



COUNCIL MINUTES

December 11, 2023

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on December 11, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Francisco Heredia
Jennifer Duff
Mark Freeman
Alicia Goforth
Scott Somers
Julie Spilsbury

COUNCIL ABSENT

John Giles

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Holly Moseley
Jim Smith

Vice Mayor Heredia conducted a roll call.

Vice Mayor Heredia excused Mayor Giles from the entire meeting.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the November 20, 2023, Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on the City Hall Public Art projects.

Mesa Arts Center Festivals and Special Events Manager Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Vaughn-Brubaker detailed the goals and four major components of the City Hall public art projects and gave an overview of the timeline, indicating that installation is expected to begin Fall 2024. (See Pages 2 through 4 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Vaughn-Brubaker outlined the artist selection process. He mentioned that applications were solicited from a request for quote (RFQ) for both the vertical interior and outdoor sculpture and the digital content artists for the interior display screen. He said that there were four finalists selected for each opportunity and highlighted the steps that were required to qualify to be considered for selection, noting that each finalist had approximately four to six weeks to prepare to deliver their presentation to the panel. (See Pages 5 through 7 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Vaughn-Brubaker described the plans for the vertical interior sculpture indicating that it will be located next to the stairwell and will be visible at many different levels as well as from the outside. He reported that the artist Will Clift was selected and gave a brief description of the proposed sculpture. He read the narrative that was presented to the panelists for selection. (See Pages 8 and 9 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Vaughn-Brubaker announced that Digital Ambiance Design Studio was selected to create the exterior sculpture, noting the concept for this art has not been fully realized yet. He stated that the representative from Digital Ambiance will be back on December 19th with an update. He described the area where the sculpture will be located. He said there will also be a lighting element for nighttime presence. (See Page 10 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from City Manager Christopher Brady, Mr. Vaughn-Brubaker confirmed that there will be a digital ambiance to enhance the performances that will take place in the park area or in coordination with the Media and Immersive eXperience (MIX) Center to draw people to the Plaza at Mesa City Center.

Mr. Vaughn-Brubaker described the digital display screen in the public waiting area which will reference the urban and desert environment of Arizona and relative to the City of Mesa. He commented that upon reviewing the applications, the panelists discovered that there were two great finalists. He elaborated stating that the panel chose to pair up Volvox Labs, which had great aesthetics and the Arizona State University (ASU) faculty members from the MIX Center who are currently having their students do work related to transportation and climate data in Mesa. He elaborated that the combination would create a more polished aesthetic to the digital content. (See Page 11 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Brady spoke about the collaboration using Volvox's high level of professionalism and creativity with the data provided by ASU . (See Pages 12 through 15 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Vaughn-Brubaker discussed the relationship between Volvox and the MIX center. He highlighted work from ASU faculty, adding the animation will transition based on the changing data collected. He announced that local artist Kerrick James was selected for his iconic image of Red Mountain. He explained that the pattern of this image will be etched into the metal wall in City Hall. (See Pages 12 through 17 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Freeman, Mr. Brady indicated that the flag poles will be a part of the park that was mentioned on Slide 9, detailing that they will be located to the east of the art piece.

In response to a question from Councilmember Duff related to the design of the planters, Mr. Brady reported that some planters may offer space for seating but not all due to the slope of the land. He explained that there will not be a water feature, but blue glass to look like water with native plants along the edges. He indicated that the landscaping will be determined once the size and shape of the art piece is finalized.

Vice Mayor Heredia thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

3-a. Library Advisory Board meeting held on May 16, 2023.

It was moved by Councilmember Spilsbury, seconded by Councilmember Duff, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES –Heredia–Duff–Freeman–Goforth–Somers–Spilsbury
NAYS – None
ABSENT –Giles

Vice Mayor Heredia declared the motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Giles and Councilmembers highlighted the events, meetings and conferences recently attended.

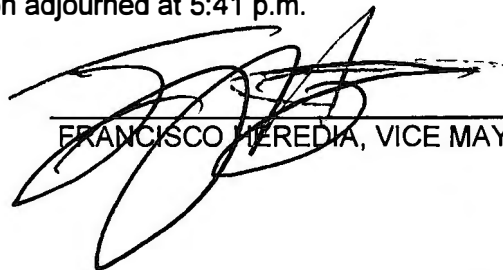
5. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Thursday, January 4, 2024, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:41 p.m.


