

Baseline Underpass

Public Art Plan

By Christian Muller – August 2014

Public Art Purpose

The artistic enhancements for this project are designed to create a strong visual identity and reference the 40th Parallel location. The Public Art theme is “Triangulation”, a historical survey method that measures the distance between two fixed points, called the “baseline”, and then calculates the distance between the other legs of the triangle using the measured angles. Baseline Road is the surveyed control line for the 40th Parallel originally surveyed by Todd and Withrow in 1859. The triangle theme is reinforced by the “Fractal Pattern Walls” an abstract design on the concrete walls of the underpass and its southern section. The triangle shape also forms the basis for the vertical sculpture called the “Prism Tower” which uses dichroic glass and LED illumination to create light and color.

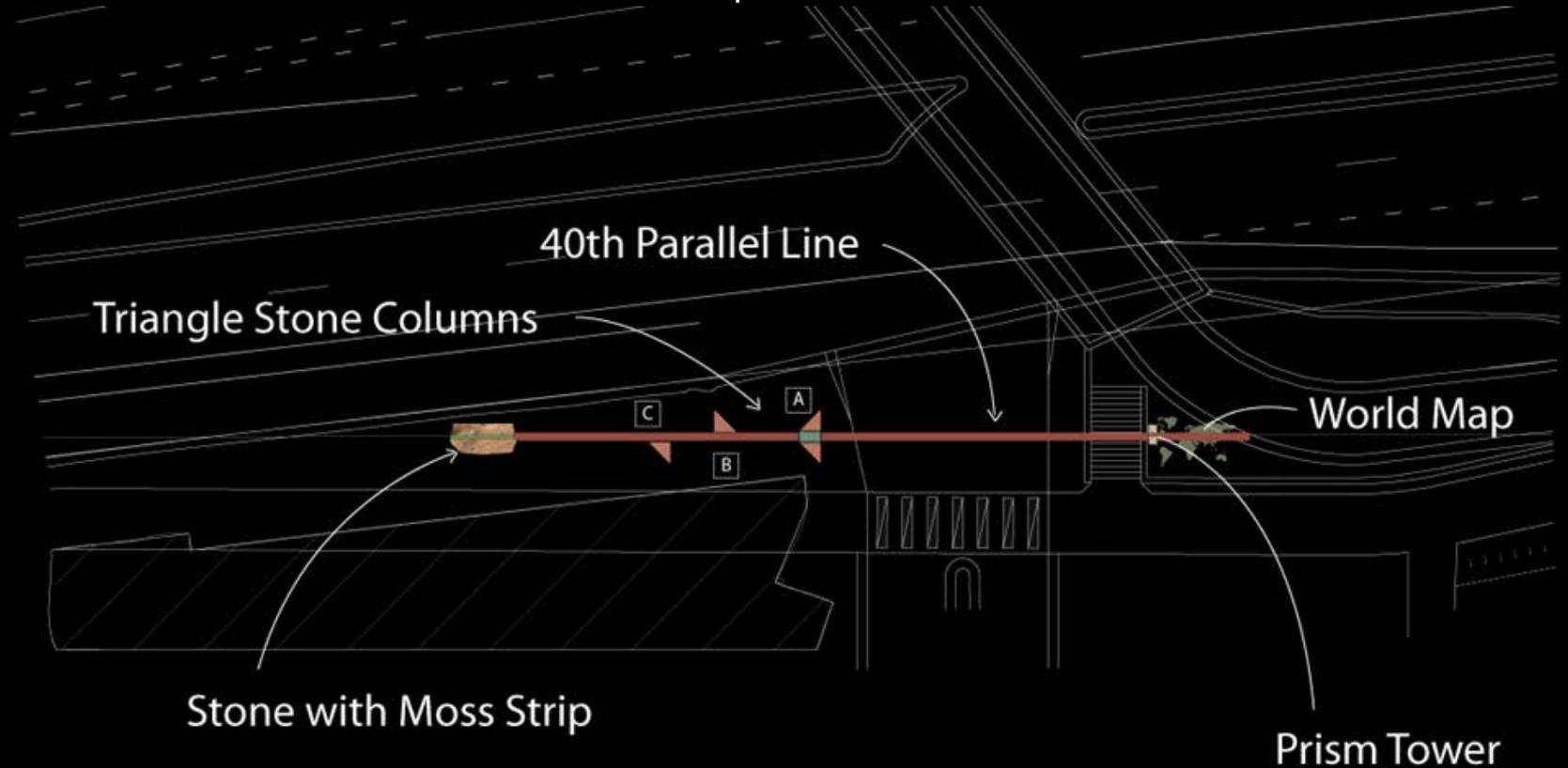
Existing Baseline Survey Memorial

