



DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

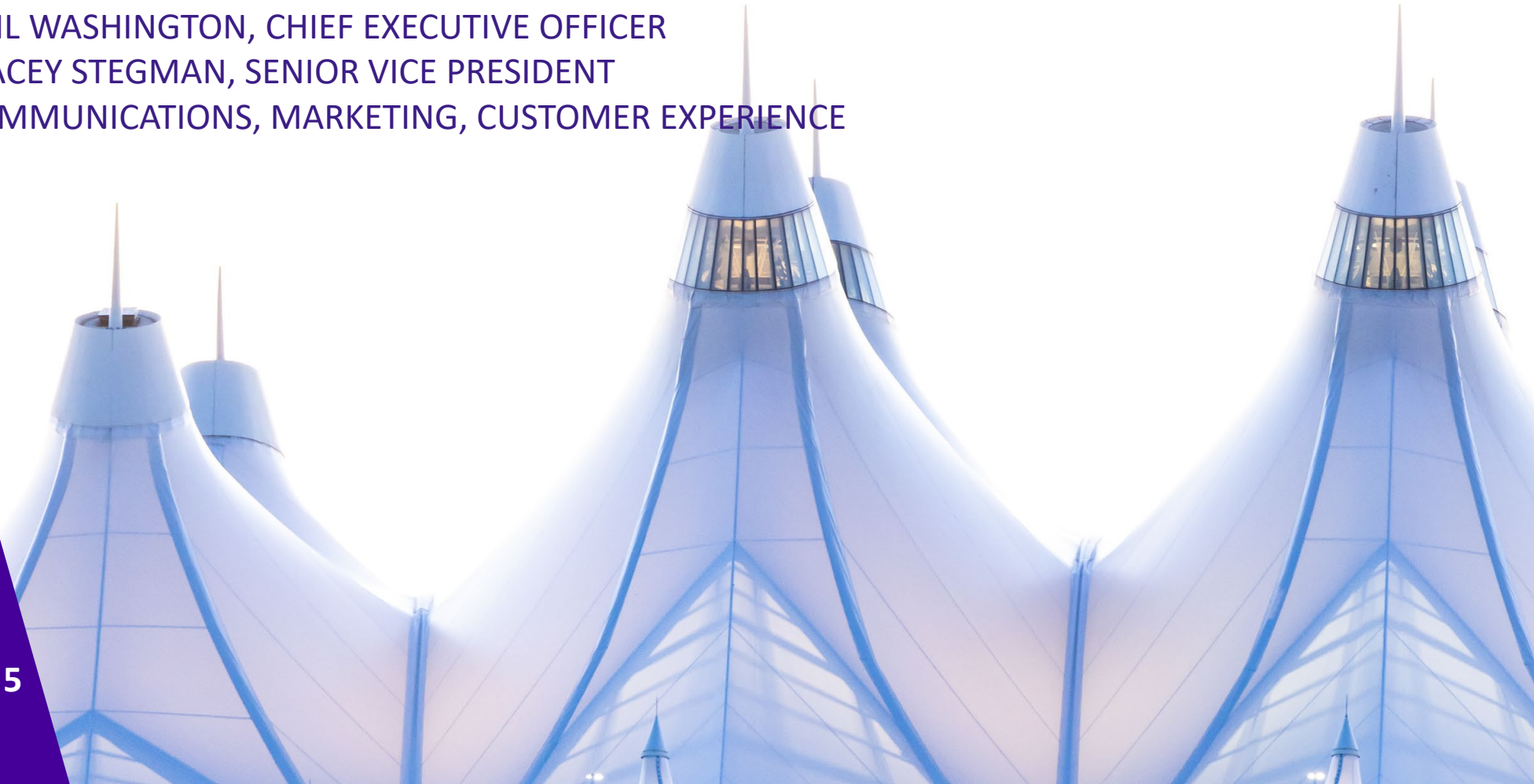
# Great Hall Completion Public Art

“The Stars and the Cottonwood” by Donald Lipski

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COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING, CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

