

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 *

Joel Dean Stockdill & Yustina Salnikova _____

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

Joel Dean Stockdill and Yustina Salnikova are interdisciplinary sculptors and environmental advocates who specialize in monumental, site-specific installations created from reclaimed materials. Their collaborative practice is rooted in the belief that art can serve as a catalyst for environmental awareness and social change by making the invisible impacts of global consumption tangible.


Joel is a master of large-scale sculptural form with a background in performance art and large-scale fabrication. He is the creator of the WildLife series, an international project that has produced 27 monumental sculptures across four continents, each constructed from locally sourced waste. His work focuses on the intersection of human industry and the natural world, often centering species native to the regions where he works.

Yustina is a designer and sculptor who brings a specialized focus on environmental science and sustainable building practices to her artistic work. A self-described "recycled waste nerd," she was born in Kazakhstan and raised in California, where her proximity to the ocean deeply influenced her advocacy. Now based in Oregon, she continues to expand her practice into new materials and regional environmental narratives, blending technical precision with raw, reclaimed textures.

Together, the duo gained international acclaim for Ethyl, an 82-foot-long blue whale commissioned by the Monterey Bay Aquarium for display at San Francisco's Crissy Field. The piece holds the Guinness World Record for the world's largest recycled plastic sculpture. For this project, the artists developed a custom, hand-processed recycling system to transform over 5,000 pounds of post-consumer plastic into mosaic-like "skin" panels, demonstrating that impactful, small-scale waste management is achievable outside of industrial systems.

Their work has been featured at Santa Fe Community College, Tahoe, Laguna Beach, Dana Point , and Rohnert Park. By transforming "trash" into monumental icons, Stockdill and Salnikova challenge viewers to reconsider their relationship with consumption and the lifecycle of materials.

Resumes of all artists involved *

 Joel Dean Stock...

 Add file

Phone Number of Artist *

Email Address of Artist *

[Redacted]

Artist Website

<https://www.joeldean.me> & <https://www.yustinasalnikova.com>

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

A large-scale custom-commissioned silverback gorilla sculpture at the San Francisco Zoo & Gardens Skyline/Sloat approach would create a bold and welcoming gateway while celebrating the zoo’s evolving gorilla program, including the recent arrival of Cecil, the zoo’s new silverback gorilla.

Constructed from recycled plastics and reclaimed materials sourced through municipal waste partnerships and community cleanups, the sculpture would connect public art, conservation, and environmental stewardship. Envisioned as a colorful, friendly, and realistic silverback, the work invites curiosity from a distance while revealing a deeper story about waste, habitat loss, and collective responsibility up close.

The sculpture will be developed collaboratively through the design process with the zoo, artists, and community stakeholders. While the final posture and dimensions will be refined further, the sculpture will measure approximately 10 feet in at least one direction. The project may also incorporate seating, landscaping, plants, or shade features to help transform the area into a more welcoming and activated public space.

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

Yes.

ARTWORK INFORMATION

Artwork Title *Untitled

Artwork Date *

MM DD YYYY

05 / 11 / 2026

Medium Description *

The artists and zoo are collaborating on a sculpture built primarily from recycled and reclaimed materials, with leading options including heavy-duty recycled plastic, recycled metal, and reclaimed wood. The team is exploring partnerships with local organizations such as Recology to source iconic SF waste materials, weaving a sustainability narrative directly into the sculpture's form. Final material selection will be confirmed following a site visit and further design development.

Installation Start Date *

MM DD YYYY

11 / 02 / 2026

Duration of Installation *TBD

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 *

 Gorilla Sculpture...

 SF Zoo_Gorilla S...

 UICC-ZOO-Gorril...

 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: SF Zoo.....

Scale drawing or model of the proposed project *

 TBD Final Dimen...

 Add file

Image of proposed site *
 Sloat & Skyline O...

 Add file
Rendering of artwork in proposed site *
 TBD Final Dimen...

 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: Minimum size of a real Silverback Gorilla

Weight: TBD

Materials: The artists and zoo are collaborating on a sculpture built primarily from recycled and reclaimed materials, with leading options including heavy-duty recycled plastic, recycled metal, and reclaimed wood. The team is exploring partnerships with local organizations such as Recology to source iconic SF waste materials, weaving a sustainability narrative directly into the sculpture's form. Final material selection will be confirmed following a site visit and further design development.


