

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JANUARY 28, 2013
NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
NRD-2012-0143
Congress Avenue
3rd Street between Brazos Street and Colorado Street**

PROPOSAL

Install three works of public art within the public right-of-way.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The City's Art in Public Places program has commissioned the artist Erin Curtis to design and install three works of art on 3rd Street between Brazos Street and Colorado Street. The works of art include the following:

1. Sculpture #12 - A 24" tall triangular sculpture with a 30" x 30" base and an adjacent sidewalk inlay. The proposed materials on the sides of the sculpture will be alternating stripes of glazed Elgin Butler brick in red, yellow and blue. The sidewalk inlay will have stripes in the glazed brick and sidewalk pavers. This piece will be located on the north side of 3rd Street near the alley between Congress Avenue and Colorado Street.
2. Sculpture #1 - A 48" tall square column with a 15¾" x 15¾" base. The sides of the sculpture will be covered in triangular glazed Elgin Butler bricks in blue, yellow, red, black and brown. The sculpture will be located on the north side of 3rd Street nearly half way between Congress Avenue and Brazos Street at the eastern boundary of the Congress Avenue District.
3. Sculpture #18B - A 60" tall triangular column with a 16" x 16" x 16" base and a sloping top. The sides of the sculpture will be covered with geometrically shaped, glazed Elgin Butler bricks in pink, red, orange, cream, black and green. The sculpture will be located on the south side of 3rd Street nearly half way between Congress Avenue and Brazos Street at the eastern boundary of the Congress Avenue District.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The proposed locations are located within the Congress Avenue National Register Historic District. Applicable general design review guidelines state:

- The distinguishing original qualities or character of a property and its environment shall not be destroyed. Removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided.
- Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties are appropriate when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historic, architectural, or cultural material and are compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
- Whenever, possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would not be impaired.

The proposed sculptures are of a small scale and are located approximately half a block from Congress Avenue at the western and eastern boundaries of the district and away from contributing buildings. As such they will have minimal visual impact to the historic architectural character of the district. Additionally, their installation in the sidewalk allows for their removal in the future with no impact to the integrity of the district.

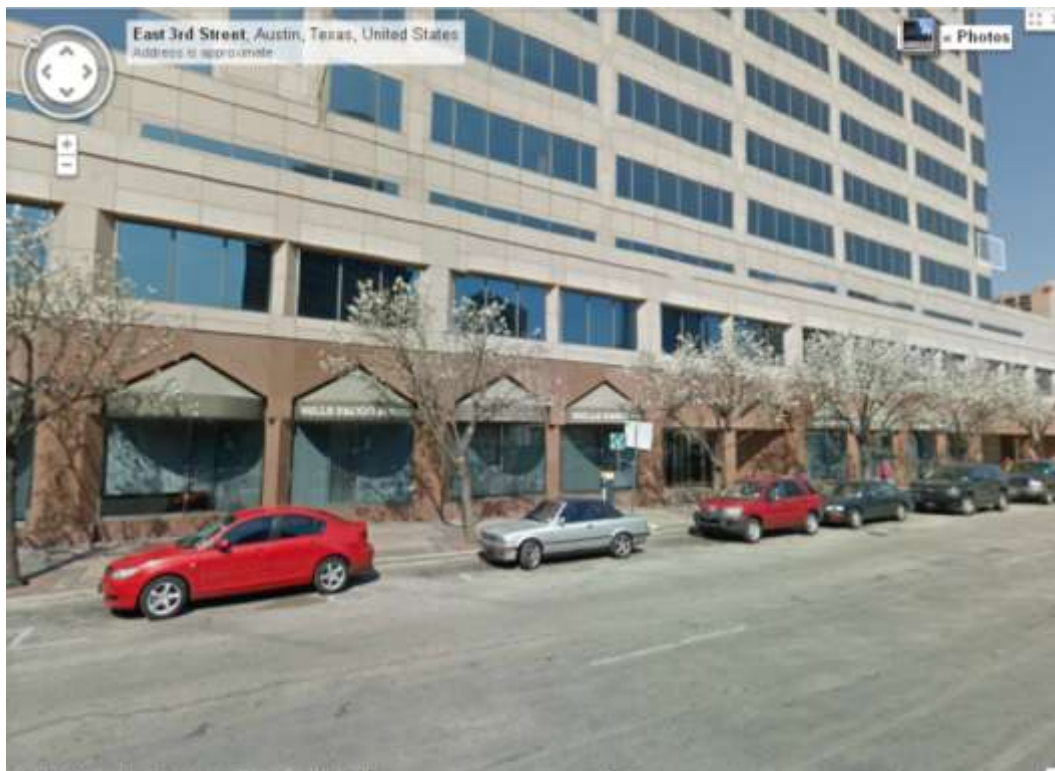
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit per the proposed design.