In July 1859, Government surveyors, Withrow and Todd were charged with establishing the line demarcating Nebraska Territory on the north, and Kansas Territory on the south. This line was to follow the parallel latitude 40 degrees North, also known as the "Baseline", and was to terminate at "the summit of the Rocky Mountains", then the easterly line of Utah Territory. The survey crew navigated scorching plains and rugged mountainous terrain, traversing a distance of 345 miles in 55 days.



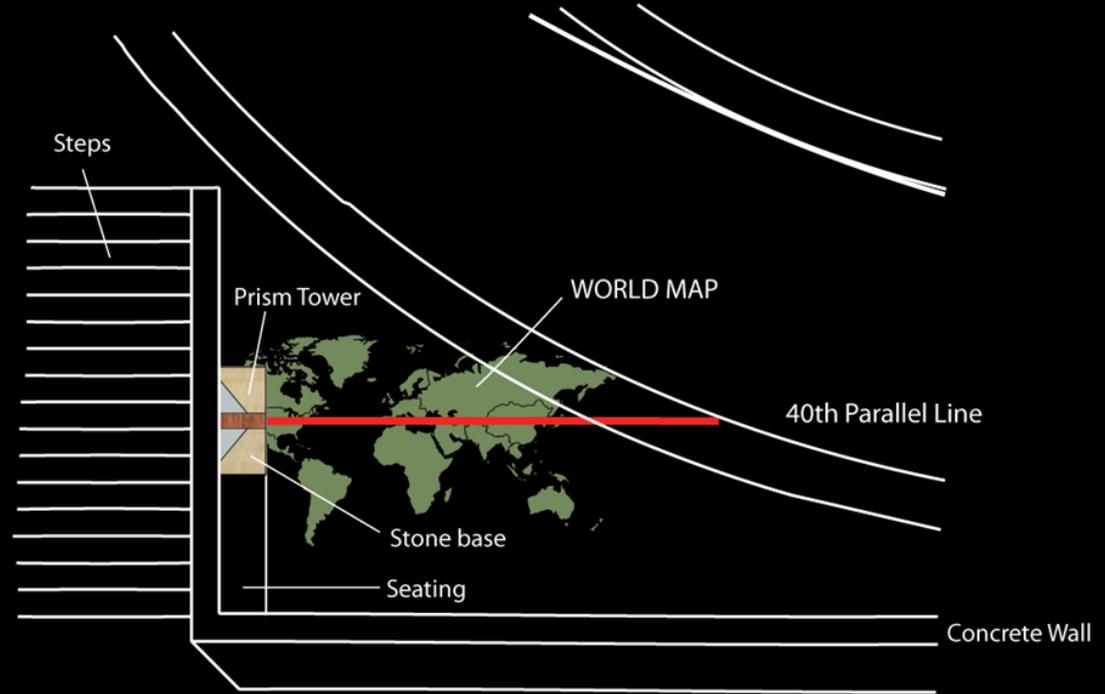
New Art Location Map

Plan view location of all the new Baseline Underpass Art Elements



World Map & the 40th Parallel Line

This is a world map etched into the concrete and oriented in relation to the 40th Parallel Line. Prominent cities found along the 40th Parallel Line will be located and named:
Boulder, Colorado; Columbus, Ohio;
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Aranjuez, Spain;
Ankara, Turkey; Beijing, China.



