

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

TEMPORARY SCULPTURE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ARTWORK · SUMMER – FALL 2026



THE SITE

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA · SAN FRANCISCO



National Historic Landmark

Designated 1987. Formal civic character defined by City Hall's Beaux-Arts dome.

Central Location

Bordered by City Hall, Asian Art Museum, Main Library, Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, and Courts.

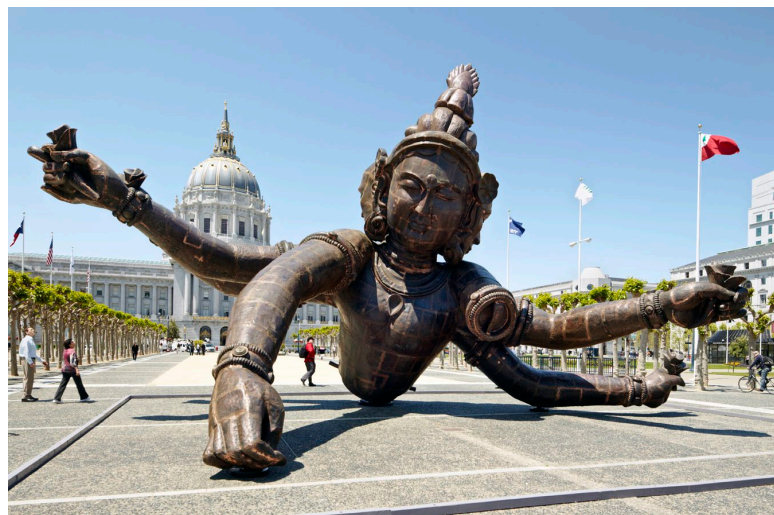
High Visibility

Daily commons for workers, residents, and visitors. Adjacent BART/MUNI access.

Installation Area

Decomposed granite section, Larkin Street end. Approx. 35 × 35 ft. No below-grade work permitted.

PRECEDENT · TEMPORARY SCULPTURE AT CIVIC CENTER PLAZA



2010 - 2011

ZHANG HUAN

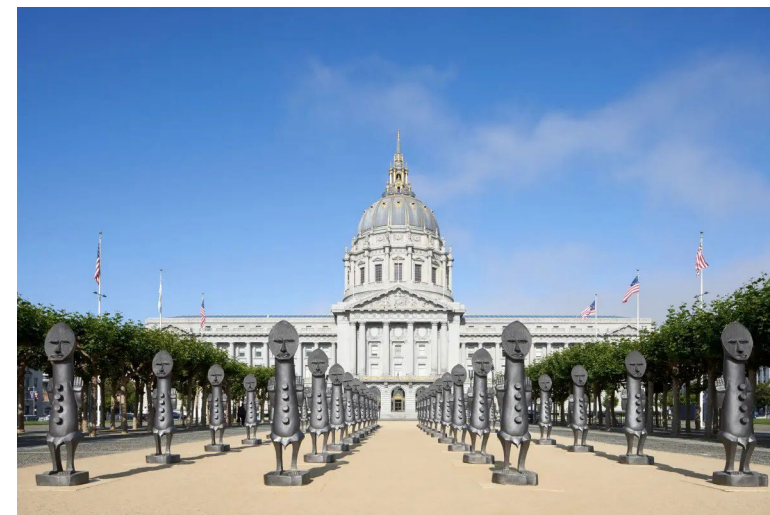
Three Heads Six Arms, 2008



2016

AMANDA PARER

Intrude, 2014



2018

ZAK OVÉ

The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, 2016

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA TEMPORARY SCULPTURE

2026 PROGRAM



SHAPING
LEGACY

PROJECT GOALS

SELECTED ARTWORK SHOULD

01

INCLUSIVE CIVIC NARRATIVE

Foster inclusive narratives, invite community dialogue, and contribute to an expanded understanding of public memory and civic belonging.

02

ARCHITECTURAL PRESENCE

Be of a prominent scale that responds to the architectural and spatial context of Civic Center Plaza, ensuring strong visual presence within this historically significant civic space.

03

DURABLE + SAFE FOR PUBLIC

Be constructed from durable, low-maintenance materials suitable for outdoor display and safe for public interaction.



Zak Ové., *Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness*, Civic Center Plaza (2018).

ARTIST SELECTION

01 OPEN NATIONAL CALL

Competitive RFP issued October 2025, open to US-based artists and galleries nationwide.