PHOTOS



Approximate location of Sculpture #12 - North side of E. 3rd Street between Congress Avenue and Colorado Street.

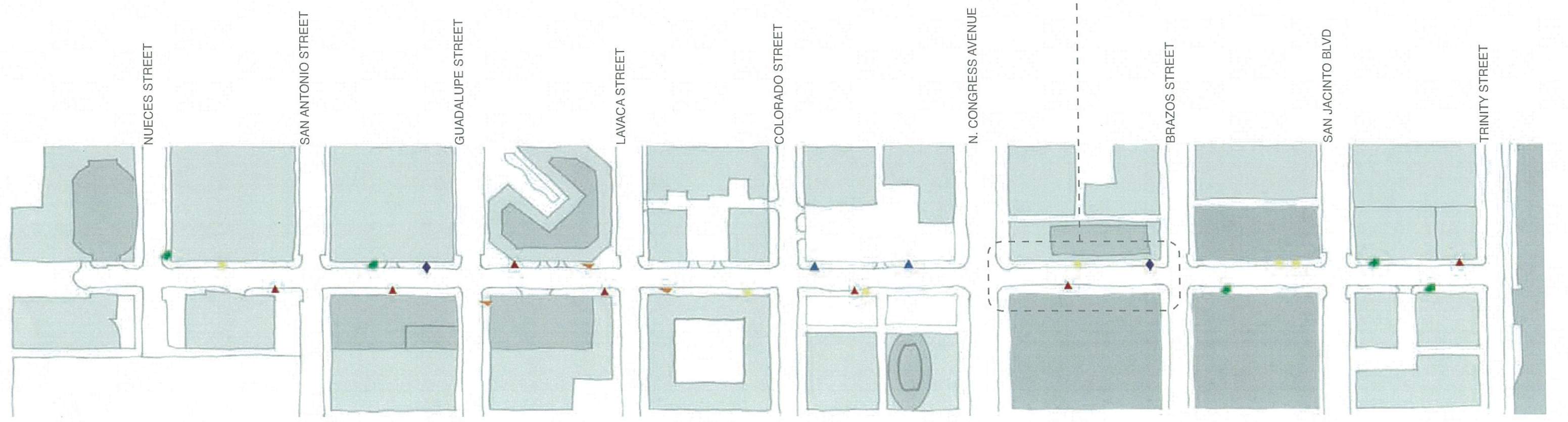
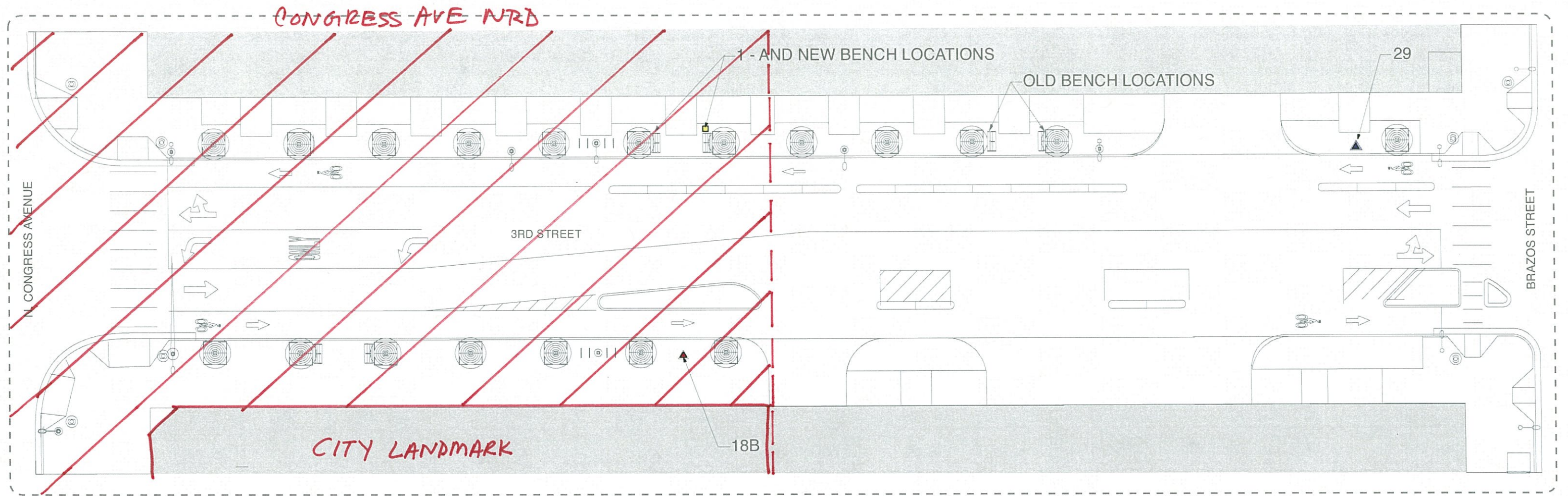


