

Matthew Mazzotta

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Dear Artist Selection Committee,

It would be an honor to develop a project for the Veterans Memorial Park. I am uniquely qualified to undertake this project, as I create large-scale, site-specific artworks that forge a strong sense of place and serve as a point of attraction for multiple communities to come together—a trait I believe is of the essence in designing for public spaces with diverse user groups always passing through.

Community engagement is at the heart of my process. I start each project by creating an ‘Outdoor Living Room’ as a way to capture the voices of local people who might not attend formal meetings or have never thought of being part of an art project. Stemming from this approach are experiences of people from varied backgrounds working together to create models of living that contribute to local culture beyond the economic realm. For instance, one of my projects, the STOREFRONT THEATER, transforms an abandoned storefront into a community theater that seats 100 people. It draws in people that live in the town and relies on their interaction and participation to activate its function. Another project, CLOUD HOUSE, created for Springfield, MO’s largest farmers market, is a unique rain harvesting system that creatively reuses the rainwater it collects by raining it back down through the ‘cloud’ above the roof. This project draws the connection between the food at the farmer’s market and the weather that makes it possible to grow. Its strong visuals bring people into the work through their own curiosity and allow them to spend time investigating the discourses the work provokes.

I firmly believe that we need artists who integrate new opportunities for discovery and social engagement into the built environment. For the Veterans Memorial Park, public art can reveal how the spaces we travel through have the potential to become distinct sites for intimate, radical, and meaningful exchanges. I look forward to presenting a design proposal to the committee.

Sincerely, Matthew Mazzotta

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PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

- 2021 Denver Arts and Venues, USA
Budget: \$400,000
- 2021 San Diego International Airport, USA
Budget: \$520,000
- 2021 Anthem 6075 Wilson Developments LP, Canada
Budget: \$485,000 (\$610,000 CAD)
- 2021 Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, USA
Budget: \$443,000
- 2021 Tampa International Airport, USA
Budget: \$520,000
- 2021 Boise City Council, USA
Budget: \$350,000
- 2016 Farmers Park / Artists For All, Springfield, Missouri, USA.
Budget: \$255,000
- 2016 Center For Rural Affairs, Lyons, Nebraska, USA.
Budget: \$150,000
- 2016 City of Boulder Office of Arts + Culture, USA
Budget: \$100,000
- 2016 Town of Decatur, Nebraska, USA.
Budget: \$100,000
- 2013 Coleman Center for the Arts, York, Alabama, USA.
Budget: \$200,000
- 2010 PEER Group - P.A.I.R. Project, Drachten, Netherlands.
Budget: \$20,000
- 2010 City of Cambridge, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
Budget: \$75,000
- 2009 Council for the Arts at MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
Budget: \$10,000
- 2008 Council for the Arts at MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
Budget: \$7,500
- 2006 Berwick Research Institute, Traveling Project - Nationally in the USA.
Budget: \$250,000

EDUCATION

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- 2020 TED Fellowship
- 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship - John Simon Guggenheim Foundation
- 2018 Loeb Fellow, Harvard University Graduate School of Design
- 2009 Master of Science in Visual Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and Planning – full tuition scholarship
- 2009 The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture – Fellowship Award
- 2001 Bachelor of Fine Arts, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago – Merit Scholarship

WORK

Lecturer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology program in Art, Culture, and Technology

