**ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)**

# Project Data Sheet

*Revised February 6, 2025*

*(Due by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday two weeks before the meeting to AARB@dgs.virginia.gov)*

**Date Submitted:** September 18, 2026, for the October 2, 2026 meeting

**Agency Name**: Virginia Tech

**Project Name, Number, and Location** *[* must include the project number]*
Hahn Horticulture Garden Sculpture
Blacksburg, Virginia
Project Number: 27-832268

**Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer**
Agency Representative:
Sandra P. Graham, AIA
Director of Design
Division of Facilities
Virginia Tech
540-231-4961
spowell@vt.edu

Artist:
Steve Bickley
Blacksburg, Virginia
540-392-7909
sbickley@vt.edu

**Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule** *[* must select one of the following]*

- Preliminary Design Submission: ☐
- Final Design Submission: ☒

The project is anticipated to be installed following AARB and other required university approvals, with installation targeted for late 2026 or early 2027.

**Request for Consent Agenda**: Yes: ☐ No: ☒

* Please refer to the *AARB Agency Project Submission and Presentation Guidelines* – Project Submission Section for additional information and guidance on the Consent Agenda versus Regular Agenda.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you did not check the box for Consent Agenda, your project will be posted on the Regular Agenda and the agency will be required to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the board on the day of the meeting. ***Presentations are not to exceed 15 minutes.***

**Project Description**
Hahn Horticulture Garden is a nearly six-acre teaching and display garden on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus that serves the university and broader community. The proposed sculpture would be installed within the developing formal garden east of the existing Peggy Lee Hahn Pavilion, at the center of the garden pathway. The work is intended to serve as a focal point within the formal garden and provide a place for reflection within the

larger garden setting. The sculpture would be anchored to a concrete foundation and supported by two stainless-steel pipes.

**Architectural Aesthetic:**
Steve Bickley's artistic approach is grounded in biophilic design, drawing inspiration from the natural world to create works that foster connections between people and their environment. His recent body of work explores the visual language of water and clouds through three-dimensional wall sculptures and freestanding forms that capture the fluidity and movement inherent in nature. The proposed Hahn Horticulture Garden sculpture continues this exploration through abstract organic forms and textures that convey both calm and dynamism within the garden setting.

Bickley's work also explores the ability of natural elements to express broader ideas of growth, change, and the human condition. The sculpture is intended to invite individual interpretation and contemplation, allowing viewers to experience the work through their own perspectives while contributing a serene and reflective presence within the garden. Its human scale allows the sculpture to establish a strong visual presence without overwhelming the surrounding landscape or adjacent architecture.

Crafted primarily from stainless steel and aluminum, the sculpture uses a restrained palette of exposed metal to reinforce a sense of lightness and an airy, ethereal quality. The relationship among the sculptural forms and the negative spaces between them creates an organic visual flow that draws the eye through the composition. This interplay of form, movement, texture, balance, and complexity contributes to the work's visual character while allowing it to remain compatible with the scale and character of the formal garden.

Through its nature-inspired forms, materials, and placement, the sculpture is intended to encourage engagement and reflection while heightening awareness of the relationship between the natural and built environments. Within Hahn Horticulture Garden, the work is designed to complement the surrounding plantings, pedestrian pathways, and Peggy Lee Hahn Pavilion while serving as a distinct focal point within the developing formal garden.

**Relationship to Approved Master Plan** [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]
The project is consistent with the adopted 2018 Master Plan, Beyond Boundaries 2047: The Campus Plan, and is appropriate for its proposed location within Hahn Horticulture Garden on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. The sculpture supports the garden's role as a teaching, display, and gathering space while reinforcing the visual character of the established garden. Its location, scale, and material expression are compatible with the surrounding landscape and the adjacent Peggy Lee Hahn Pavilion.

**Existing Architectural Context**
Hahn Horticulture Garden is located adjacent to the Lutz Greenhouse Complex, English Baseball Field, and the James C. Weaver Baseball Center. Within this setting, the garden forms a distinct landscaped environment defined by mature vegetation and visually separated from the surrounding athletic and academic uses. The proposed sculpture would be located within the formal garden near the Peggy Lee Hahn Pavilion, where its scale, material palette, and organic form are intended to complement the pavilion, pedestrian pathways, and surrounding plantings without competing with the established garden character.

**AARB History (for return presentations on the same project)**: N/A

- State when previous presentation(s) were made to the Board on the project.
- Restate previous Board comments.

- Show actions taken to address Board comments; use visuals to compare previous renderings with updates.

