stainless steel sculpture exhibited at Burning Man and in San Francisco’s Hayes Valley, as well as No Swimming, Sea Foam, and the monumental Alabama Column. In addition to his own sculptural practice, Lobykin has completed restoration and carving work for institutions including Stanford University, Yale University, The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Cloisters, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York.

Resumes of all artists involved *

 Resume Oleg Lo...

 Add file

Phone Number of Artist *

██████████

Email Address of Artist *

████████████████████

Artist Website

www.lobykin.com

Please describe the relevance of the artwork/exhibition within the natural, architectural, cultural, historical, social/political or environmental context of the proposed site.



Unsafe to Swim introduces a familiar yet unsettling form into the landscape: the dorsal fin, universally recognized as a signal of danger. Positioned at the edge of Golden Gate Park near Ocean Beach, the sculpture sits within direct view of the Pacific, where shifting light, wind, and fog heighten its presence.

At first glance, the fin reads as a warning. Up close, its surface reveals a different story. Embedded across the facade are recycled aluminum cans, transforming a familiar, everyday material into something both visually striking and conceptually charged. Objects associated with consumption and waste appear re-contextualized within a symbol of perceived natural threat, subtly redirecting attention toward the real vulnerabilities facing our oceans.

The work holds a quiet tension between instinct and awareness. What initially feels dangerous becomes reflective, asking viewers to reconsider where risk truly resides. In a setting where land meets water, Unsafe to Swim connects human impact with the environment it affects, offering a moment to pause, observe, and question the narratives we carry about nature.

Does the artwork/exhibition comply with all applicable building codes and disability access requirements?



Yes.

ARTWORK INFORMATION

Artwork Title *

Unsafe to Swim

Artwork Date *

MM DD YYYY

08 / 24 / 2024

Medium Description *

EPS foam core, concrete, fiberglass, recycled materials

Installation Start Date *

MM DD YYYY

06 / 19 / 2026

Duration of Installation *

1-2 hours


PROPOSAL INFORMATION


Letter of approval from the City agency having jurisdiction of over the site, or the property owner if project is funded by City fund *


 RPD Letter of Su...


 Add file

Three (3) letters of community support *

 Little Earthlings ...

 Lucas Lux+Suns...

 Sunset Mercantil...

 Wong_ArtsCom...

 Add file

Community Engagement Checklist *

Please use this checklist to ensure that you have shared your proposed project with relevant constituents and community stakeholders. Please check all that apply.

How to identify Cultural District, Community Benefit District, and Supervisor’s Office:

Enter in your project site address and check <https://sfplanninggis.org/pim/> to see what Cultural Districts (Zoning Information), Community Benefit Districts (Zoning Information), Supervisor’s Office (Property).


How to Identify Local Arts Organizations and Cultural Centers:

If the project site is within 5 block radius of a Cultural Center, please include them in your community engagement. Please identify any visual arts organization within 5 block radius of the project site and include them in your community engagement.

We verify that we have reached out to the following:

- Cultural District
- Community Benefit District
- Local Arts Organizations
- Cultural Centers
- Supervisor's Office
- Other: Community members.....

Scale drawing or model of the proposed project *

 Structural Drawin...


 Add file

Image of proposed site *

A file selection button with a blue checkmark icon and the text "Lincoln SW Site ...".

A button with an upload icon and the text "Add file".

Rendering of artwork in proposed site *

A file selection button with a blue checkmark icon and the text "Unsafe to Swim ...".

A button with an upload icon and the text "Add file".

List of proposed materials, and description of assembly of materials. *

Please list all of the physical and 'non-physical' components (i.e., digital files, domain names, etc.) that make up the artwork. Do not include ancillary items that are not part of the artwork itself.

Dimensions: 11'.5"H x 13'.5" L x 3' W

Weight: 1,300 lbs.

Materials: EPS foam core, concrete, fiberglass, recycled materials

On-Site Installation:

Sculpture arrives in 1 piece

Position sculpture with 6K telehandler / far-reach forklift with 14' fork height minimum

Sculpture mounted via 1/4" steel base plate with brackets for easy ground attachment

Estimated install time: 1-2 hours onsite

Barricades, flaggers, and caution tape required for forklift maneuvering and pedestrian safety

Crew size: Oleg + 2 assistants

Maintenance plan for duration of display *

Sculpture was designed for exterior installation. Building 180 conducts routine maintenance checks and responds to reported issues within 48 hours. The sculpture will be installed on pavement, so no landscape maintenance is required. If necessary, bird droppings can be gently cleaned with warm water only; solvents or harsh cleaning agents should not be used.