Installation: TBD

Maintenance plan for duration of display *

TBD once sculpture is fully designed - Since the sculpture will be on dirt/mulch no lawn maintenance is required. Big Art Loop will conduct routine inspections of the artwork.

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

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This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

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

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David Dubinsky



Accredited
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Contributions are
tax deductible,
Federal ID#94-1394025.
The Center is a
Non-profit organization
chartered by the
State of California.

May 7, 2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

I am writing to express strong support for the proposed gorilla sculpture near the entrance to the San Francisco Zoo, located at the corner of Sloat and Skyline in what now is only a weed infested corner of the city.

This project introduces a compelling and engaging work that transforms an underutilized site into a welcoming and meaningful public space. The sculpture, envisioned as a friendly and realistic silverback gorilla, invites visitors in with familiarity and warmth, while revealing a deeper narrative upon closer interaction.

What makes this work especially impactful is its material story. Constructed from recycled plastics and other reclaimed materials gathered through community partnerships and local cleanups, the sculpture connects environmental awareness with artistic expression. It offers a powerful reflection on waste, habitat, and human impact, while also highlighting pathways toward collective action.

Beyond its visual presence, the project thoughtfully considers community use and interaction. Potential elements such as integrated seating, shade, planting, and habitat features create opportunities for rest, gathering, and learning, making the sculpture not only something to look at, but something to experience.

We believe this installation will transform an unsightly corner of the city into a beautiful landmark, contribute to the identity of the San Francisco Zoo, and create a meaningful point of connection for visitors and residents alike. It reflects a strong alignment between art, education, and environmental stewardship.

I fully support this proposal and believe it will be a valuable addition to the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,



David Dubinsky
CEO

Joel Dean Stockdill + Yustina Salnikova

Interdisciplinary Sculptors / Public Artists / Environmental Art
Oregon / United States



Artist Bio

Joel Dean Stockdill and Yustina Salnikova are interdisciplinary sculptors and environmental advocates who create monumental, site-specific installations from reclaimed and repurposed materials. Their collaborative practice is rooted in the belief that public art can serve as a catalyst for environmental awareness by transforming discarded materials into large-scale sculptural forms that make the hidden impacts of consumption visible.

Stockdill is a master of large-scale sculptural form with a background in performance art, public installation, and fabrication. He is the creator of the *WildLife* series, an international body of work featuring 27 large-scale animal sculptures across four continents, each inspired by native species and constructed from locally sourced waste and reclaimed materials.

Salnikova is a designer and sculptor whose work focuses on environmental awareness, recycled materials, and sustainable making. Born in Kazakhstan and raised in California, she has described her proximity to the ocean as a major influence on her environmental advocacy. She has referred to herself as a “recycled waste nerd,” a phrase that reflects her hands-on commitment to transforming waste streams into meaningful public artwork.

Together, Stockdill and Salnikova gained international recognition for *Ethyl*, an 82-foot-long blue whale sculpture commissioned by the Monterey Bay Aquarium and first exhibited at Crissy Field in San Francisco. Created from steel and more than 5,000 pounds of post-consumer plastic, *Ethyl* was awarded the Guinness World Record in 2019 for the world’s largest recycled plastic sculpture. For the project, the artists developed a custom, hand-processed recycling system, transforming plastic waste into colorful, mosaic-like exterior panels and demonstrating that small-scale, high-impact waste management is possible outside of industrial systems.

Their collaborative works have been presented in public, educational, and environmental contexts, including San Francisco, Santa Fe, Lake Tahoe, Laguna Beach, Dana Point, and Rohnert Park. Through their use of discarded plastic, reclaimed wood, metal, and other salvaged materials, Stockdill and Salnikova create monumental icons that challenge viewers to reconsider consumption, waste, and the lifecycle of materials.

Selected Public Art and Commissions

Ethyl, 2018 to present

Crissy Field, San Francisco, CA; later Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe, NM

Commissioned by Monterey Bay Aquarium

Steel and hand-recycled post-consumer plastic, 82 ft long

Awarded the 2019 Guinness World Record for the world's largest recycled plastic sculpture. The work was later acquired by Meow Wolf and installed at Santa Fe Community College, where it serves as a learning tool for sustainability education.