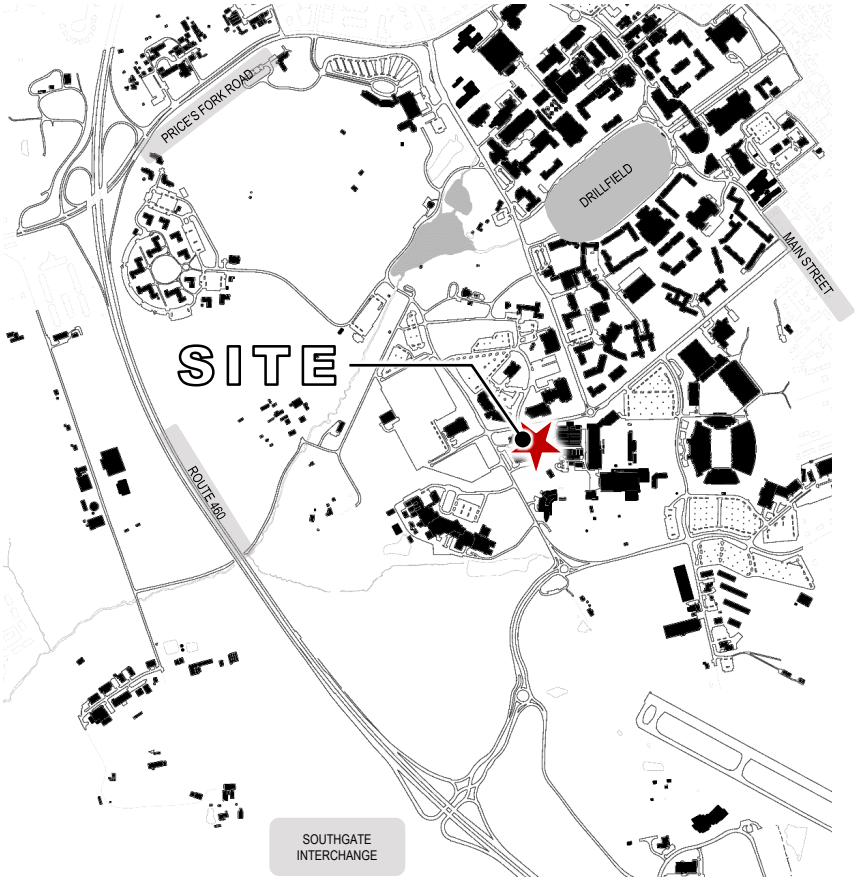
VIRGINIA TECH

# DESIGN REVIEW for
# HAHN HORTICULTURE GARDEN SCULPTURE

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

October 2, 2026

# PROJECT LOCATION

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Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

# PROJECT LOCATION

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

VIEW TO THE EAST

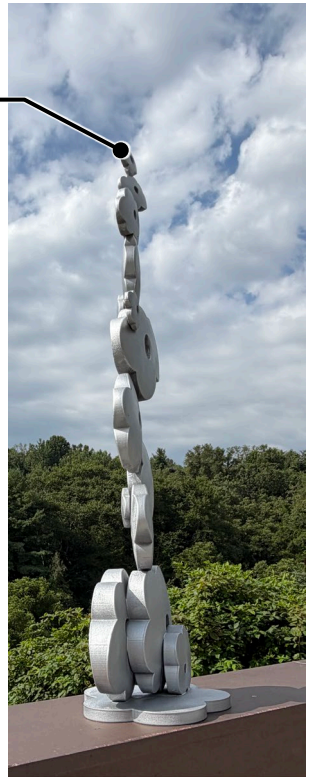
VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST

# SITE PLAN


Greenhouses
McComas Hall
Proposed Statue Location
Hahn Garden Pavilion
Baseball Stadium
N

# MODEL IMAGES

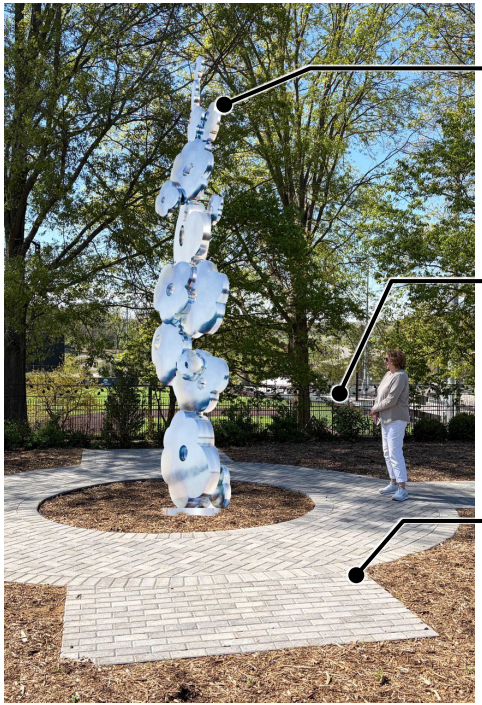
Sculpture with stainless steel support structure