FRANCISCO HEREDIA, VICE MAYOR



ATTEST:


HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 11th day of December 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

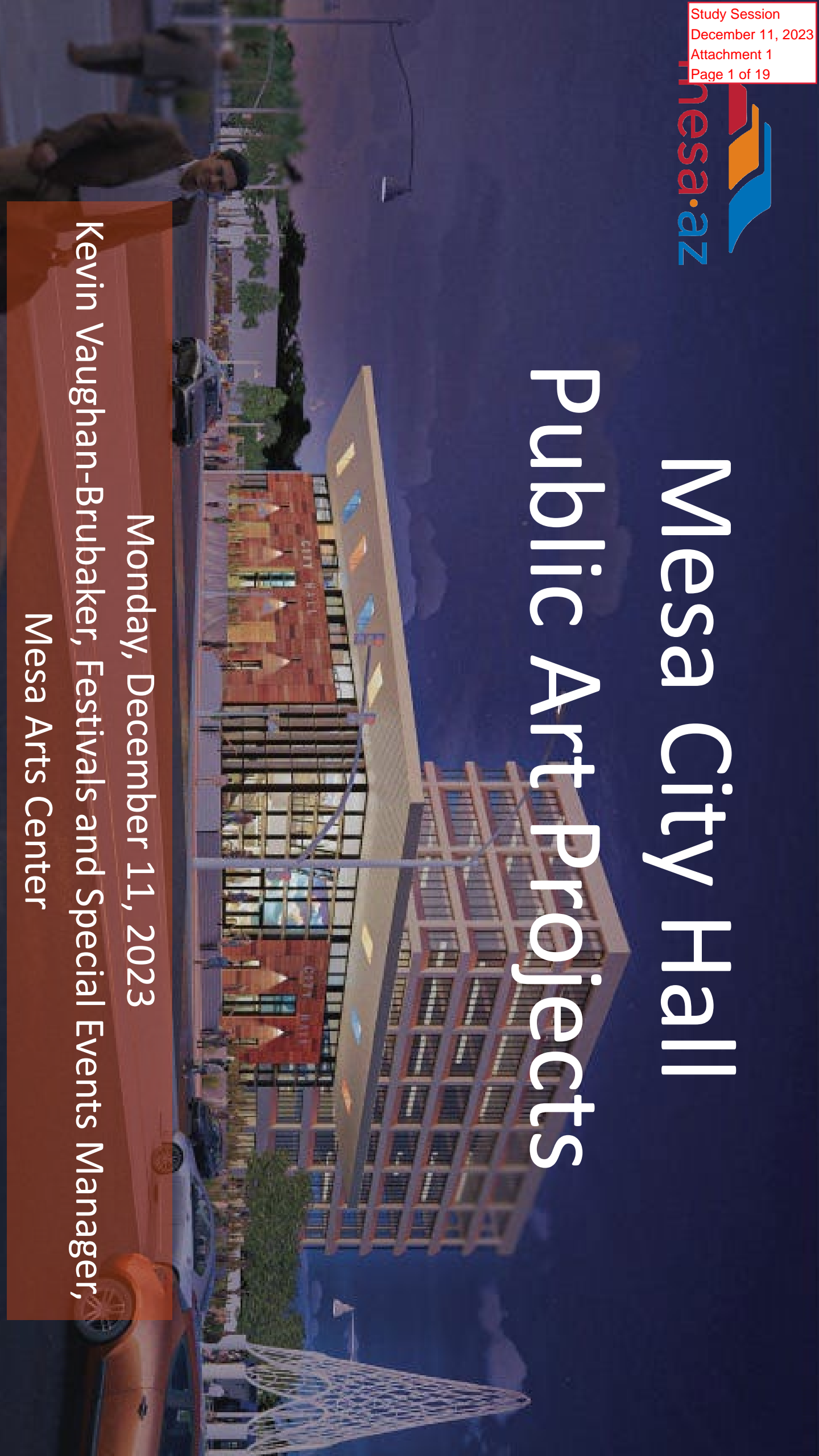


Mesa City Hall

Public Art Projects

Monday, December 11, 2023

Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker, Festivals and Special Events Manager,
Mesa Arts Center





Goals:

- Respond to interest and energy about adding public art to our Mesa environments.
- Create a beacon to viewers, communicating that Mesa is an innovative, welcoming community.
- Authentically enhance the city's sense of place.