02 TWO-ROUND PANEL REVIEW

A diverse panel evaluated submissions across artistic merit, Shaping Legacy alignment, site fit, and feasibility.

03 HIGHEST-SCORING PROPOSAL

Torkwase Dyson's *Akua* received the top score among eight finalists — recognized for exceptional artistic strength and direct relevance to Shaping Legacy goals.

04 MAYOR'S OFFICE SUPPORT

The project has received support from the Mayor's Office in advance of today's VAC presentation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Torkwase Dyson. Courtesy Pace Gallery.

TORKWASE DYSON

B. 1973, CHICAGO · LIVES AND WORKS IN BEACON, NEW YORK

Torkwase Dyson (b. 1973, Chicago) is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice explores the continuity between ecology, infrastructure, and architecture. With an emphasis on the ways Black and Brown bodies perceive and negotiate space as information, Dyson looks to historical and contemporary spatial liberation strategies, seeking new understandings of what more livable, more just geographies might look like.

Dyson considers spatial relations an urgent question both historically and in the present day. Working across painting, sculpture, and large-scale installation, she creates environments in which the body's movement through natural and built space becomes both expressive and political. Her work has been presented internationally at the Whitney Biennial, the Serpentine Galleries, and Desert X, and is held in major public collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Hirshhorn, and the Smithsonian Institution.



Torkwase Dyson, *Liquid a Place*, Desert X, Palm Desert © Torkwase Dyson. Photo by Lance Gerber, courtesy Desert X



Torkwase Dyson, *Plantationocene*, 2019. Photo: Nicholas Knight. Courtesy Columbia GSAPP.



Torkwase Dyson, *Way Over There Inside Me (A Festival of Inches)*, 2023, installation view. Courtesy: © Torkwase Dyson and Baltimore Museum of Art; photograph: Mitro Hood



Torkwase Dyson, *Liquid Shadows, Solid Dreams (A Monastic Playground)*, 2024, installation view. Courtesy: © Torkwase Dyson and Whitney Museum of Art; photograph: Ron Amstutz