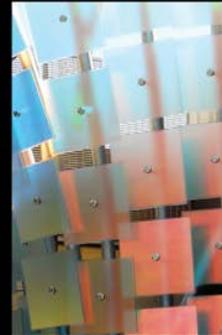
Prism Tower

The Prism Tower is a nineteen-foot column composed of two vertical triangles and capped with a triangular prism. It is located directly on the 40th Parallel Line adjacent to the access steps at the southern underpass approach. The upper portion of the Prism Tower showcases dichroic or color-changing glass. The middle portion of the tower is composed of perforated aluminum and at the base is a red sandstone strip wedged between two large stone blocks.

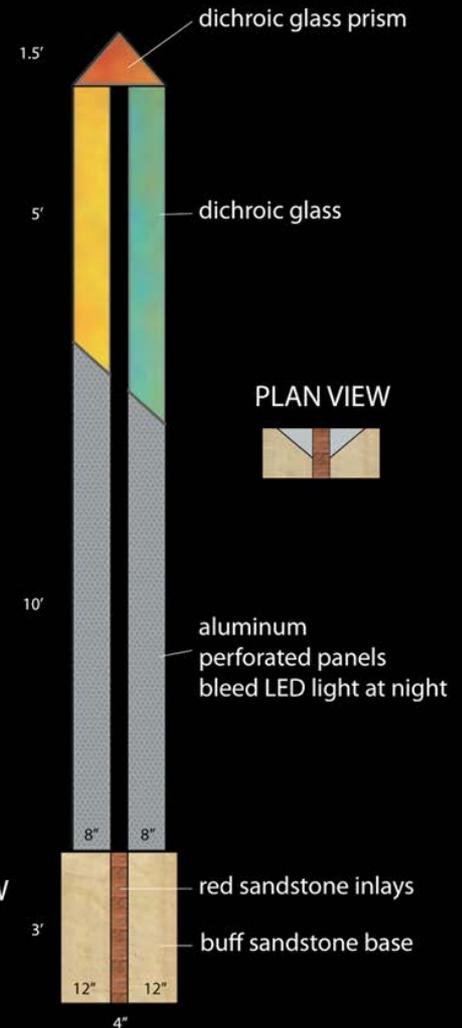
During the day sunlight will produce an endless array of color from the dichroic glass and at night the tower will glow with LED internal illumination. The eye-catching nature of the sculpture will give a clear indication to the location of the access steps and add light and color to the lower level.