Surfaced, 2023

Tahoe South Events Center, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Commissioned by Tahoe Fund with support from Tahoe Blue Vodka

Created from litter recovered during Clean Up The Lake's 72-mile scuba cleanup of Lake Tahoe.

The sculpture incorporates found materials such as plastic fragments, paddles, fishing gear, traffic cone material, and chain into a regional environmental narrative.

WildLife Series

International public art project

A series of 27 large-scale sculptures spanning four continents, each inspired by native species and created from locally sourced waste and reclaimed materials.

Contain Yourself

Ocean Bound exhibition, The Midway, San Francisco, CA

Sculpture created from discarded water bottles, addressing recycling myths and encouraging visitors to reduce their environmental footprint.

Selected Exhibitions, Presentations, and Public Sites

Crissy Field, San Francisco, CA

Presentation of *Ethyl*, commissioned by Monterey Bay Aquarium and installed in partnership with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area / Parks Conservancy.

Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe, NM

Long-term installation of *Ethyl* as a public artwork and sustainability education resource.

Tahoe South Events Center, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Presentation of *Surfaced*, created from materials recovered from Lake Tahoe.

The Midway, San Francisco, CA

Presentation of *Contain Yourself* as part of *Ocean Bound*.

Laguna Beach, CA

Public presentation / environmental sculpture project.

Dana Point, CA

Public presentation / environmental sculpture project.

Rohnert Park, CA

Public presentation / environmental sculpture project.

Selected Awards and Recognition**Guinness World Record, 2019**

World's largest recycled plastic sculpture, awarded for *Ethyl*, the 82-foot-long blue whale sculpture created from recycled plastic.

Selected Clients, Partners, and Presenters

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Building 180

Meow Wolf

Santa Fe Community College

Tahoe Fund

Tahoe Blue Vodka

Clean Up The Lake

Golden Gate National Recreation Area / Parks Conservancy

The Midway, San Francisco

Materials and Fabrication Experience

Reclaimed plastic

Post-consumer HDPE

Found objects

Reclaimed wood

Steel armatures

Hand-processed recycled material

Mosaic-style plastic paneling

Large-scale public fabrication

Community-based material collection

Site-specific environmental installation

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



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

May 8, 2026

Dear San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of the San Francisco Zoo & Gardens, I am writing in strong support of the recycled sculpture project featuring a gorilla at Sloat and Skyline.

This project is especially meaningful to us as we have recently welcomed a new female gorilla to SF Zoo, an addition we are incredibly excited about. This moment represents an important and joyful expansion of our living collection, and we are equally excited about the opportunity to share that enthusiasm beyond our gates and into the broader public realm.

The proposed sculpture offers a powerful extension of that energy. By using recycled materials to create a large-scale gorilla form in a highly visible civic location, the work connects environmental stewardship, creativity, and wildlife appreciation in a way that is accessible to the entire community. It allows us to bring attention to conservation and animal care in a format that meets people where they are, outside SF Zoo, in everyday public space.

We see this installation as a natural bridge between SF Zoo's mission and the city it serves. It reflects our ongoing commitment to conservation education, sustainability, and inspiring deeper public connection to wildlife. Placing this work at a key gateway intersection also creates a welcoming and memorable landmark that can spark curiosity and engagement for residents and visitors alike.

We are proud to support this project and are especially excited about the opportunity to extend the joy and anticipation surrounding our new gorilla beyond SF Zoo and into the heart of San Francisco.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cassandra Costello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cassandra Costello
CEO & Executive Director
San Francisco Zoo & Gardens



UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
of SAN FRANCISCO

2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116

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

May 5th, 2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

I am writing to express strong support for the proposed gorilla sculpture at the entrance to the San Francisco Zoo, located at the corner of Sloat and Skyline.

This project introduces a compelling and engaging work that transforms an underutilized site into a welcoming and meaningful public space. The sculpture, envisioned as a friendly and realistic silverback gorilla, invites visitors in with familiarity and warmth, while revealing a deeper narrative upon closer interaction.

What makes this work especially impactful is its material story. Constructed from recycled plastics and other reclaimed materials gathered through community partnerships and local cleanups, the sculpture connects environmental awareness with artistic expression. It offers a powerful reflection on waste, habitat, and human impact, while also highlighting pathways toward collective action.

Beyond its visual presence, the project thoughtfully considers community use and interaction. Potential elements such as integrated seating, shade, planting, and habitat features create opportunities for rest, gathering, and learning, making the sculpture not only something to look at, but something to experience.

