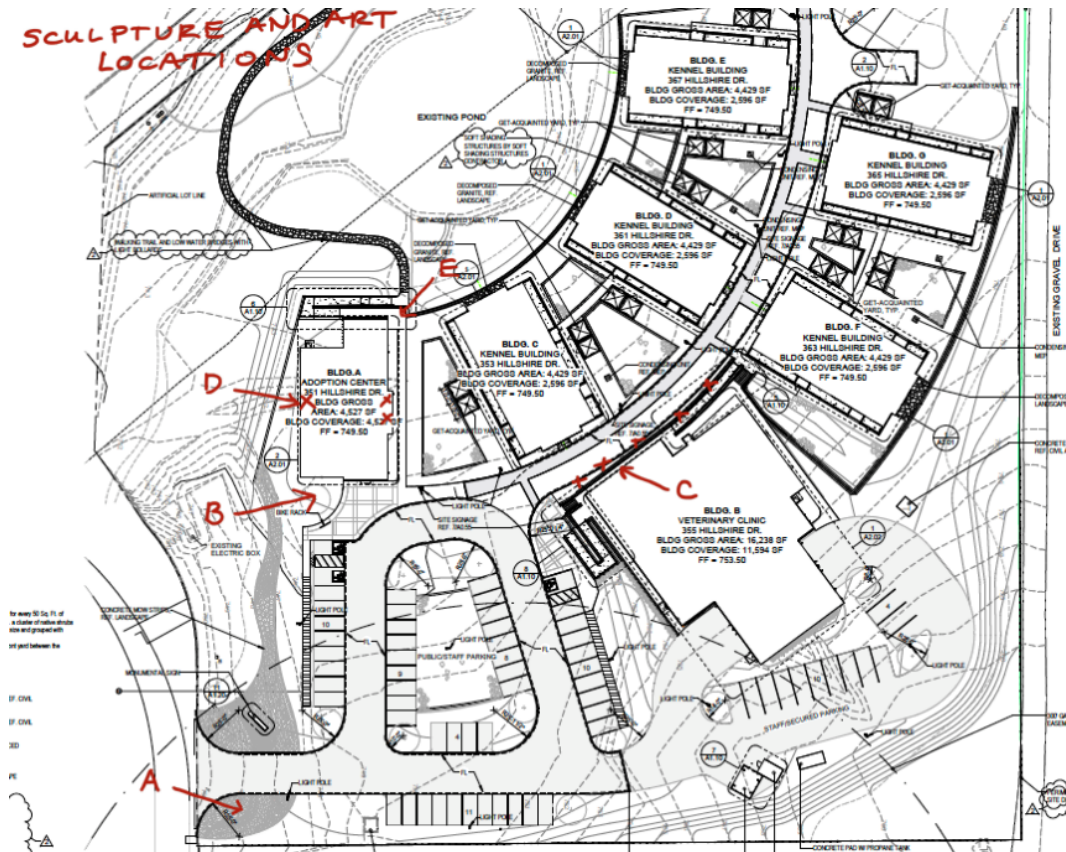


North Animal Care and Adoption Campus Public Art Project

Site: North Animal Care and Adoption Campus, 301 Hillshire Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76052



Artist's Statement

The North Animal Care and Adoption Campus project offered a rich source of artistic inspiration. At the outset of the project, I met with City staff, architects, elected officials, and resident volunteers to understand the site's style, use, and requirements. Brainstorming sessions included researching other national animal shelter art installations, sketching, model-making, and discussions with the core team. We condensed ideas until a very strong concept emerged. Final maquettes were created using mosaic-style illustrations. In early December, we brought steel and wood mock-ups to the site and met with Animal Services and FWPA staff for input on locations and scale of the pieces.

The campus-style nature of the facility and the fact that users will visit multiple areas within the campus provides a unique opportunity to create multiple site-specific works. The cats and dogs playfully draw users to each artwork location, thereby encouraging them to explore the campus.

Goals:

- To work within the North Animal facility public art budget to create original, interactive art elements that are both visitor-engaging and complementary to the structures.
- To encourage animal adoptions by the visiting public by presenting the best aspects of our pets: their playfulness, energy, and devotion to their adoptive families
- To integrate the art works into the breadth of the campus, thereby encouraging visitors to explore the many buildings, walkways, and outdoor features of the site.

