

Artist Statement by Michael Singer:

The Scramble is a sculpted streetscape project that repurposes existing infrastructure into a striking interactive space and an innovative stormwater collection and filtration system. The project revitalizes a crucial link within the downtown Ramble, connecting the arts district to the heart of downtown and the Aquarium. The Scramble is envisioned as streetscape that one can explore by moving through a sculpted space including an urban rock scramble. Within the streetscape there are also several contemplative seating areas where flowing water can be heard moving through the space and dropping into the stormwater vaults below grade. The sculpted elements within the project utilize local stone, intricate cast concrete details and niches of light in the evening- visually reinforcing the connectivity of 1st Street during the day and night.

The Scramble is conceived as a space that honors and builds upon the City of Chattanooga's Art and Nature concept for the downtown area connecting multiple venues along the City's "Ramble". The Scramble incorporates local cut stone with beautiful swirl patterns referencing the movement of water and the nearby Tennessee River. The sculpted landscape itself references angular rock outcroppings in the region and is intended to visually and experientially tie to the nature themes of the Aquarium Plaza. The scrambling aspects of the project are an homage to the climbing culture in Downtown Chattanooga including the nearby Block and the Walnut Wall in Coolidge Park. Even the angular forms of the sculpted elements are intended to visually link to other parts of the City including the architecture of the Hunter Art Museum, the top of the Aquarium buildings, the Block, the angular concrete piers of the glass bridge, and the angled slopes in Renaissance Park which themselves seem to reference the natural geology and beauty of the region.

Underlying the Scramble is an innovative stormwater collection, filtration, recirculation and irrigation system based on the re-purposing of the existing 8 foot deep funicular vault. The goal of the stormwater system is multi-fold; first to divert and capture urban stormwater, second to aerate and cleanse the water before it enters the Tennessee River, and lastly to use the stormwater as an amenity and for providing irrigation rather than utilizing potable water. Water circulates through the Scramble in a series of wells throughout the landscape; the water system is primarily gravity based. The water in the Scramble utilizes the captured stormwater which can be seen and heard, but is otherwise not accessible. The nearby interactive features at The Passage and Aquarium Plaza offer numerous water play areas; the Scramble offers an auditory experience of the water with, for the curious, glimpses of its flow.

The Scramble is comprised of several types of custom sculpted elements including benches. All of the Elements are comprised of fiber reinforced sculpted concrete made with 70% recycled content. The Elements are textured with handcrafted reliefs and are embedded with local sandstone from nearby Sequatchie County.

Michael Singer, Jonathan Fogelson and Jason Bregman from Singer Studio are delighted to see the Scramble finally come to fruition and would like to thank the entire project team, The City of Chattanooga, River City Company and all of the generous project supporters that have made this project possible. They look forward to come back to Chattanooga soon to see the project in full bloom.