AWARDS, HONORS, RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship Award - Sculpture/Installation/New Genres
- 2018 Dezeen 2018 Awards - “Architecture Project of the Year”
- 2018 Architizer A+ Award in the category of “Architecture + Community”
- 2018 World Architecture News WAN Awards: Adaptive Reuse – Winner
- 2018 Harpo Foundation Grant for Visual Artists
- 2017 Americans for the Arts: Public Art Network Year in Review Award for Public Art & Place making (two projects awarded)
- 2017 The Chicago Athenaeum – American Architecture Award
- 2017 The Congress for the New Urbanism – Charter Award
- 2017 World Architecture Community – 20+10+X Award
- 2017 CODA Awards Merit Award for Public Space – Cloud House
- 2016 By the People: Designing a Better America – Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York
- 2016 Americans for the Arts: Public Art Network Year in Review Award for Public Art & Placemaking
- 2016 SXSW Eco-Place By Design competition: Revitalization – Audience Choice Winner and Honorable Mention
- 2016 CODA Awards Merit Award for Public Space – Open House
- 2015 Culturunners Residency in partnership with Art Jameel – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 2015 Centre for Contemporary Art Residency – Singapore
- 2015 Headlands Center for the Arts Residency – USA
- 2015 Artplace America Grant 2014-15
- 2014 Architizer A+ Jury Choice Award: Architecture and Urban Transformation
- 2014 Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Year in Review Award for Public Art & Placemaking
- 2014 Azure Magazine AZ Awards: International Award of Design Excellence
- 2014 Chamberlain Award – Headlands Center for the Arts
- 2014 Great Places Award: Place Design – Environmental Design Research Association
- 2014 Architect’s Newspaper – ‘Best Of Design Award’
- 2013 The Santo Foundation: Individual Artist Award
- 2012 The National Endowment for the Arts: 2012 Grant
- 2012 The Visual Artists Network: Grant 2012
- 2011 Americans for the Arts: Year in Review Public Art Award for community engagement and social activism



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Select Works

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HOME

Budget: \$520,000 USD (\$695,682 CAD)

Client: Tampa International Airport

Date: 2022

Medium: Resin, fiberglass, steel, paint, projector

Dimensions: 22'H x 47'W x 47'D

Location: Tampa International Airport, Main Terminal



HOME is a site-specific art installation in the Central Terminal of the Tampa International Airport which gives time and space for travelers from all over the world to take a deeper look at the bird whose image is literally all over Florida. However, the story of HOME is not about whether someone or something, is originally from here or not; the exaggerated scale of the flamingos in HOME puts the lives of these birds in the focus, and puts us, as humans, in awe as they tower above us, reminding us that we all share the same home.



CLOUD HOUSE

Budget: \$255,000 USD (\$341,151 CAD)

Client: Farmers Park / Artists For All, Springfield, Missouri

Date: 2016

Medium: Reclaimed wood & tin, steel, fiberglass, rocking chairs

Dimensions: 26'H x 17'W x 17'D

Location: Springfield, Missouri



CLOUD HOUSE is a unique rain harvesting system that creatively reuses rainwater to provide a sensory experience that illuminates our connection with the cycles of the natural world. Through a switch inside two rocking chairs, when people sit down, a pump brings the rainwater up into the 'cloud' above the roof and drops it, producing that warm, pleasant sound of rain on a tin roof, drawing a link between the food at the farmers market and the weather that makes it possible to grow.

Video: <https://vimeo.com/189592923>



GENTLE BREEZE

Budget: \$500,000 USD (\$686,512 CAD)

Client: Boise City Council

Date: 2021

Medium: Steel, aluminum, fiberglass, paint, wood

Dimensions: 26'H x 25'W x 25'D

Location: Cherie Buckner-Webb Park, Boise, ID



GENTLE BREEZE is a 26' tall pink tree with three swings that inserts an image of the rural into downtown Boise's dense urban fabric. Surrounded by numerous high rise buildings, GENTLE BREEZE connects visitors to nature—its articulating leaves are an indicator of the wind that comes over the mountains and up the valley into this unique location.



OPEN HOUSE

Budget: \$200,000 USD (\$267,570 CAD)
Client: Coleman Center for the Arts

Date: 2013
Medium: Reclaimed wood and other house construction materials
Dimensions: 17'H x 16'W x 16'D
Location: York, Alabama



This is a structure in downtown York, Alabama that is disguised as a house, but transforms into a 100 seat open-air theater, free for public use. The theater uses materials reclaimed from an abandoned house and is built upon the plot of land where it stood.



STOREFRONT THEATER

Budget: \$150,000 USD (\$200,677 CAD)
Client: Center For Rural Affairs, Lyons, Nebraska

Date: 2016
Medium: Wood, metal, acrylic, hydraulic pumps, seating
Dimensions: 22'H x 22'W x 19'D
Location: Lyons, Nebraska, Main Street



THE STOREFRONT THEATER is a unique event space that transforms Main Street into an outdoor theater by using an abandoned freestanding storefront wall in downtown Lyons. The wall is modified with two hydraulic pump arms so that the awning and false front fold down over the sidewalk with the push of a button, providing seating for 100; both the seats and the screen retract and disappear when not in use, giving the impression that there is nothing unusual in this town.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/170420260>