City Hall Public Art: Components

1. Interior sculpture
2. Exterior sculpture or series of sculptures
3. Interior display screen - digital art driven by data visualization
4. Iconic image of Red Mountain for perforated metal wall



Timeline:

- **Artist Selection Process April – September 2023**
- **Design Process: October 2023 – February 2024**
- **Fabrication: March – August 2024**
- **Installation: Fall 2024**



Artist Selection Process: Panel

- Chris Brady, City Manager
- Cindy Ornstein, Former Arts and Culture and Mesa Arts Center Director
- Ryan Yee, City Engineer
- Vince Di Bella, President, Adaptive Architects
- M.B. Finnerty, Public Art Administrator, Valley Metro
- Mike Goodwin, i.d.e.a. Museum, Artist
- Bradley Peterson, Museum and Cultural Advisory Board
- Nick Willis, Museum and Cultural Advisory Board



Artist Selection Process: Applications from RFQ

- Vertical interior and outdoor sculpture – 61 applicants
- Digital content artists for interior display screen – 14 applicants



Artist Selection Process: Finalists

Interior and Exterior Sculpture:

- Will Cliff – New Mexico
- Digital Ambiance – CA/NY
- Molly Mason – New York
- Jeff Zischke – Scottsdale

Display Screen Digital Content:

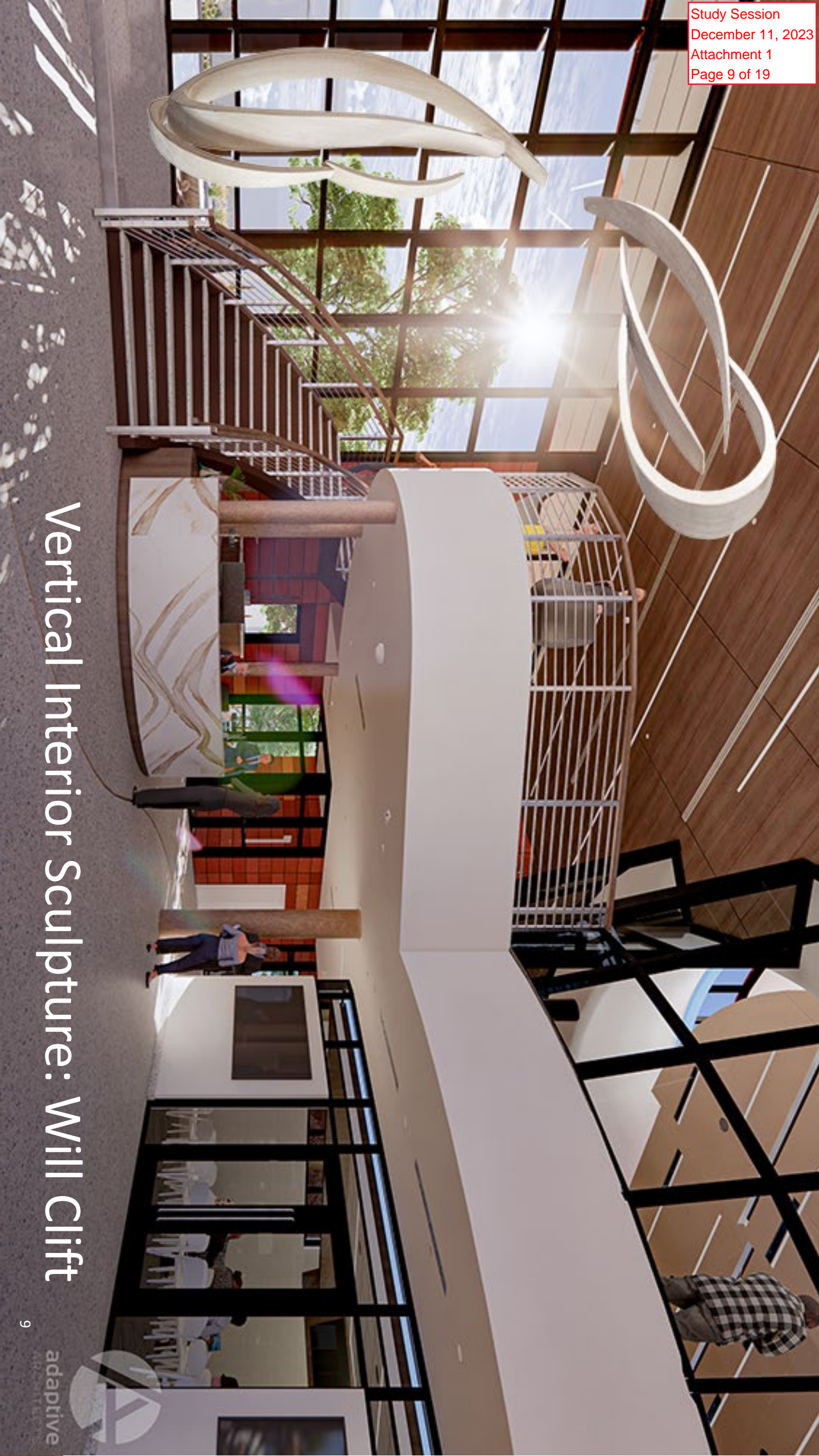
- Digital Ambiance – CA/NY
- Ana Herruzo and Weidi Zhang – Mesa/ASU
- Susan Narduli – Los Angeles
- Volvox Labs - New York