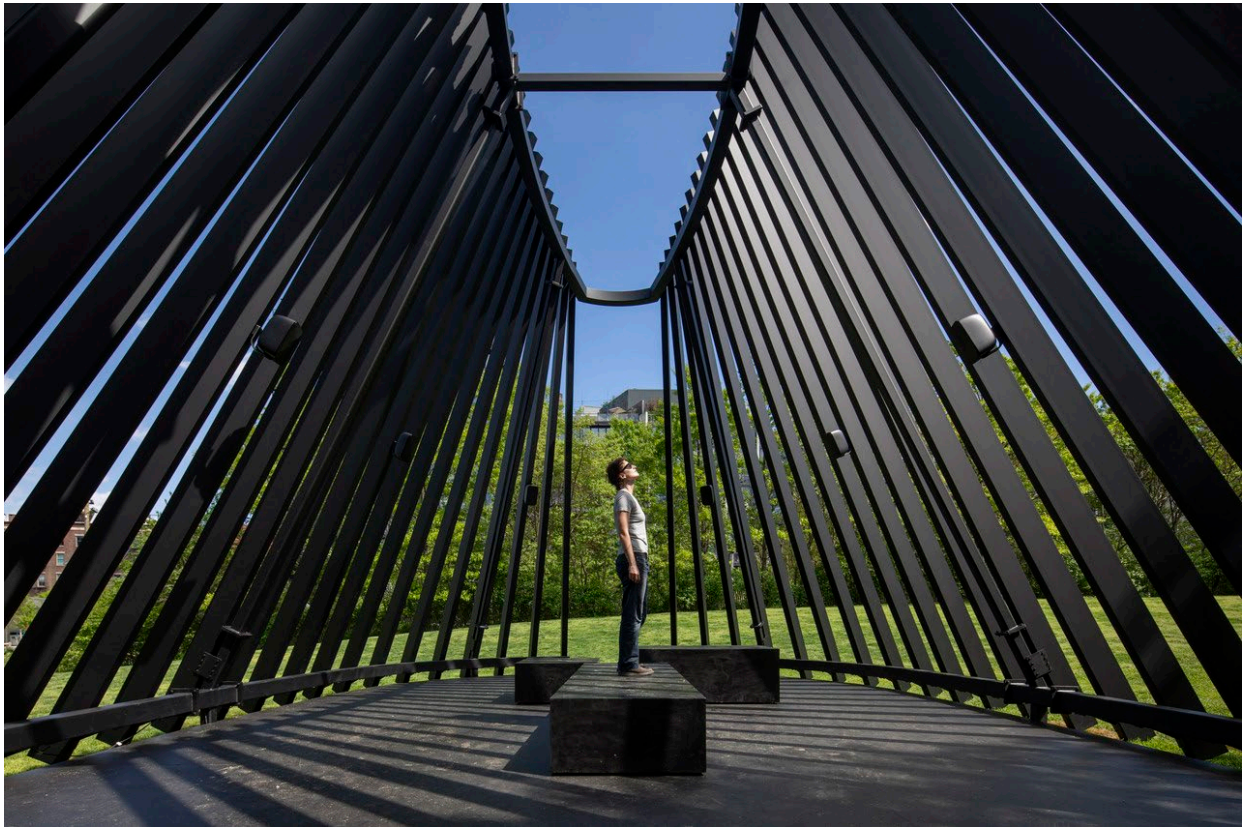
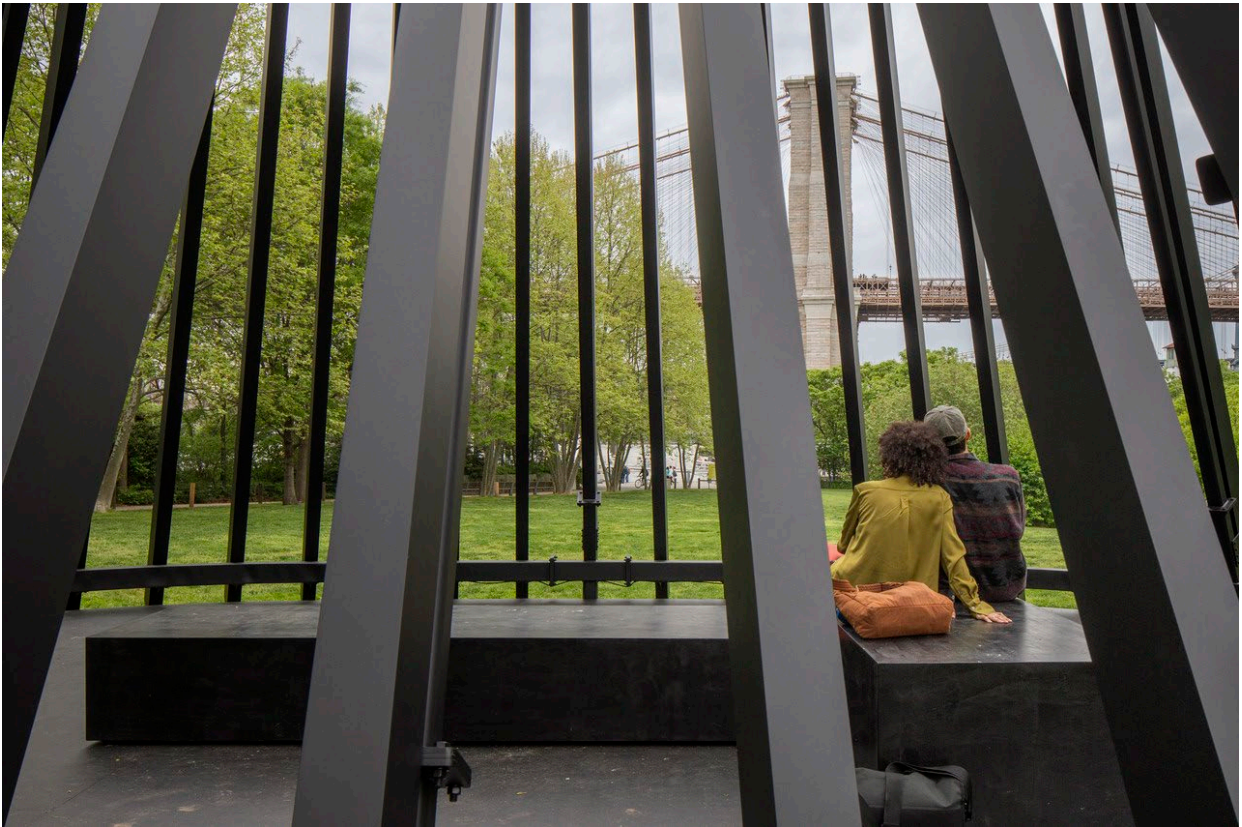