We believe this installation will enhance the surrounding area, contribute to the identity of the San Francisco Zoo, and create a meaningful point of connection for visitors and residents alike. It reflects a strong alignment between art, education, and environmental stewardship.

I fully support this proposal and believe it will be a valuable addition to the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liam Reidy,

Executive Director, United Irish Cultural Center

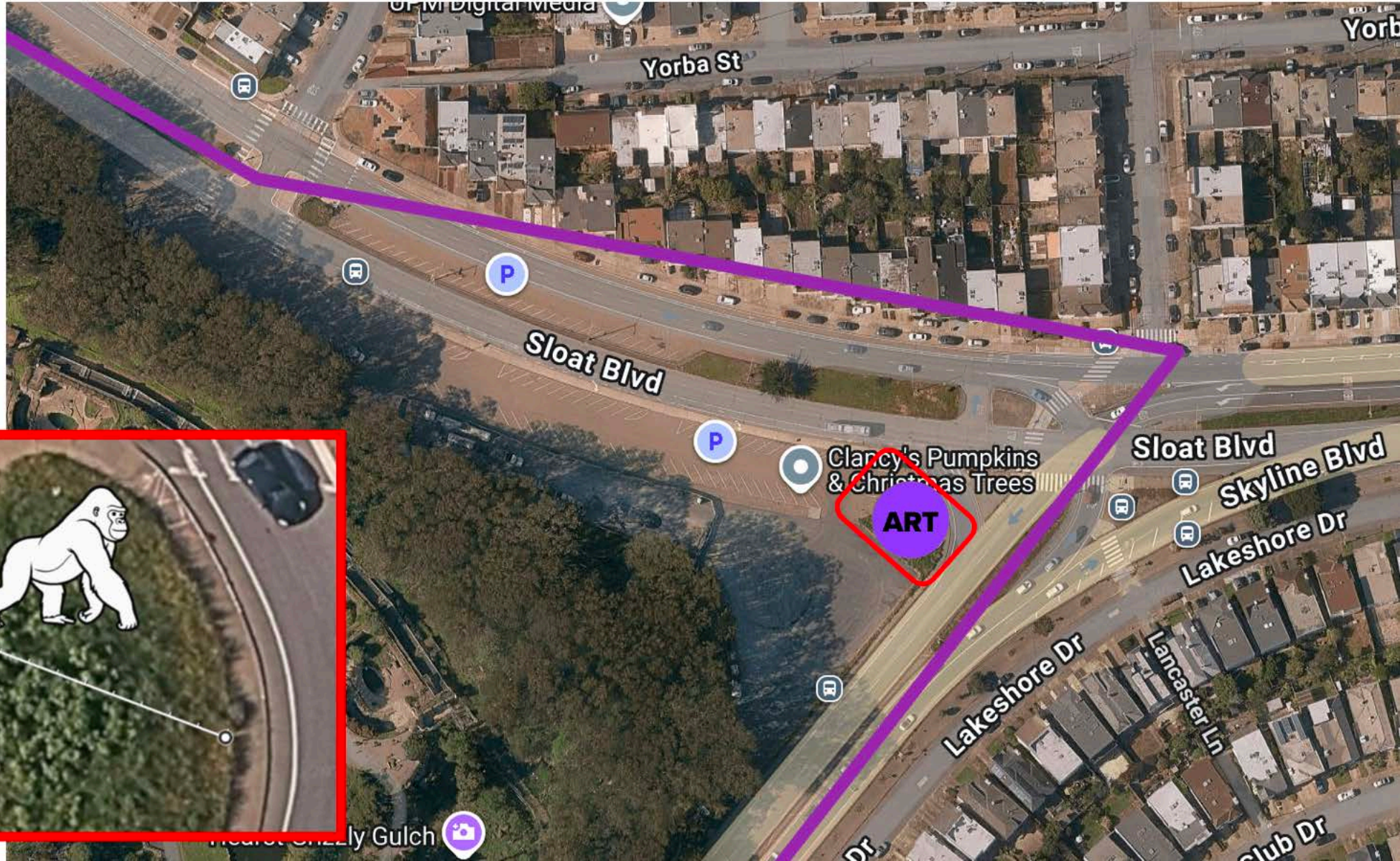
Go Raibh Maith Agat!

