

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

Dear San Francisco Arts Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Balboa Park to express our support for the proposed installation of *Big Apple* by artist Nicolas Synnott at Balboa Park.

In our 2025 "park priorities survey" where we had about 200 respondents, art came out #4 of more than 20 things people in the community have talked about. We're excited about this opportunity.

Balboa Park is an important gathering place for families, neighbors, youth, and visitors from across the surrounding communities. *Big Apple* would be a welcoming and playful addition to the park, offering both a visually engaging work of public art and a functional place for people to sit, gather, rest, and connect.

The sculpture's thoughtful design encourages people to face one another, creating opportunities for conversation and shared experiences. This combination of art, seating, and social interaction makes the work especially well suited to a busy and community-oriented public park.

The proposed artwork also responds meaningfully to feedback gathered through the Balboa Park Public Art Community Survey. Community members expressed strong interest in public art that is practical, child-friendly, playful, and capable of serving as a gathering place. *Big Apple* reflects these priorities by creating an approachable artwork that people of different ages and backgrounds can actively use and enjoy.

Its familiar form and generous scale would bring a sense of curiosity and imagination to the park while remaining accessible and easy to understand. Children may see a playful oversized object, while adults may experience it as a place to pause, meet, and spend time with others. The work has the potential to become a recognizable neighborhood landmark and a natural meeting point within the park.

We believe *Big Apple* would strengthen Balboa Park as a welcoming civic space and provide a meaningful opportunity for art to become part of everyday community life. We are pleased to support this proposed installation and respectfully encourage the San Francisco Arts Commission to approve the project.

Sincerely,

Paul Hagen, Executive Director  
Friends of Balboa Park

██████████ - ██████████

13 June 2026

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

Dear San Francisco Arts Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Excelsior District Improvement Association, where I serve as president, in enthusiastic support of the proposed Big Apple sculpture at Balboa Park.

The Excelsior is a neighborhood rich in people and culture but short on green open space, particularly along our commercial corridor on Mission Street near Ocean, Geneva and Silver Avenues. Commissioned public art that is freely accessible to the observer in public spaces is exactly the kind of visual stimulation and whimsy our community has been hoping for, and Balboa Park is the right place to begin.

Big Apple is a wonderful fit for the park. It is the kind of bold, joyful landmark that draws residents and families in, gives people a reason to gather, and signals that the Excelsior is a neighborhood worth investing in. We have watched the Big Art Loop bring beautiful work to other parts of the city, from Atabay's Treasure on the Embarcadero to the Naga sculpture in Golden Gate Park, and we are eager to see the Excelsior take part.

As both president of the Excelsior District Improvement Association and Director of Public Realm at the Excelsior Action Group, I am glad to help however I can, whether that is community engagement, neighborhood communications, or connecting Building 180 with the residents and merchants who would welcome this piece. Please consider this my full and active support for bringing the Big Apple to Balboa Park. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Mel Flores

President, Excelsior District Improvement Association  
Director of Public Realm, EAG



Mel Flores

Excelsior District Improvement Association (EDIA)



## 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

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TITLE, DATE: Big Apple, June 10th, 2026

DIMENSIONS: 14'W x14'D x11'H

ADDRESS/LOCATION: Austin, TX

("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@sfgov.org*  
DATE: 06 //10 / 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: LeMonde Studio  
Address: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
SIGNATURE: Nicolas Synnott  
DATE: 06 //10 / 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:

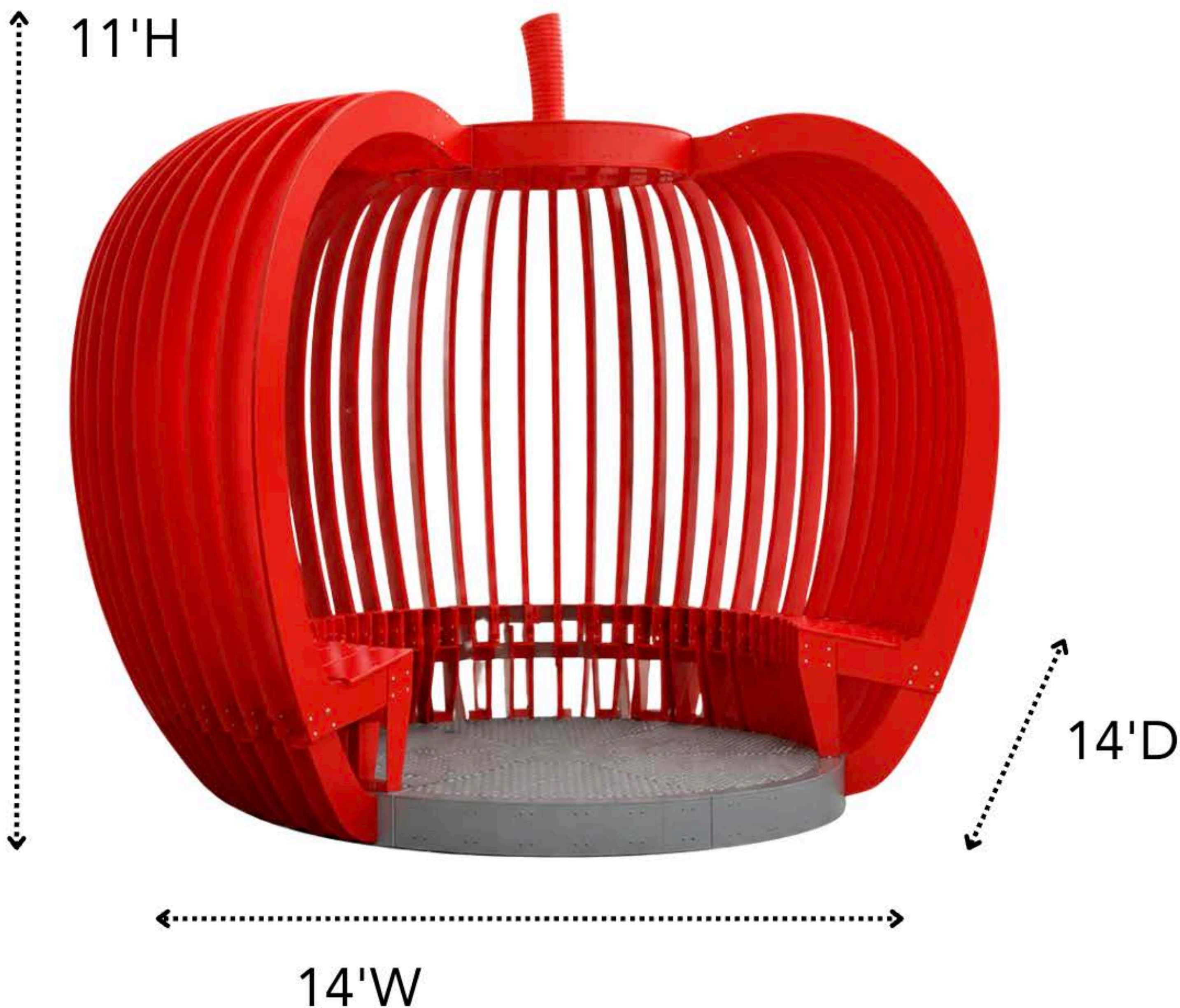
<http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection/mural-guidelines/pa05-mural-guidelines/pa05-2-visual-artists-rights-act/>

<http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection/mural-guidelines/pa05-mural-guidelines/pa05-3-california-art-preservation-act/>

# Big Apple

14'W x14'D x11'H

Materials: Steel



Havelock St

Havelock St

Havelock St



San Jose Ave

lose Ave

1929

19



# Nicolas Synnott

LeMonde Studio | Managing Partner and Chief Operating Officer

PUBLIC ART • IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES • PLACEMAKING AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY

████████████████████ • lemondestudio.com • +████████████████████  
Studios: Austin, TX • New York, NY • Montréal, QC • Quebec City, QC

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## PROFILE

Nicolas Synnott is a multidisciplinary creative strategist and the Managing Partner and Chief Operating Officer of LeMonde Studio, a public art and immersive experience studio working at the intersection of interactive design, placemaking, and sustainable technology. The studio transforms public spaces and commercial environments into participatory experiences that invite people to gather, play, and reconnect, powered wherever possible by human energy or green technology. Through LeMonde Studio, Synnott has helped bring approachable, community-centered installations to public spaces, cultural districts, festivals, and institutional settings across the United States and Canada.

## SELECTED STUDIO WORKS

Created and produced by LeMonde Studio. Selected representative projects.