North Animal Control Artwork Design

Location A. Main Entry Gabion Elements

Three entry gabions, made of naturally-finished steel and filled with river rock, act as directional marker towers. Featured dogs “Chip,” a mixed-breed shepherd, and “Pepita,” an oversized Chihuahua, along with a colorful green cat named “Luna,” stand atop each of the three pedestals. The towers are 5, 6.5 and 8 feet tall, thereby offering visitors who arrive at the facility a destination marker visible at the main maintenance facility intersection.



Location B. Adoption Center Bench

Blue Dog Bench: “Murphy” is a three-dimensional, six-foot-tall sculpture of a Labrador mix. The bench itself is a large wedge, also built in a gabion style with a thick limestone top. Murphy will greet visitors to the Adoption Center building and will have plenty of room on his bench for families to take photos with their newly adopted pets. The bench will meet the paved entry, making it ADA-compliant for visitors in wheelchairs and strollers. Decomposed granite will surround the grassy sides to discourage worn or muddy grass. Eventually, the landscaping should provide shade at the bench when the trees mature.



Location C. Running Dogs Along Retaining wall at Veterinary Clinic

“Giving Chase” Running Dogs Wall: Across the drive from the Adoption Center, the large Administration and Veterinary Building has a long stone retaining wall. Five dogs of various sizes and breeds will chase the along the wall, leading visitors toward the center of the campus. Placed in dynamic poses, these two-sided mosaic dogs are located above the pedestrian level and separated from dog walkers by a steel railing. The lead dog (as yet unnamed) carries a red ball in her mouth, escaping from her pursuers. “Shaggy,” an Afghan hound, follows in aerodynamic fashion. “Jack,” a Jack Russell Terrier, bounds along with his tongue out, looking at the viewer rather than his companions. He’s just happy to be part of the excitement. “Rosie,” a stout and determined bulldog, barrels down the wall. “Lucy,” a wiry Westie-Terrier mix, brings up the rear. The dogs range in scale from 48” long and 24” high to 18” x 24.”



