

# CITY OF RENTON FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City of Renton Contacts

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## City of Renton authorizes two new public art projects

*"The Renton Loop" to be installed downtown, and Sunset Park to receive a vibrant vertical series*

**RENTON, WA** – The Renton City Council has authorized two new art projects for the city, one at the corner of Main Avenue South and South Second Street downtown and the other at Sunset Neighborhood Park.

"Renton truly values art as a vital part of our community," said Mayor Denis Law. "These two new projects will enhance our reputation and give both residents and visitors something to admire and talk about."

The artwork at Main and Second will serve as both an eye-catching entry to the downtown area and as an ode to the Renton Loop, made famous decades ago by drivers who cruised their vehicles through downtown on weekend evenings.

Entitled "The Renton Loop," the piece will be designed by Western Neon, the same company that fabricated the highly popular Rooftop Dragon on Wells Avenue South. The loop will be a 12-foot diameter circle comprised of Core-Ten steel, raw aluminum and stainless steel fabricated into an illuminated arc. It will sit in a bed of rough metal materials blackened to represent the city's start as a coal mining town.

"The piece represents the past, present and future of the city," said Dylan Neuwirth, Western Neon's creative director. "It symbolizes Renton as a unique Pacific Northwest destination first for coal mining, then for manufacturing jobs and finally for today's high tech and service occupations."

The budget for the project is \$146,261.28, which includes \$50,003.50 from the city's density account. Installation is scheduled for fall 2019.

The project at Sunset Neighborhood Park will be designed by artist Kirk Seese of Lutherville, Maryland, who was chosen over four other applicants. Artists were asked to submit designs that highlighted the "connection between the neighborhood park and the diverse community surrounding Sunset and Highlands communities." The designs were evaluated by a committee composed of city staff, the Renton Municipal Arts Commission and members from the Sunset community.

Seese's proposal consists of colorful vertical sculptures attached to square tubular steel posts that range in height from 10 to 20 feet above ground. Each piece of the sculpture face is encapsulated in a hard, clear, ultraviolet-inhibiting epoxy resin to withstand the elements. The sculptures will be placed at multiple locations throughout the park.

"Artwork doesn't sit in someone's house, in a museum or tucked away in a storage room in the dark," Seese said. "It's out there in the world, for all to see, braving the elements and public scrutiny. It's shared."

The project has a budget of \$250,000, which comes from the density transfer fees collected from Sunset Terrace developer Colpitts Development. Installation of the artwork is scheduled for the summer of 2020.

Sunset Neighborhood Park (2680 Sunset Lane NE) is Renton's newest park with phase I opening in June 2018. The 3.2-acre park is located next to the Highlands Library and serves as a gathering place for the surrounding Sunset and Highland communities. Construction on phase II is expected to start this November.

**About the City of Renton**

*The City of Renton, Washington, with a population of 104,100 (2018), is located on the southeast shore of Lake Washington, just south of Seattle. Renton's strong economic base, diverse marketplace and favorable business climate have attracted the attention of nationally recognized companies that are providing employees and their families an outstanding quality of life. Renton is the home of Boeing, PACCAR, IKEA, the Seattle Seahawks, and the eternal resting place of Jimi Hendrix. More information can be found on our [website](#), [news releases](#), or [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Nextdoor](#) pages.*

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