### Public Art and Placemaking

*The Big Apple*, New York, NY (Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance; Lincoln Square BID). *Banc-Nana*, Longueuil, QC (City of Longueuil; SDC Plateau Mont-Royal), with editions in Hamilton, ON, Park Slope, Brooklyn, and Gilbert, AZ. *Cleveland Badge Benches*, Cleveland, OH. *Home Run*, *Kicks*, *Guitar Slide*, *Hip-Hop 50 Boombox*, and *Piano Picasso*.

### Light and Seasonal Installations

*Light Lane* and *Harmonies*, presented in Chicago, IL; Milwaukee, WI; Cleveland, OH; Green Bay, WI; Henderson, NV; Tempe, AZ; Jamaica, Queens, NY; and Duke University, NC. *The Iceberg Trail*, *Boreal Forest*, *Starlight*, *Lumina 2025*, *World of Winter 2025*, *WinterActive*, and *Wish*.

### Festivals, Activations, and Civic Events

*NFL Draft Detroit*, Detroit, MI. *Downtown Louisville Curation*, Louisville, KY. *City of Chandler Jazz Fest*, Chandler, AZ. *OSM Virée Classique*, Montréal, QC. *NexGen Grey Cup*, *WWF COP15*, *Summer Olympics LICP*, and *Electric Island*.

### Institutional and Campus

*Light Lane*, *Duke University* and *Duke Art Homecoming*, Durham, NC. *Enteractive State*, *Return to the River*, *VivaCity*, and *Eureka*.

## RECOGNITION

Canadian design award for the *Banc-Nana* bench.

## SELECTED CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance; Lincoln Square BID; 161st Street BID; City of Longueuil; SDC Plateau Mont-Royal; Duke Arts; City of Gilbert, AZ.

## ABOUT LEMONDE STUDIO

LeMonde Studio creates interactive public art and immersive experiences that pair playful, modular design with sustainable technology. Pieces are built to be modular and adaptable, able to evolve across seasons or transform into new works, and many operate with no grid electricity, drawing on human power or green tech. Studios in Austin, New York, Montréal, and Quebec City.

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Prepared by Building 180. The specific name and year of the Banc-Nana design award are not stated on the studio site and should be confirmed before public use.



**San Francisco Arts Commission**

401 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

June 10, 2026

To the Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, I am pleased to express our support for Big Art Loop and its ongoing commitment to expanding access to public art throughout San Francisco's parks and open spaces.

Big Art Loop has become a valued partner in bringing thoughtfully curated, temporary art installations to neighborhoods across the city. By activating public spaces with engaging works by local, national, and international artists, the program encourages exploration, sparks conversation, and creates memorable cultural experiences for residents and visitors alike.

We are excited to see the program continue to evolve through a new series of proposed installations, including:

- *Burden of the Beast* — Chain of Lakes
- *Bird's Eye View* — McLaren Park Glen Eagles Overlook
- *Big Apple* — Balboa Park Fairy Circle

These projects represent the type of creative placemaking that enriches San Francisco's public realm while offering unique opportunities for community engagement and artistic discovery.

Throughout our partnership, Big Art Loop has consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism, stewardship, and collaboration. Their team works closely with City staff, engineers, artists, and community stakeholders to ensure installations are thoughtfully planned, responsibly executed, and well maintained throughout their exhibition period.

We appreciate the positive impact Big Art Loop continues to have on our parks and public spaces and respectfully encourage the San Francisco Arts Commission to support these proposed installations as part of San Francisco's vibrant and growing public art landscape.

Sincerely,

**Dana Ketcham**

Director of Property Management, Permits and Reservations  
San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

San Francisco Arts Commission

Visual Arts Committee

Re: Letter of Support for the Big Apple sculpture at Balboa Park, part of the Big Art Loop

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the proposed Big Apple sculpture at Balboa Park through Building 180's Big Art Loop.

Balboa Park is the heart of this neighborhood, a place where families, kids, and neighbors already come together. Big Apple is exactly the kind of bold, joyful landmark that gives people one more reason to gather, to linger, and to feel proud of where they live. Commissioned public art that is freely accessible to the observer in public spaces belongs in a park like this one.

I would love to see Balboa Park and our community enjoy this sculpture. Please consider this my full support for bringing Big Apple to Balboa Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,



Name:

Nicholas McCurdy

Email:

[Redacted]

Association with the community:

community member

Signature:



Date:

06/14/26