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- Conducted site visits in Mesa
 - Toured City Hall/surrounding area, viewed existing Mesa public art
 - Met with City Management, architects, and other City staff
 - Presented their concept proposals to the artist selection panel

Interior Sculpture

- Visible at different levels and from the outside
- Lighting elements will give a stunning nighttime presence
- Budget: \$250,000





Vertical Interior Sculpture: Will Clift



- Exterior Sculpture (or series): Digital Ambiance
- Sculpture(s) should aesthetically fit into surrounding native plants
- Artwork must be able to withstand outdoor environmental conditions
- Lighting elements for an exciting nighttime presence
- Budget: up to \$250,000





Display Screen Digital Art

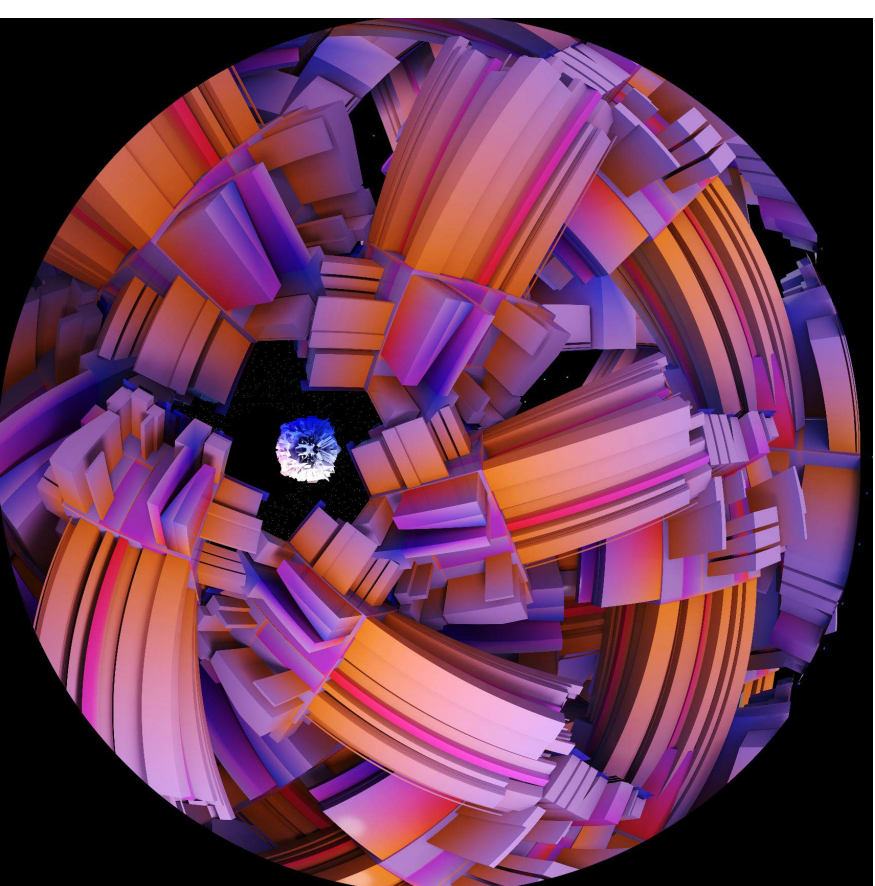


- Digital content for 16'x8' digital screen in public waiting area
- Content to reference the unique urban/desert environment of Mesa
- Artists will use data visualization relevant to City of Mesa
- Original budget of \$100,000 increased to \$175,000 to allow for ASU involvement