Signed Waiver of Proprietary Rights for Artworks Placed on City Property or Private Property *

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

Little Earthlings Forest School
It's completely magical!!

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

5/6/2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of Little Earthlings Forest School, we support *Marine Layer* at Metson Lake and *Unsafe to Swim* at the Lincoln Way entrance.

Marine Layer feels especially right for Metson Lake. It keeps the quiet, natural feeling of the space intact and doesn't overpower what makes it special. It feels subtle, almost like it's part of the environment, and connects to something deeper in how we experience nature.

Unsafe to Swim brings a different energy. It catches your attention, then invites a closer look and reflection on the ocean and our impact on it.

Together, these pieces offer both calm and curiosity, which we really value.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Little Earthlings Forest School



May 7, 2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of the Friends of Sunset Dunes, I am writing to express our support for the proposed installation of *Unsafe to Swim* at the corner of Lincoln Way and the Great Highway, near the entrance to Sunset Dunes.

At Sunset Dunes, we have seen how meaningful it has been to bring art into this landscape. The integration of large-scale works along the coastline has created moments of curiosity, joy, and reflection for the thousands of people who enjoy the space each day.

Continuing that momentum at the intersection of Golden Gate Park and Sunset Dunes will help welcome parkgoers to the coast, connect two of San Francisco's greatest parks, and transform an underutilized patch of asphalt into a cultural moment of connection. The installation also answers what we have persistently heard from the thousands of people who have participated in our community outreach efforts: a desire for art that fits the local environment.

In short, we encourage your approval of this installation because we believe that it will improve the visitor experience at Golden Gate Park, Sunset Dunes, and the coast.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Lucas Lux

President

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

May 1st, 2026

Dear San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of Sunset Mercantile, we are pleased to support the proposed installation of *Unsafe to Swim* at the intersection of Lincoln Way, the Great Highway, and Sunset Dunes.

Unsafe to Swim introduces a familiar yet unsettling form into the landscape: a dorsal fin, universally recognized as a signal of danger. Positioned near Ocean Beach with direct views of the Pacific, the work engages the coastal environment in a way that feels both immediate and thought provoking.

From a distance, the sculpture reads as a warning. Up close, its surface reveals embedded recycled aluminum cans, transforming everyday materials into something visually striking and conceptually layered. This shift reframes the narrative, encouraging reflection on ocean vulnerability and the impact of human consumption.

We believe this installation will create a meaningful sense of place, invite public engagement, and contribute positively to the neighborhood's cultural and environmental awareness. We respectfully support its approval and appreciate your continued commitment to public art in San Francisco.

With gratitude,



Angie Petitt
Founder / CEO
Sunset Mercantile



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

Alan Wong
王兆倫
第四區市參事

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

May 8, 2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of the Office of Supervisor Alan Wong, San Francisco Board of Supervisors District 4, we are pleased to support the proposed installations of Unsafe to Swim at the Lincoln Entrance to Sunset Dunes and Marine Layer at Metson Lake.

Unsafe to Swim offers a strong visual presence at a key coastal gateway, with a layered message around ocean health and environmental impact. Marine Layer provides a quieter, more reflective experience, using light and atmosphere to complement the natural character of Metson Lake.

Together, these works demonstrate a thoughtful, site responsive approach to public art and will enhance two important public spaces in the district.

We respectfully support their approval and appreciate your continued commitment to public art in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Wong".

Alan Wong, Supervisor, District 4
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Daniel Lurie, Mayor



Kat Anderson, Commission President
Sarah Madland, Interim General Manager

LETTER OF SUPPORT
San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

May 8, 2026

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

To the Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, we are proud to offer our continued support for Big Art Loop and its ongoing efforts to bring temporary large-scale public art installations to communities throughout San Francisco.

Our collaboration with Big Art Loop has demonstrated the powerful role public art can play in transforming shared spaces into vibrant cultural destinations. These installations invite residents and visitors alike to engage with parks, waterfronts, and neighborhood gathering spaces in new and meaningful ways, fostering creativity, dialogue, and community connection.

We are excited to see the continued growth of this program across sites including Lincoln Entrance SW, Metson Lake, Alamo Square, Alta Plaza, Raymond Kimbell Park, and the SF Zoo Sloat/Skyline corridor.