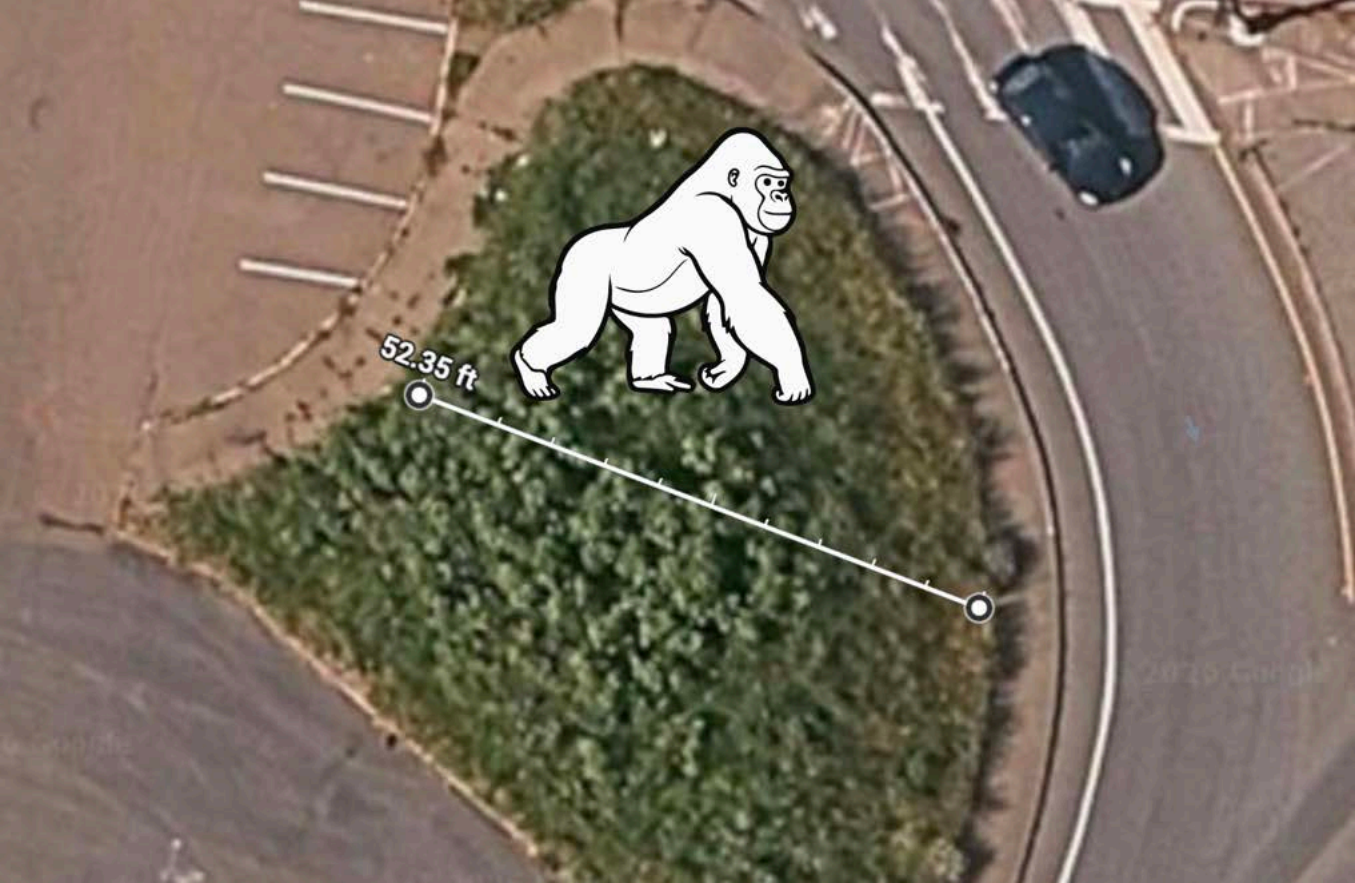
*All donations to the United Irish Cultural Center and the 2025 Project
are tax deductible only to the extent allowed by law.*

United Irish Cultural Center Incorporated | 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 | FEIN #: 26-0610341

ARTWORK LOCATION

Sloat Blvd and Skyline Blvd intersection, in the exterior overflow parking lot of the SF Zoo - outside the main zoo grounds.





52.35 ft

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