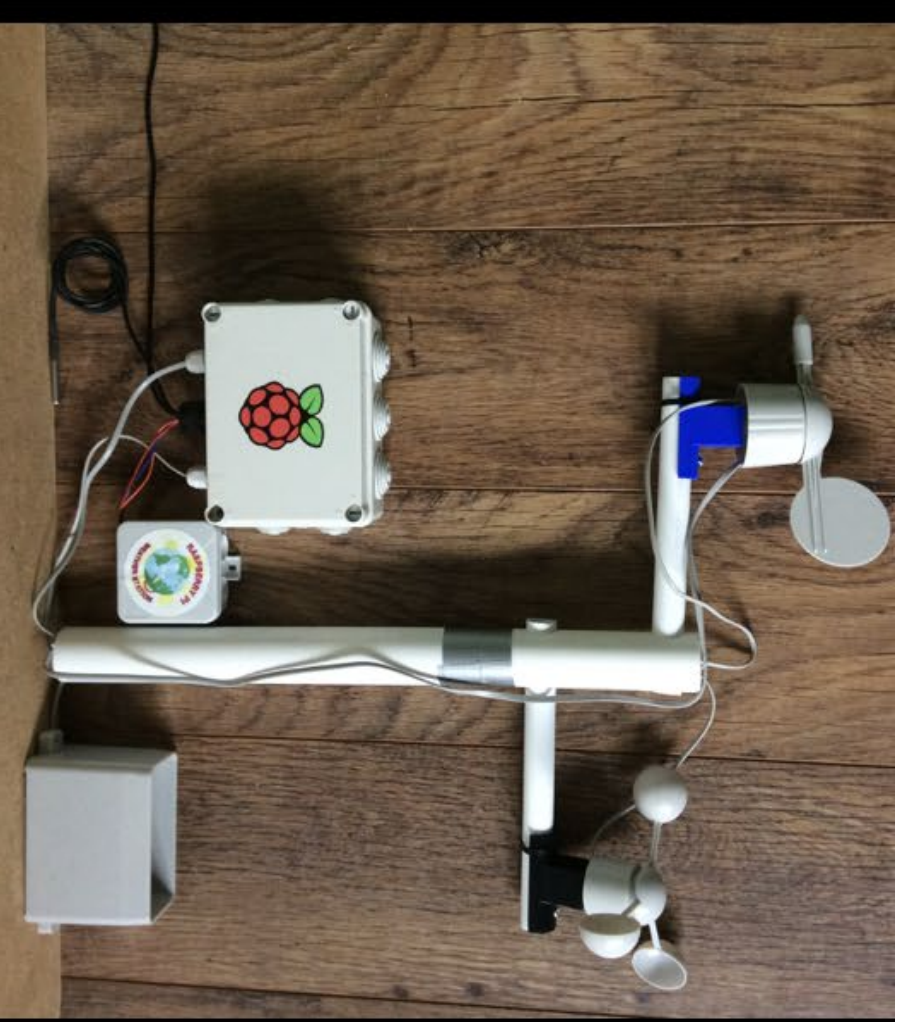