Current installations include:

- Unsafe to Swim — Lincoln Entrance SW
- Marine Layer — Metson Lake
- Axis Mundi — Alamo Square
- Archeology of the Future — Alta Plaza
- Renaissance Woman — Raymond Kimbell Park
- To Be Named Custom Recycled Gorilla Sculpture — SF Zoo Sloat/Skyline

Throughout our partnership, Big Art Loop has consistently approached each project with professionalism, care, and strong coordination across permitting, engineering, logistics, and public engagement. Their work contributes positively to San Francisco's civic landscape and supports broader efforts to make public spaces more dynamic, welcoming, and culturally enriching. We respectfully encourage the San Francisco Arts Commission to continue supporting and approving these installations as an important contribution to the city's public art ecosystem.



Sincerely,

Dana Ketcham

Dana Ketcham

Director of Property Management, Permits and Reservations

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department



Great Highway

END

Lincoln



Oleg Lobykin

Sculptor, Stone Carver, Public Artist

Silicon Valley / San Francisco Bay Area

Website: lobykin.com



Artist Bio

Oleg Lobykin is a Russian-American sculptor and master stone carver based in Silicon Valley. Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, he received classical training in sculpture, stone carving, and restoration at the Art Institute of Saint Petersburg before relocating to the United States in the 1990s. His practice bridges centuries-old craft with contemporary technology, combining hand-carved stone, bronze, mirror-polished stainless steel, fiberglass, GFRC, 3D modeling, and digital fabrication.

Lobykin's work explores the relationship between material form, perception, and metaphysical experience. Many of his sculptures are rooted in what he describes as "harmony in contradictions," balancing nature and technology, chaos and order, darkness and light, reflection and substance. His series *Void & Substance* examines the balance between empty space and physical form, with the artist describing void and substance as interconnected elements that together create form.

His public works include *Talking Heads*, an 18-foot stainless steel sculpture first exhibited at Burning Man and later installed at Patricia's Green in San Francisco's Hayes Valley, where it was presented as a temporary public artwork by the San Francisco Arts Commission. Other major works include *Sea Foam*, a Carrara marble sculpture installed at Pacific City in Huntington Beach; *No Swimming*, a long-term temporary installation at Google in Mountain View; and the monumental *Alabama Column*.

In addition to his independent sculptural practice, Lobykin has completed significant restoration and architectural carving projects for major institutions, including Stanford University, Yale University, The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Cloisters, and the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York. His background as both a fine artist and master craftsman gives his public artwork a strong foundation in material durability, technical execution, and site-responsive design.

Education

Art Institute of Saint Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Russia
Sculpture, Stone Carving, and Restoration, 1985

Selected Public Art and Commissions

Talking Heads, 2019

Burning Man, Black Rock City, NV; later installed at Patricia's Green, San Francisco, CA
Stainless steel, 18 ft x 7 ft 6 in x 7 ft 6 in

Sea Foam, 2016

Pacific City, Huntington Beach, CA
Carrara marble, 7 ft x 3 ft x 11 ft 6 in

Wallenberg Hall Statues, 2011 to 2013

Stanford University, Stanford, CA
Carrara marble statues of Franklin and Gutenberg

No Swimming, 2008 to 2018

Google, Mountain View, CA
Temporary public art installation

Aspen Forest, 2017

The Lodge at Edgewood, Lake Tahoe, NV
Relief carving on lobby stone tiles

Big Baby, 2011

Burning Man, Center Camp, Black Rock City, NV

La Brea Playground, 2005

Park La Brea Apartments, Los Angeles, CA
Original interactive playground sculpture inspired by the saber-toothed cat

Alabama Column

Russellville, AL
Monumental stone carving project carved into a quarry wall

Selected Exhibitions

Crocker Kingsley Exhibition, Blue Line Arts, Sacramento, CA, 2021

Silicon Valley Sculpture, Menlo Park Public Art, Menlo Park, CA, 2020

Pixel: Space, Line, Form, Art Ventures Gallery, Menlo Park, CA, 2019

The Other Art Fair by Saatchi, Los Angeles, CA, 2019

From the Stone Age to the Digital Era, Peninsula Museum of Art, Burlingame, CA, 2019

Biennale Delle Nazioni, Venice, Italy, 2018

Napa ARTwalk Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Napa, CA, 2015 to 2017