MODEL VIEWS

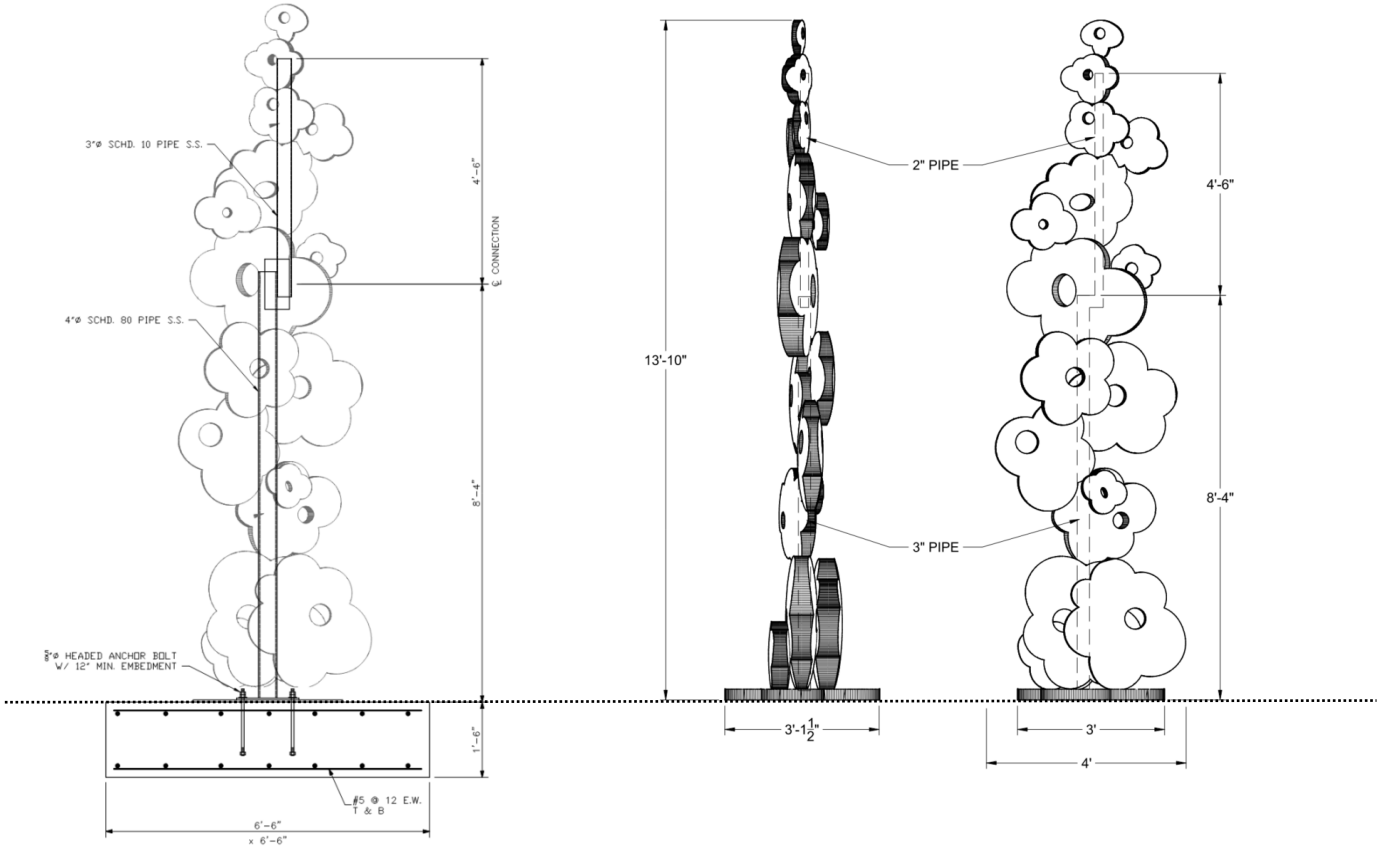
# SITE RENDERING

VIEW TO EAST




VIEW TO SOUTHWEST

# ELEVATIONS


3"ø SCHD. 10 PIPE S.S.
4"ø SCHD. 80 PIPE S.S.
4'-6"
℄ CONNECTION
8'-4"
1'-6"
5/8"ø HEADED ANCHOR BOLT
W/ 12" MIN. EMBEDMENT
#5 @ 12 E.W.
T & B
6'-6"
x 6'-6"
13'-10"
2" PIPE
3" PIPE
3'-1 1/2"
3'
4'
4'-6"
8'-4"