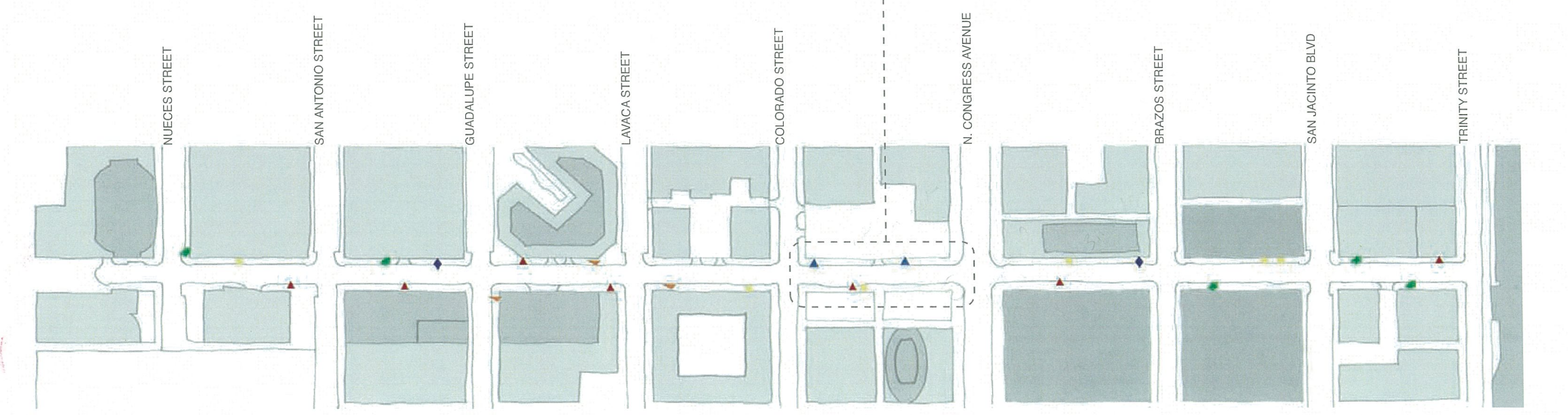
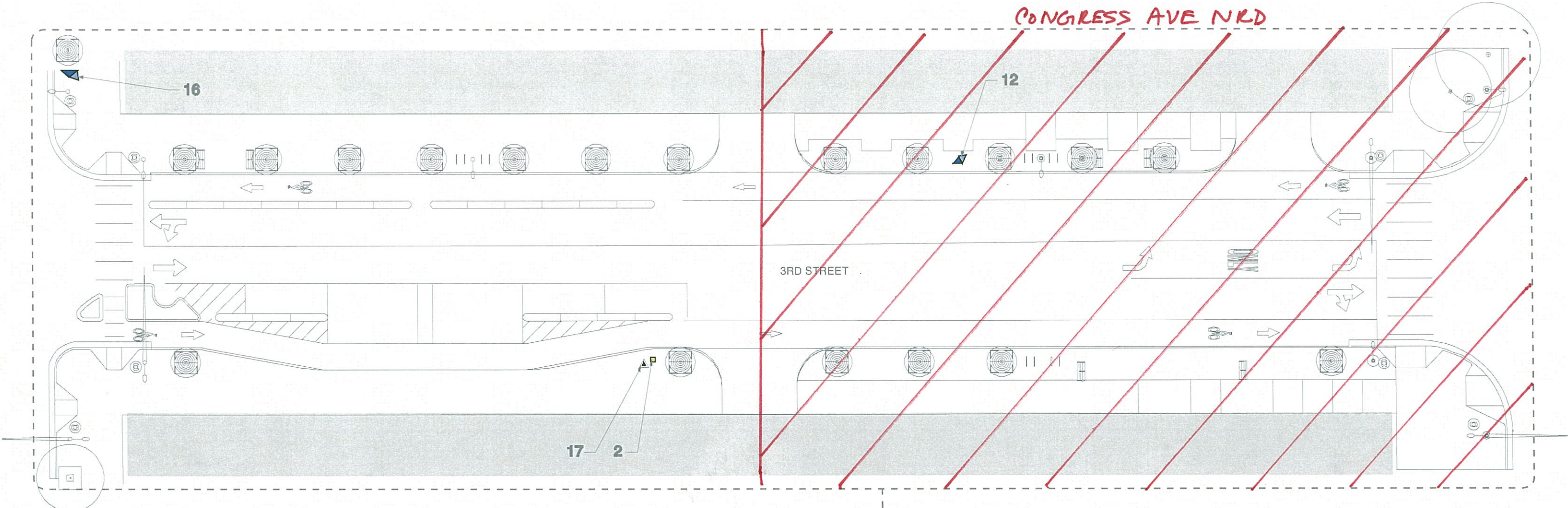
Approximate location of Sculpture #1 - North side of E. 3rd Street between Congress Avenue and Brazos Street.