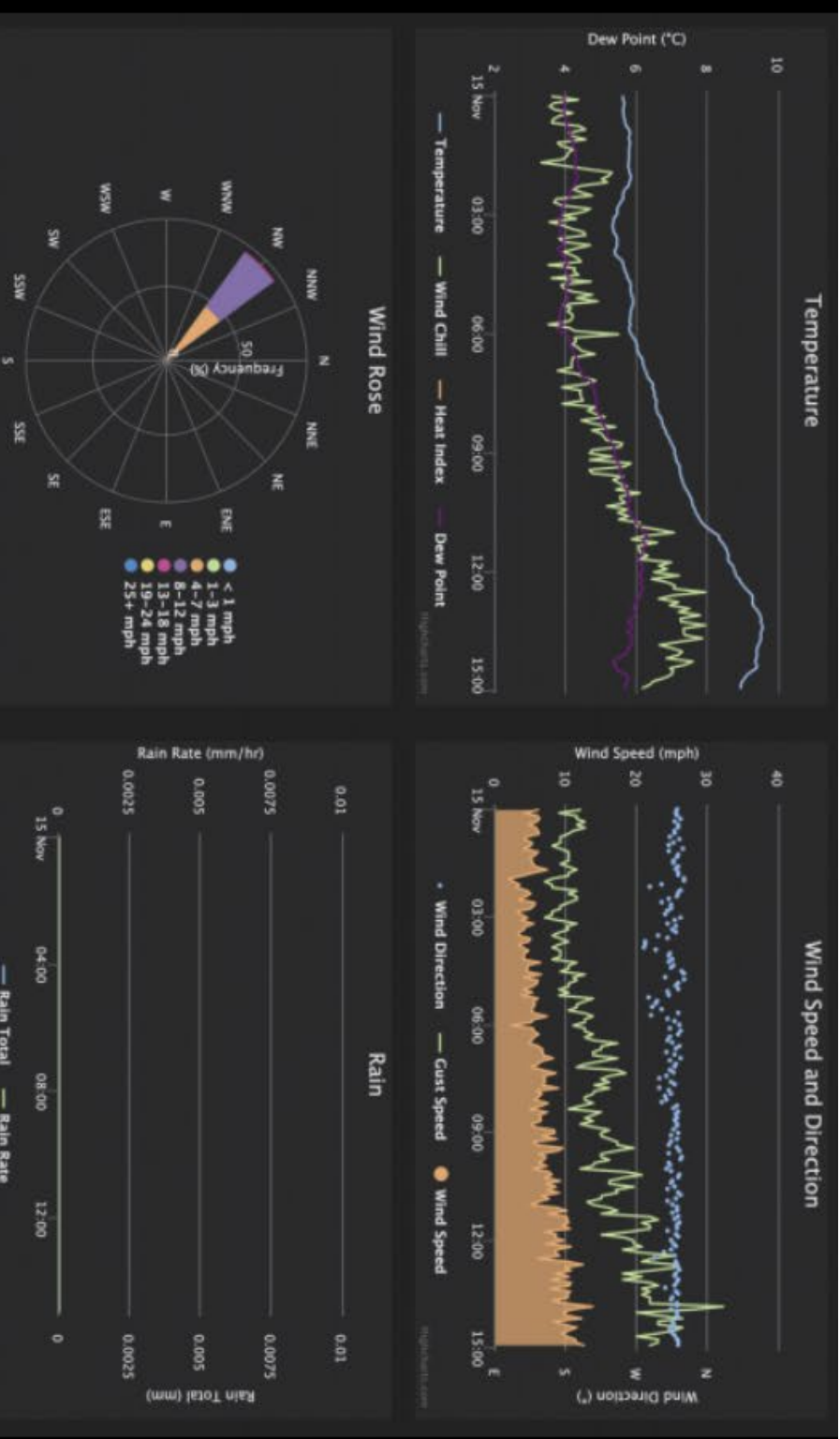