dichroic glass examples



ELEVATION VIEW



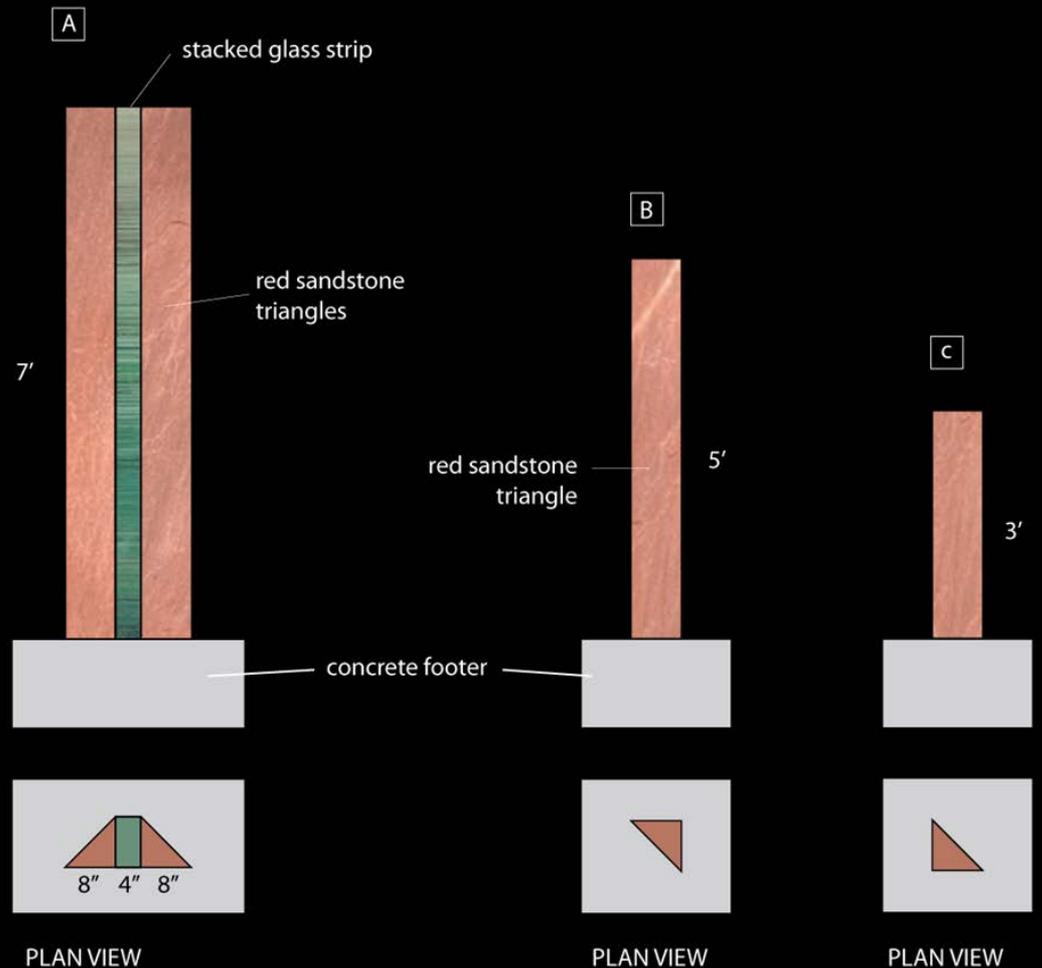
LED Light

through cut aluminium plate example



Triangle Stone Columns

These are a series of three triangular vertical stone elements located in relation to the 40th Parallel Line in the landscaped area to the west of the Basemar entrance. Column "A" will showcase the 40th Parallel Line with stacked vandal-proof glass sandwiched between two vertical triangular stone columns. Columns "B" and "C" are vertical stone triangles offset on the north and south sides of the 40th Parallel Line.



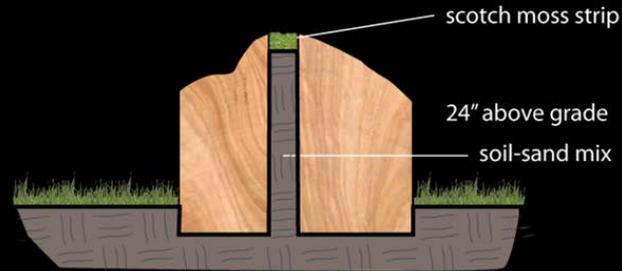
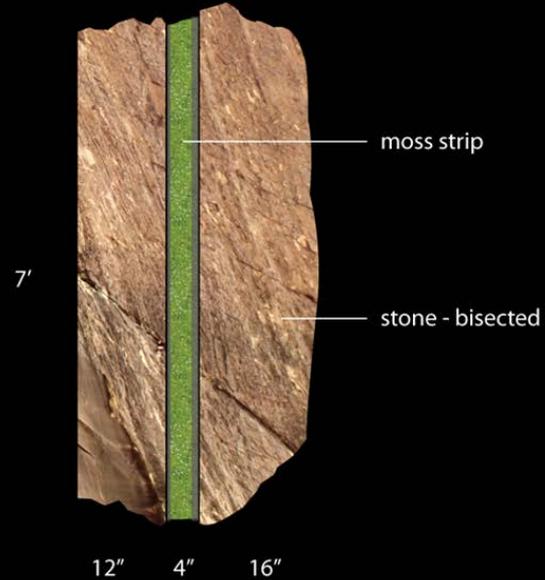
Sunlight

through stacked glass example



Stone with Moss Strip

Stone with Moss Strip is a rock that has been sawn into two sections and separated with a four-inch gap, filled with soil and planted with Scotch Moss. The moss strip is an extension of the 40th Parallel Line that will have its terminus on the west side of this rock.



Fractal Pattern Walls

Fractal Pattern Walls are located at the southern approach to the underpass and the vertical walls of the underpass. The design plays off the “Triangulation” theme and creates a repeating fractal design of triangles within triangles. The patterns will be constructed using custom form liners and then sandblasted to texture and colored with stain. Glass tile will be inset into selected triangles to provide splashes of prismatic colors.