View of approximate location of Sculpture #18B - South side of E. 3rd Street between Congress Avenue and Brazos Street.

- *Pedestrian Geometries* will playfully march up eight blocks of 3rd Street from the Austin Convention Center to Shoal Creek. Comprised of six iconic geometric forms, the pieces will change in scale, color and pattern from block to block, marking 3rd Street as a unique stretch of downtown Austin.
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- The sculptures will be built using the locally-produced Elgin Butler glazed brick, made by a century-old Central Texas company well known for its durability and brilliant colors. The sculptures will highlight the integrity and history of the brick, but in their use of 35 unique colors, cut and laid in geometric patterns, they will also suggest other material surfaces like textiles and paintings with their complex and varied surfaces. The colors and forms of the pieces were inspired by a variety of sources including Navajo Rugs, Islamic textiles, Art Deco design and the natural geography of Texas. While each family of sculptures shares characteristics in terms of size, pattern and shape, each sculpture is a unique individual.
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- The 30 “Chop-top Triangles,” “Pentagons Diamonds,” “Square Columns” and “Pyramid Columns” inhabiting 3rd Street will range from pet size (24” tall) to modestly monumental (10 feet tall). Despite the variety, the sculptures all relate to the human scale. Some will stand out from a distance, easily seen by cars, while other smaller sculptures will appear discretely and only to the passing pedestrian. Those walking the total 8 block of 3rd Street will always be able to see an upcoming sculpture, if they are looking for it.
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- Put in relationship to the existing elements of the Great Streets landscape — benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, lights and sidewalk trees — the sculptures will converse with the total environment of the pedestrian streetscape. A small square pyramid put next to a bench becomes a companion (and perhaps a place to put a beverage), while a ten-foot column acts as a wayfinder and landmark. Together, the family of sculptures will become an integral and engaging part of the downtown experience.
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- *Pedestrian Geometries* aims to marry the architectural monumentalism of Egyptian and Mayan ancient pyramids with the geometric modernism of 20th century sculptures, echoing in their geometry and repetition some of the works of Texas’s favorite modernist, Donald Judd. While the great pyramids are massive and daunting in scale and modernist sculptures tend to be reductionist and cold, *Pedestrian Geometries* will be human-scale, approachable and relatable, yet solid and contemporary, matching the character of Austin’s bustling downtown streets.





Square Column

48" tall

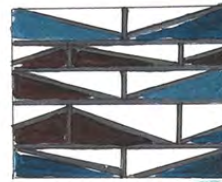


4465	4550	4822	4111	4746
				



← 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ →

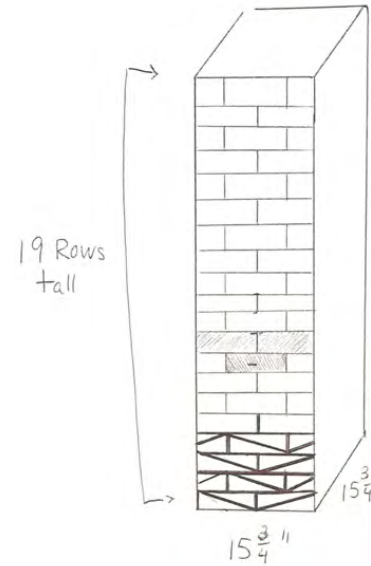
Pattern Rules



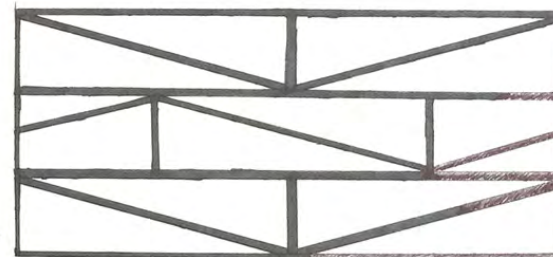
always
4465
4111
or
4746



always
4550
+
4822



TOP DETAIL



#1, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
square base,
19 bricks tall

