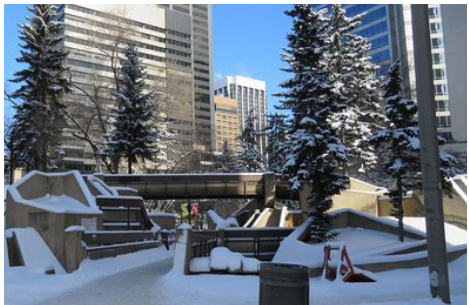


CENTURY GARDENS WINTER MOBILE TUNNEL

Calgary 2021 Winter City Design Competiton

Design Proposal Information



Keywords: Fun, Joyful, & Magical

INSPIRATION

The winter season inspires an inherent sense of whimsy and joy. The changing landscape and approaching holidays lends a jolly, magical atmosphere to the winter months. It is this feeling that the Century Gardens Winter Mobile Tunnel seeks to capture. It celebrates winter, embracing the changing weather and integrating snow as a part of its form.

The installation consists of stainless steel arches which visitors can walk through. Eight to ten lit mobiles will be hung from each arch. Groups of equidistant arches will be stationed around the Century Gardens site to create several tunnels of snow and light. The mobiles themselves will be free to rotate, creating a tactile experience for visitors by producing a whimsical snowfall.



= Proposed location for Mobile Tunnels in the Century Gardens



WHY MOBILES?

One characteristic of the winter landscape is empty, bare tree branches. This installation flips this precedent on its head by creating a stage of blossoming unique to the winter. The elegant mobiles will appear like simple ornaments at first, but once placed in their environment, they come alive, transforming at the first touch of snow.

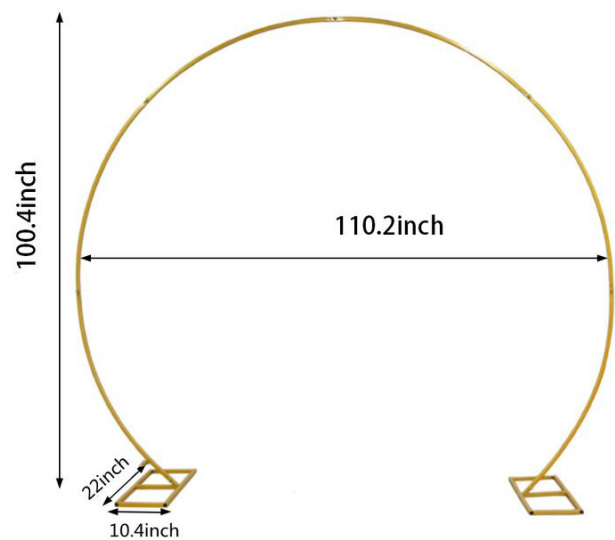
As snow falls, it will naturally catch on the platforms. An angle of 137.5 degrees is used between each platform to mimic a Fibonnaci Spiral Phyllotaxis leaf arrangement. From a distance, these floating pockets of snow will give the illusion that the installation is blossoming with white blooms. As the platforms twist and rotate in the wind, visitors below will experience a gentle, magical snowfall from the caught snow above. LEDs built into each mobile will play with the natural translucency of snow to create a glowing, magical effect.

Pictured to the left is an early mockup of this mobile design.



COMPONENTS AND CONSTRUCTION

STAINLESS STEEL ARCHES: The mounting structure will be a series of 6.7ft stainless steel arches through which visitors can walk beneath. These structures will be weather resistant and mounted to the ground.



SOLAR LED LIGHTS: Lightweight multicolored LEDs woven throughout the platforms will give the display its glowing appearance. Direct sunlight will power 800mAh batteries to keep each archway lit.



ACRYLIC PLATFORMS: Acrylic was chosen as the platform base because of its weather resistance. It holds up against UV and temperature, as well as resisting scratching and denting.

THREADED ROD: The acrylic platforms were attached to 1/4" steel plated threaded rod, sandwiched between two 1/4" coated steel washers and 2 1/4" hex nuts.

WIRE & MOUNTING FIXTURE: To allow the rod to rotate, a coated steel mounting fixture and steel wire were used.