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JANUARY 29, 2025

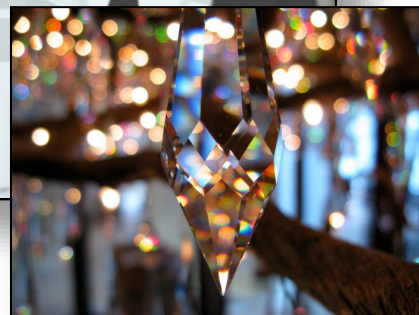


# CITY COUNCIL REQUEST

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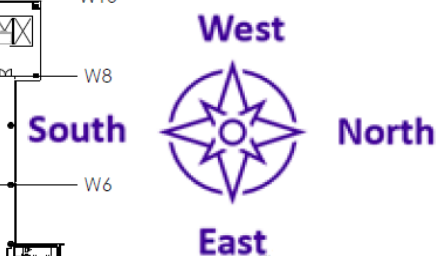
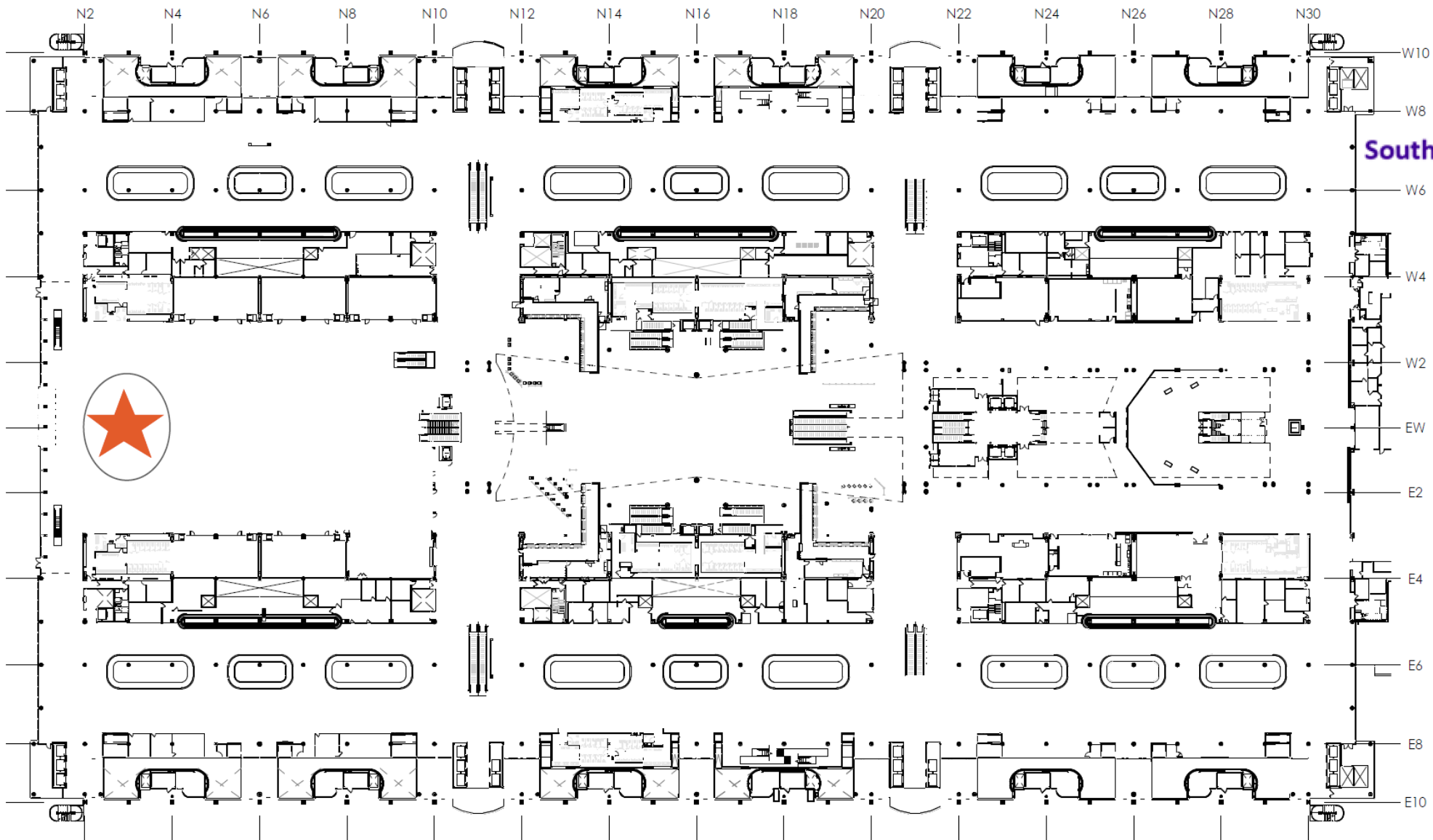
- Approval of a contract with Lipski Group Inc., contract number PLANE-202475176
  - **Amount:** \$3,590,500.00
    - Project is funded through 1%-Public Art dollars per the Public Art Ordinance; Denver Revised Municipal Code [DRMC] 20-85.
  - **Term:** Three years
  - **Purpose:** Fabrication and installation services from artist Donald Lipski for the public artwork titled, “The Stars and the Cottonwood” as part of the Great Hall Completion Project at Denver International Airport.