Flat, Double-Sided Mosaic Animals at Retaining Wall

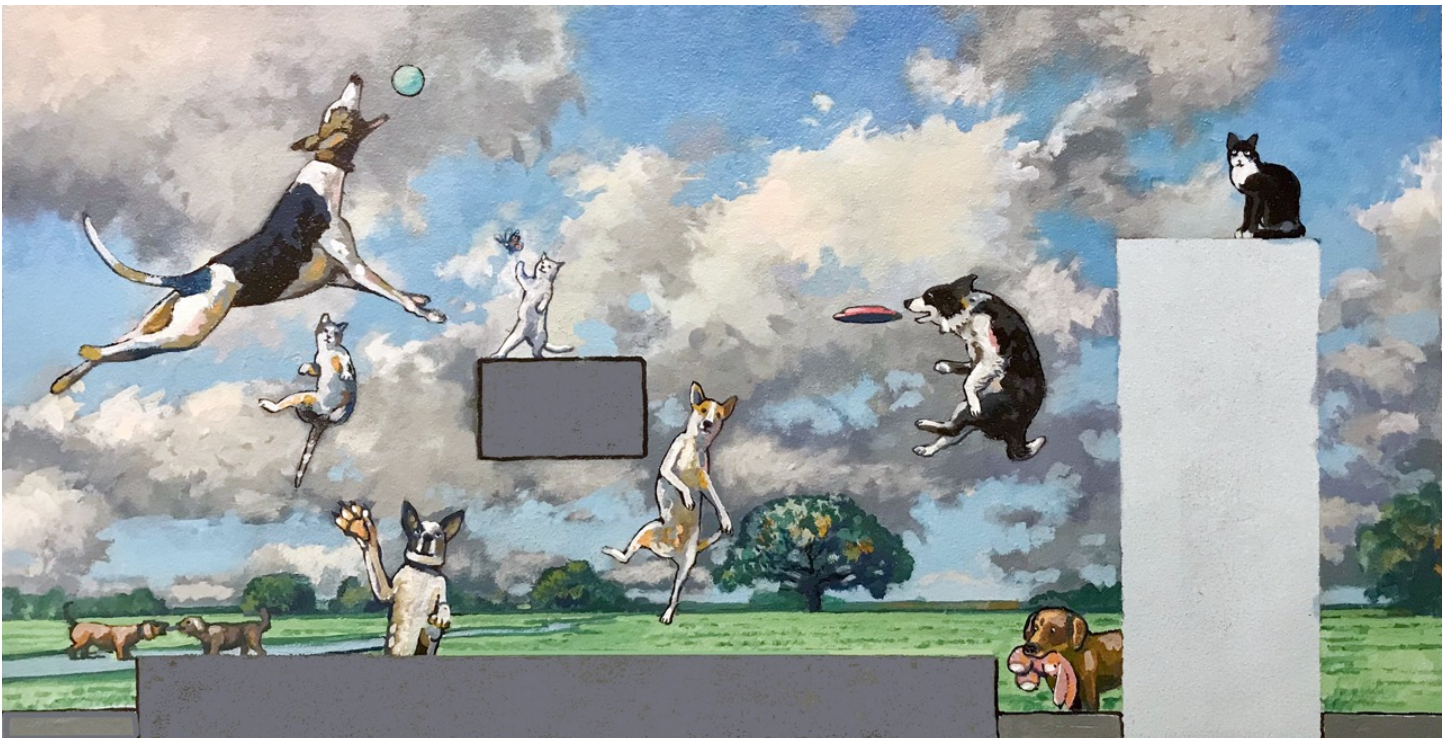


Flat, Double-Sided Mosaic Animals at Retaining Wall (continued)



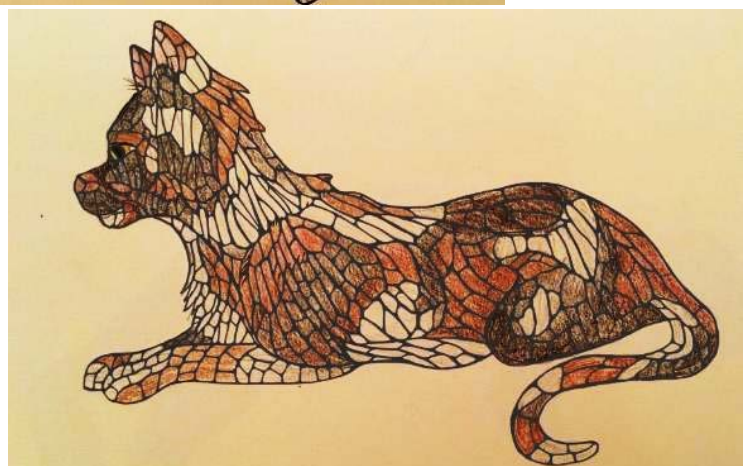
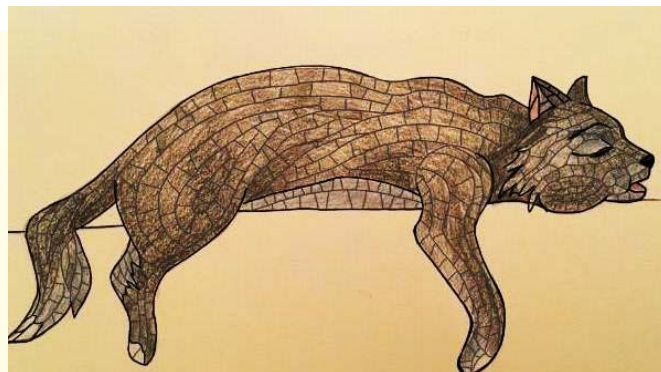
D. Adoption Center Mural

“Raining Cats and Disco Dogs” Hand-painted mural: California muralist and Texas native John Wehrle has designed a large mural for the main wall inside the Adoption Center. This fun and colorful work features 3 cats and 7 dogs in various states of play against a neighborhood prairie and blue Texas sky. Painted animals interact with the intended seating area and the flat screen tv. A tuxedo cat sits atop the doorway leading to the cat adoption room.



D. Adoption Center Lobby Cats

Also in the Adoption Center, three flat cats made of glass mosaic sit or lounge atop the yellow I-beams that make up the focal point of the building's structure. Two cats, a standing tortoiseshell and a sleeping Korat, will be attached to the beam with strong magnets. A third cat, ready to pounce, will be cleated to the sheetrock wall on the soffit across from the painted mural.



D. Adoption Center Cat Sculpture

“Terra” Standing Calico Cat: Terra will be five feet tall and will be located on the rear patio behind the Adoption Center. She will be visible to users in the multi-purpose room at the back of the building and to pedestrians entering from the main walkways. The cat will lean a paw against the railing (attached mechanically) as if reaching for something overhead. “Terra” will also make a great photo location, as the background behind this sculpture will be the natural marsh at the back of the property. Visitors attracted to “Terra” will also notice the paved ramp leading to the walkway encircling the marsh.