Torkwase Dyson Akua, 2025 Powder-coated steel and aluminum, eight-channel sound Courtesy of the artist, Pace Gallery, and GRAY Chicago | New York Photos: Nicholas Knight, courtesy Public Art Fund, NY. Presented by Public Art Fund at Brooklyn Bridge Park, May 6, 2025 - Mar 8, 2026

TORKWASE DYSON | AKUA

2025 · POWDER-COATED STEEL AND ALUMINUM, EIGHT-CHANNEL SOUND

20 × 36 × 27 FT · 7 TONS · BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK, NEW YORK · MAY 2025 – MARCH 2026



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"breath as geography"

Eight-channel immersive soundscape. Archival voices, field recordings, and electronic sound carry memories of specific places, lands, waters, and migrations.

SHAPING LEGACY · ALIGNMENT

Inclusive histories Black spatial experience and liberation

Community dialogue Open structure as civic gathering

Public memory Land, migration, and civic belonging

Power and equity Body, space, and commemoration





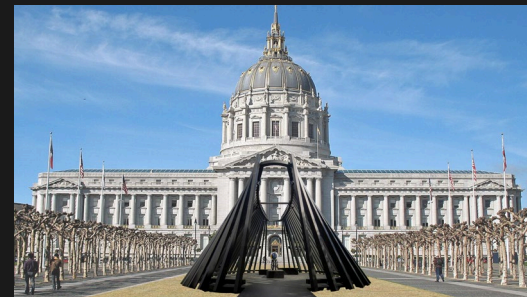
“When I’m thinking about black sound, I think about a community, a communing around lifting up and turning sound into something that articulates all of our experiences.”

TORKWASE DYSON · ON AKUA

The pavilion is built to be entered. At Civic Center Plaza it becomes a civic gathering place, an open structure for shared experience in the heart of San Francisco.

ACTIVATION

Public Gatherings · Artist Programming · Community Partners



CITY HALL AXIS



PAMELA Z · BBP 2025

PARTNERSHIP + INVESTMENT



For more than 45 years, Public Art Fund has presented groundbreaking contemporary art in public spaces across NYC and internationally.

PAF commissioned the original Brooklyn Bridge Park presentation of *Akua* and is administering the touring loan to San Francisco, the work's West Coast debut.

- West Coast debut following acclaimed 10-month NYC run
- Technical expertise, documentation, and fabricator introductions
- Co-branding and cross-promotion to national audiences
- First in an envisioned ongoing partnership

BUDGET

NOT TO EXCEED

\$350,000

Public Art Trust

INCLUDES

Loan Fee · Engineering + Fabrication · Transportation NYC ↔ SF
· Installation + Deinstallation · Insurance · Maintenance ·
Programming · Administration + Contingency

OPERATIONS + STEWARDSHIP

A well-tested work, brought into a stewardship structure designed for the duration of the installation.

LEAD STEWARD

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

Full responsibility for care, conservation, condition reporting, vandalism response, and fine arts insurance.

LOCAL CIVIC PARTNERS

CIVIC CENTER CBD

Ambassador presence in the vicinity, daily activity in the plaza.

REC + PARK

Site jurisdiction, plaza access, and light grounds maintenance.

TECHNICAL PARTNER

PUBLIC ART FUND Full Brooklyn Bridge Park technical documentation as maintenance baseline.

Steel base plates, no below-grade drilling · Outdoor-rated sound system, tamper-resistant covers · Climability addressed in design

TIMELINE + NEXT STEPS



MAY 2026

VAC APPROVAL

Commission resolution authorizing loan agreement with PAF and installation contract



MAY-JUNE 2026

CONTRACTING

Execute loan agreement with Public Art Fund; finalize installation contractor contract



JUNE-JULY 2026

ENGINEERING + FABRICATION

Anchoring solution finalized; deck, bench, and base plate fabrication completed



MID-JULY 2026

INSTALLATION

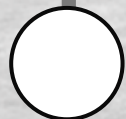
Artwork ships from NYC; condition check at Oakland facility; assembly at Civic Center Plaza



LATE JULY-LATE NOV 2026

EXHIBITION OPEN

~5 months public display; programming activations with local partners



LATE NOV 2026

DEINSTALLATION + RETURN

Deinstall, repack to Eventscape specs, return to PAF