# CONTRACT OVERVIEW



- “The Stars and the Cottonwood” by Donald Lipski was awarded in 2019 through a competitive selection process.
- Due to the pandemic, the artwork's design services were contracted under a separate agreement (PLANE-202263053) to align with the updated construction sequencing of the Great Hall Project.
- Sculpture will be integrated into the south end of the Jeppesen Terminal.

# ARTWORK LOCATION



# ABOUT THE ART

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- *The Stars and the Cottonwood* was inspired by the life-giving qualities of Cottonwood trees along the western prairie that Denver was founded. These rare trees were a sign of water, shade, food and shelter to those traveling west.
- The artwork is an interior large-scale freestanding sculpture created from steel, foam, epoxy, native rock and Asfour crystals. The canopy of the tree will be draped in over 30,000 crystals creating rainbow prisms of light throughout the terminal.
- The sculpture will stand approximately 60 feet tall and 70 feet wide, serving as the focal point of the terminal.
- The base of the sculpture will feature a seating element inspired by Colorado Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre.
- The artist has designed the artwork to be low maintenance with external spotlighting and recommended dusting every 2-3 years.
  - Preventative maintenance and cleaning will utilize a solution created for crystal chandeliers that sprays onto the sculpture and drips off with any grime or debris.



# CONTRACT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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## Denver's Public Art Program and Ordinance

- Denver's Public Art Program was established in 1988 by former Mayor Federico Peña through an executive order and in 1991, Denver City Council enacted the 1%-For-Art Ordinance.
- Any Capital Improvement Project (CIP) with a budget equal to or greater than \$1M, 1% of the total construction budget is set aside for the inclusion of new public artworks.
- Through this ordinance, over 400 works have been commissioned by the City and County of Denver with over \$11.5M in completed projects at DEN alone.
- All public artworks are selected through a fair and transparent public process. Each art project has a unique selection panel comprised of community members, artists and civic leaders.
- Artists are solicited through *Call For Entry* or *CaFÉ*, an online platform used internationally for arts and cultural opportunities.



# CONTRACT SELECTION PROCESS

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## Public Art Selection Process:

- **September 2018** – Public Art Selection Panel assembled and approved by the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs
  - Councilmember Gilmore served on the selection panel
- **October 2018**- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to artists posted on CaFÉ
- **December 2018** – RFQ closed with 540 submissions from artists
- **June 28, 2019** – Semi-finalist proposals to selection panel
- **November 1, 2019** – Recommendation from Denver Public Art Committee
- **November 5, 2019**- Recommendation from Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs
- **March 2020** – Project postponed due to pandemic
- **January 4, 2023** – Design-Only contract issued for \$409,500.00 with a three-year term to confirm feasibility, budget and develop sculpture design

# CONTRACTOR OVERVIEW

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- Donald Lipski is a renowned artist from Chicago, Illinois who currently lives and works in New York City.
- Lipski holds a B.A. in American History from University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MFA in ceramics from Cranbrook Academy of Art. He has received three *National Endowment for the Arts* grants, a *Guggenheim Fellowship*, *The Rome Prize of the American Academy in Rome* and Cranbrook's *Distinguished Alumni Award*.
- His works are included in the permanent collections of prominent institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Menil Collection, among many other museums across the country.
- Some of his most notable works include *The Yearling*, outside the Denver Public Library, *Sirshasana*, suspended in the Grand Central Terminal of New York City; and *F.I.S.H.*, located along the San Antonio River Walk in Texas.



*The Yearling*, © 1993 by Donald Lipski



# IMPACT/BENEFITS

- Public art plays a vital role in enhancing the customer experience at DEN by enriching the atmosphere, creating a sense of place and showcasing the vibrant culture of Denver and Colorado.
- Donald Lipski's sculpture, *The Stars and the Cottonwood*, will serve as the focal point of the newly renovated terminal, with the surrounding architecture and finishes designed to complement the artwork.
- This iconic sculpture will provide a striking backdrop for future programming in the Great Hall, offering travelers a memorable experience as they gather with loved ones and enjoy the various amenities nearby.
- Passengers will be invited to meet at the base of the sculpture where they can sit, relax and enjoy the artwork. *The Stars and the Cottonwood* will become a beacon of wayfinding where we will soon hear, "meet me by the tree!"



# CONCLUSION

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- DEN seeks approval of contract PLANE-202475176 for the fabrication and installation services of “The Stars and the Cottonwood” by Donald Lipski for \$3,590,500.00 with a three-year term.
- This agreement is aligned with City’s obligation to the 1%-For-Art Ordinance tied to the Great Hall Completion Project at DEN.
- A community-based selection panel allocated \$4M for this art project and selected Donald Lipski in 2019 through a competitive process that attracted over 500 artists from around the world.

# THANK YOU & QUESTIONS?