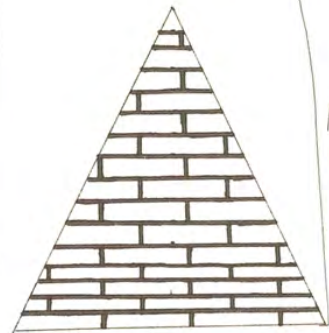
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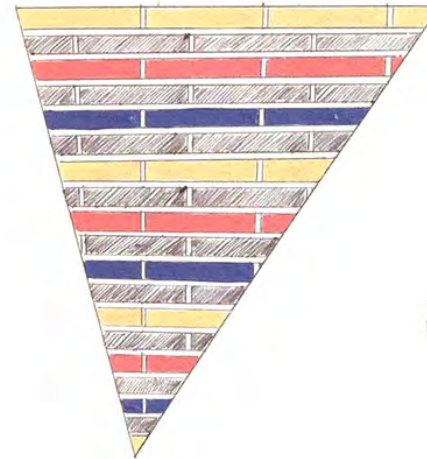
4039	4688	5000
		


$$3'' = 1 f_4$$

12



16 brick
layers
tall

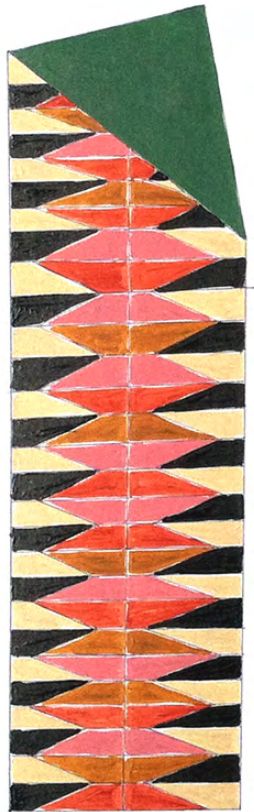
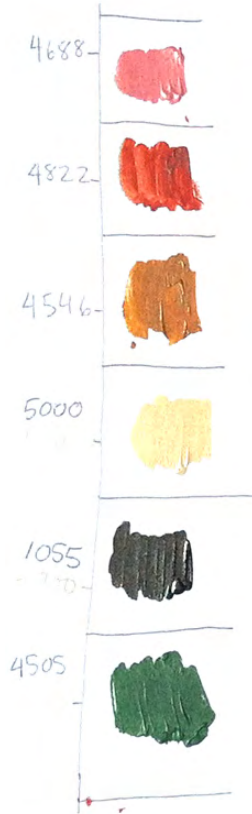


#12,
triangle
base, 24" x
30" x 30,
sidewalk
inlay area,
alternating
stripes of
glazed brick
and
sidewalk
pavers 24" x
25" x 30",
16 brick
layers long

12

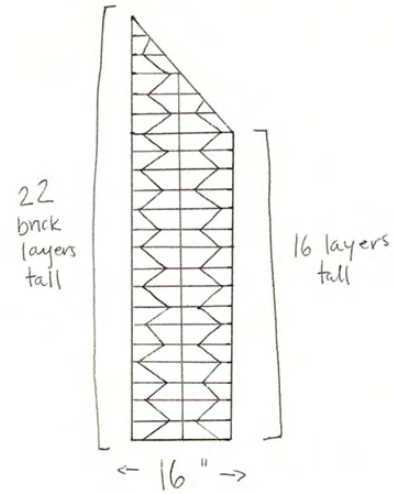
TRIANGLE COLUMN ANGLE TOP

60"



- 16" -

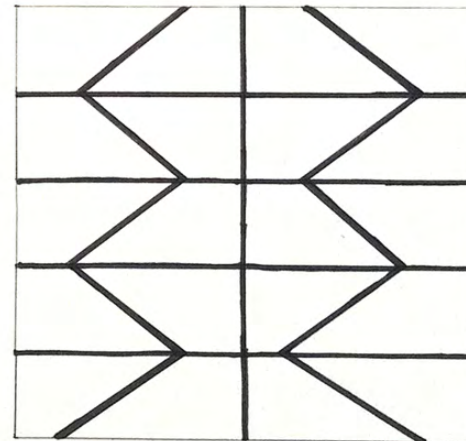
18-B



(high side)



(low side)



18-B,
triangle
base, 16"
x 16" x
16", 22
brick
layers tall,
16 layers
tall on the
short side

18-B

