INSIDE LOOK:

AUSTIN AIPP PROJECT
GREEN WATER TREATMENT
PLANT REDEVELOPMENT



NEW AMERICAN PUBLIC ART | BY CHRISTINE ANGELONE

Working with AIPP's LaunchPad program and artist group New American Public Art (NAPA) has been a great privilege as the exposure to the public art process, and the knowledge I have gained so far has proven invaluable. I feel energized with every task, question, and small accomplishment, as I learn to navigate a project of this size and complexity. For every to-do list that is compiled and executed with LaunchPAD, there is a list of ideas and questions for personal projects that I am dreaming up for the future.

The first task assigned to me by NAPA involved learning 3D scanning technology and capturing detailed scans of a Great Horned Owl. I was put in touch with Pamela Owen at the University of Texas, who looks after the taxidermy specimen of the Texas-native bird that would serve as the model for the forthcoming sculpture Kemplen's Owls. The specimen is estimated to have been mounted between 1936 and 1961, and was on display at the Texas Memorial Museum's 3rd floor wildlife exhibit until 2007. The specimen, which is affectionately referred to as "The Watcher" because of its great yellow eyes that seem to follow, now lives in Pamela's office, perched on a bookshelf and keeping company with a large taxidermy turkey nailed to the wall.











After we successfully captured the 3D images, NAPA needed to begin modeling. We got to work on the planning and logistics of bringing Kempelen's Owls to life. The two 10' sculptures made of steel, aluminum and corian will be an interactive and permanent piece of public art located in Austin's Green Water Redevelopment Project slated for construction in early 2018. As part of NAPA's overall mission and philosophy, the project will be completely open sourced.

In 2016, I had the opportunity to complete my first public art project through the AIPP's TEMPO program. Since then, I have dedicated much of my time to discovering new opportunities and learning what I can about building a career in public art. The chance to work with New American Public Art through LaunchPAD has opened up a world of new and exciting possibilities. It is my hope that this experience will create a ripple effect where I may continue to add to the landscape and leave parts of myself scattered throughout communities by way of public art.

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