Jesse Schlesinger
Art Proposal for the N-Judah Gateway Plaza
Public Art Project

The work consists of seating and sculptures, beginning with a module of an 18 inch cube. The dimensions of the module are derived from the average seat height, and can be extended vertically or horizontally to create benches, seats of varying widths, platforms or pedestals for sculptures. The total number of components (seats/sculptures) may be increased or decreased in number as the plaza design develops.

Earl’s maps refer to the region as the Great Sand Bank, a desert of marine sand dunes comprising a large portion of western San Francisco. The wild openness of this part of the city persisted in the earliest settlements in the neighborhood, in marked contrast to the grid of streets and houses that now inhabit the area. In consideration of these histories, the two primary formal elements of the work are the square and the circle. The square represents the existing grid, while the circle represents the natural elements of the area – sand/sandy dunes, the circular sand banks, and the solstice. The two natural forms also draw reliance to the common instinct to walk the beach and seek for shells, driftwood, bits deposited by the ocean.

The materials for the blocks will be concrete, salvaged old growth redwood for the seat, and bronze and salvaged driftwood for the sculptural elements. Some of the concrete blocks will exist solely as Sculptures, some as seat bases, and some as sculpture bases. The colors of the work are determined by the materials: gray, bronze, and driftwood.

The work takes into consideration the material available, the way those natural elements continue to inform its way of life.