Sculpture Trail, Cloverdale and Geyserville, Sonoma County, CA, 2014

Moving Art Forward, Los Altos Museum, Los Altos, CA, 2014

Selected Awards

Best in Show, 3-Dimensional, *Pixel*, Lines Shapes & Objects, Fusion Art, 2021

Best of Show, Bay Area Masters, Peninsula Museum of Art, 2018

Juror's Award, *Dimensions*, San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 2018

Julia Morgan Award, Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, 2016

Best in Show, 7th Annual Spring Sculpture Exhibition, Oakwilde Ranch, CA, 2014

Preservation Design Award, California Preservation Foundation, 2009

Selected Publications and Press

Punch Magazine, "Scraping the Sky," February 2020, and later coverage of *Talking Heads*, 2025

Content Magazine, *Talking Heads* feature, March/April 2020

The Almanac, *Talking Heads* feature, October 31, 2019

Los Angeles Times, *No Swimming* feature, September 15, 2017

Sandstone & Tile Magazine, *Wallenberg Hall* feature, Winter 2013

Landscape Architecture Magazine, *La Brea Playground* feature, December 2009

Selected Institutional and Restoration Experience

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Yale University

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Cloisters, New York, NY

Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, NY

The Presidio of San Francisco

City of Cupertino, CA

City of Huntington Beach, CA

City of Newport Beach, CA

Waiver of Proprietary Rights

for Artwork Placed Upon CITY PROPERTY under VARA and CAPA

Artist has designed a work of visual art. In consideration of the City's approval of the Artist design of visual art.

DESCRIPTION: [type, mural, medium]:

Sculpture

TITLE, DATE: Unsafe to Swim, 2024

DIMENSIONS: 11.5' H x 13.5' L x 3' W

ADDRESS/LOCATION: Mare Island, CA

("the Work") for the City artist agrees to waive and does hereby waive voluntarily all rights to attribution and integrity with respect to the Work and any and all claims as may arise under the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, 17 U.S.C. §§106A and 113(d) ("VARA"), the California Art Preservation Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§987 and 989) ("CAPA"), or any other local, state, foreign or international law, as currently drafted or as may be hereafter amended, that conveys the same or similar rights ("Moral Rights Laws"), with respect to the Work, its display, removal from display, exhibition, installation, conservation, storage, study, alteration and any other activities conducted by the City, its officers, employees, agents, contractors, licensees, successors or assigns. If the Work is incorporated into a building such that the Work cannot be removed from the building without physical defacement, mutilation, alternation, distortion, destruction, or other modification (collectively, "Modification") of the Work, artist waives any and all such claims under any Moral Rights Laws arising out of or against any current or future owners of the site, and its agents, officers and employees, for Modification of the Work.

The City has the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport, repair or restore the Work, in whole or in part, in City's sole discretion.

The City has no obligation to pursue claims against third parties for modifications or damage to the Work done without the City's authorization. However, the City may pursue claims against third parties for modifications or damage or to restore the Work if the work has been modified without the City's authorization. In the event that the City pursues such a claim, it shall notify the Artist, and Artist shall cooperate with the City's efforts to prosecute such claims.

If the City modifies the Artwork without the Artist's consent in a manner that is prejudicial to Artist's reputation, Artist retains the right to disclaim authorship of the Artwork in accordance with 17 U.S.C. § 106A (a) (2).

Artist bears the sole responsibility for providing the City with any changes to the Artist's Address for Notice. Notice of changes must be mailed to the Arts Commission, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325, San Francisco, CA 94102 **AND to the City Agency with jurisdiction over the property.**

CITY AGENCY

Agency: SF Recreation and Park Department
Authorized Agent: Christian Gayagoy
Address: McLaren Lodge, 501 Stanyan Street,
San Francisco, CA 94117
Email: christian.gayagoy@sfgov.org
Phone: (415) 831-2700

SIGNATURE: *Christian Gayagoy*
DATE: 05 / 08 / 2026

ARTIST

ARTIST understands the effect of this waiver and hereby acknowledges that ARTIST is surrendering the rights described herein with respect to the Work.

Artist: Oleg Lobykin
Address: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

SIGNATURE: *oleg@lobykin.com*
DATE: ___ / ___ / ___ 05 / 08 / 2026

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

SFAC Contact: Paris Cotz
San Francisco Arts Commission
Email: paris.cotz@sfgov.org
Phone: 415-539-6213

For more information regarding VARA and CAPA:
<http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection/mural-guidelines/pa05-mural-guidelines/pa05-2-visual-artists-rights-act/>
<http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection/mural-guidelines/pa05-mural-guidelines/pa05-3-california-art-preservation-act/>