Interior Display Screen/Digital Content

Volvox Labs w/ ASU Faculty Ana Herruzo and Weidi Zhang



ASU-created Data Gathering Stations in Mesa





City of Mesa Public Data

City facilities electricity usage

Park reservations

Water consumption

Building permits

Daily high/low temps

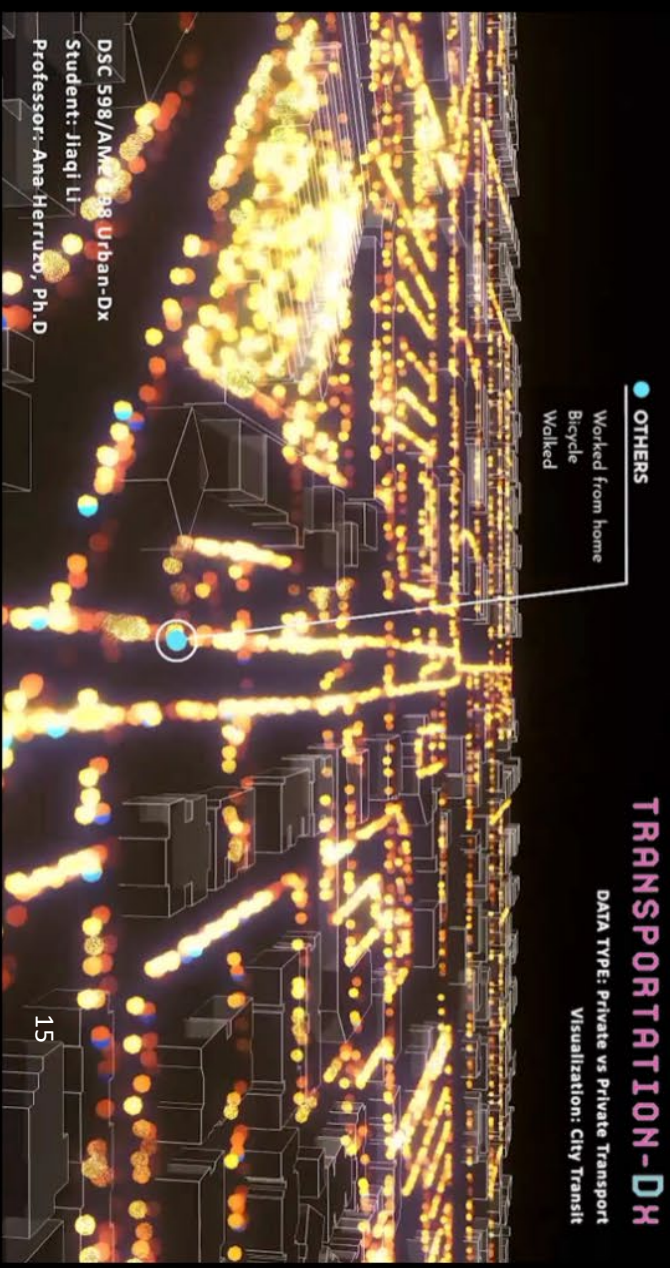
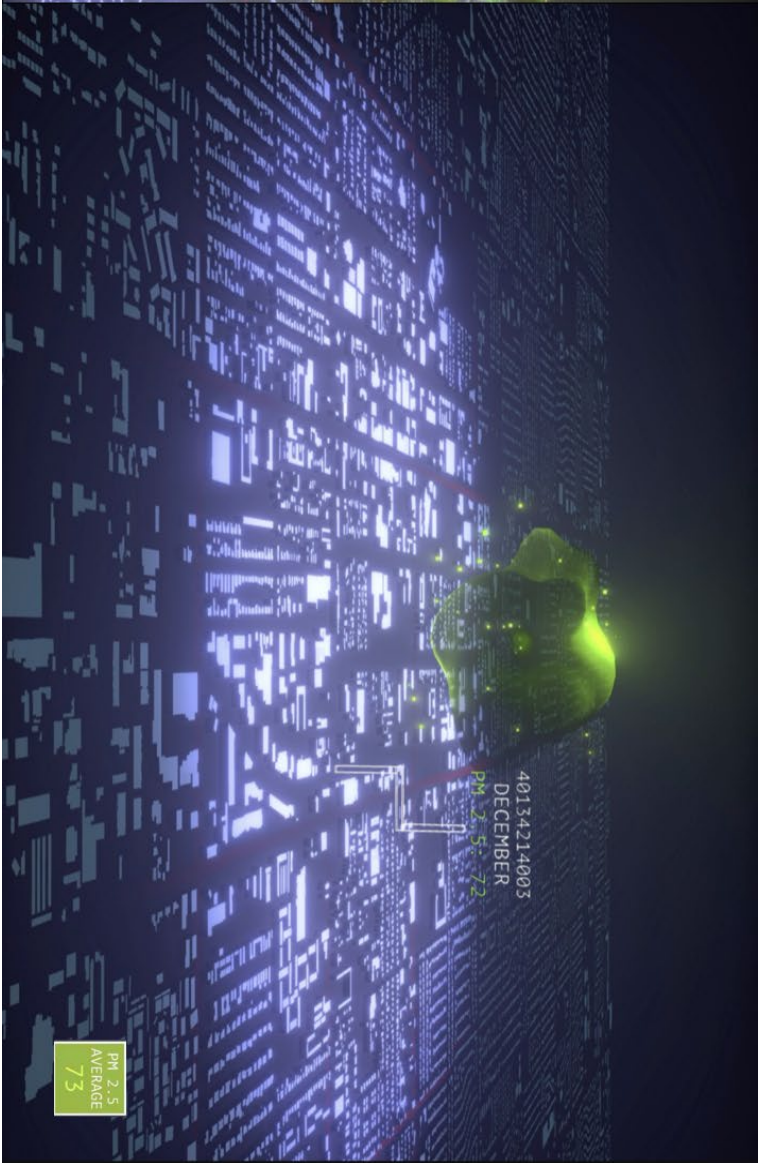
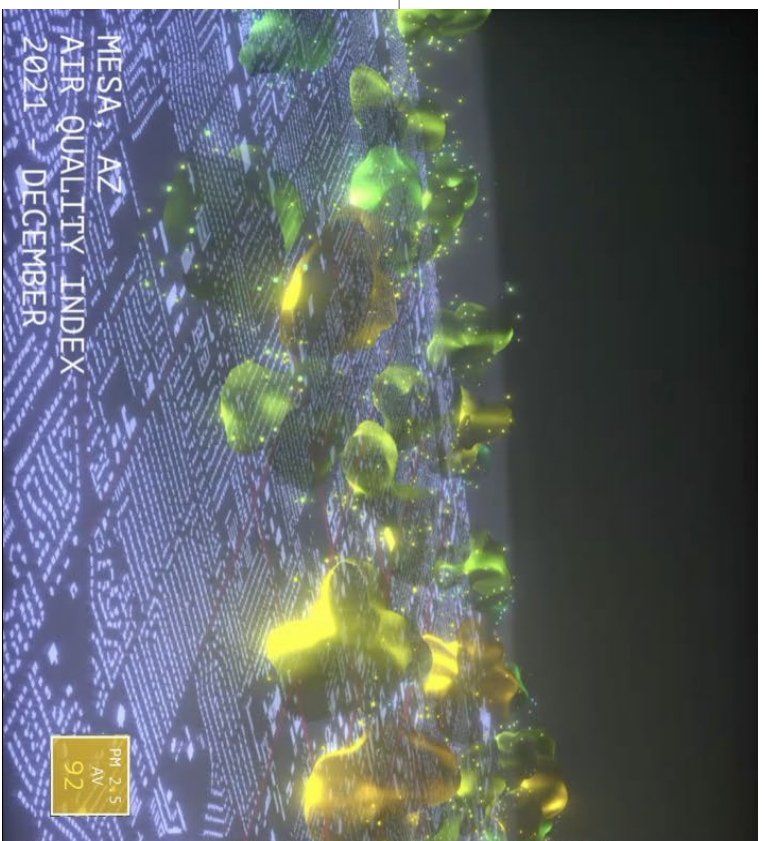
City owned/maintained trees (Trees Are Cool)

City Council Strategic Priorities

Sustainable Environment – Climate Action Plan

River flow rates

Land use changes



Intimate Resonance

TRANSITION

Environmental Resonance

Iconic Mesa Image: Kerrick James



Perforated Metal Wall Red Mountain Image



- Image created by perforations in metal wall
- Budget: \$5,000



Questions or Comments?

