

## Artist's Proposal for Underpass

### Description by Evelyn Rosenberg

The underpass takes its theme from Los Alamos itself, blending the natural world with the technological. A tunnel can be a dark place or simply a way to move from one area to another, but the 502 underpass tunnel for pedestrians and cyclists will be an inviting, exciting space—a space where discoveries are made.

Drawing inspiration from a particle accelerator, a tunnel in which high-energy beams collide to make marvelous things, the underpass will also reflect the natural beauty of northern New Mexico. This organic machine shows how science and nature are part of the same universe. The long cylinders at an accelerator's entrance become tree branches and roots at the entrance to the underpass tunnel; the exterior "machinery" will contain images from both science and nature, with human hands at the controls. The exterior will be a work of art, but it will also invite the curious to see what lies within.

Inside this organic collider, particles race towards each other not just in straight lines, but with swirling, organic forms made from shaped metals including copper, brass, aluminum, and stainless steel. The lighting needed to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe in a long tunnel will be part of the installation, meeting safety requirements while enhancing the art with lights along the ceiling and walls.

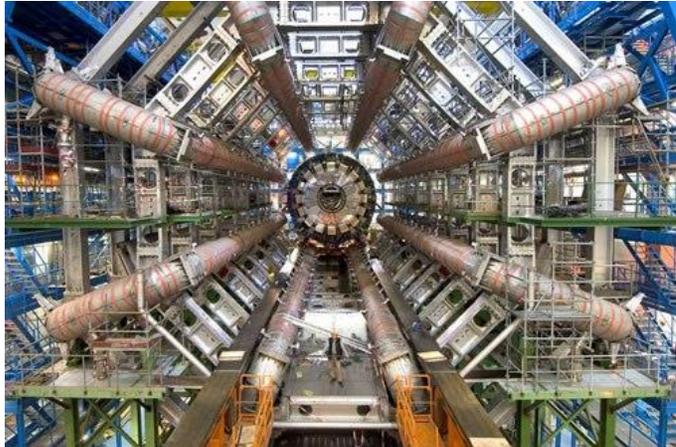
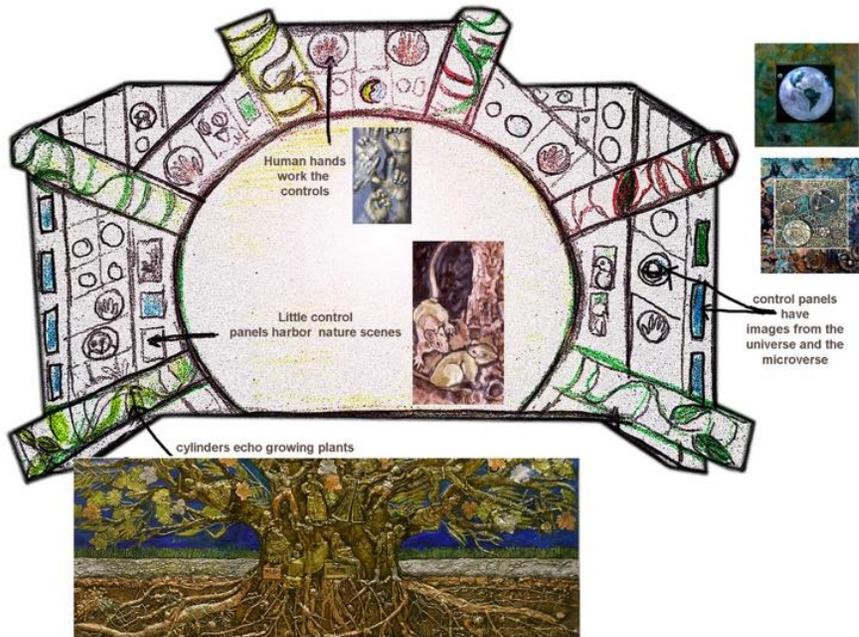
At the center of the underpass tunnel, the particles collide into a large sculpture curved along the ceiling, representing an explosion that contains everything in the universe. The wide range of imagery in this centerpiece will be made with Detonography, my forming technique that uses explosives to create metal sculptures.

Detonography is beautiful and visually interesting from a distance, but it also rewards close examination. This centerpiece will be a beautiful element for someone just passing through, but there are more discoveries to be made when looking at it carefully. A simple concrete bench on each side of the tunnel could allow someone to step out of the thoroughfare and contemplate the detail of the artwork.

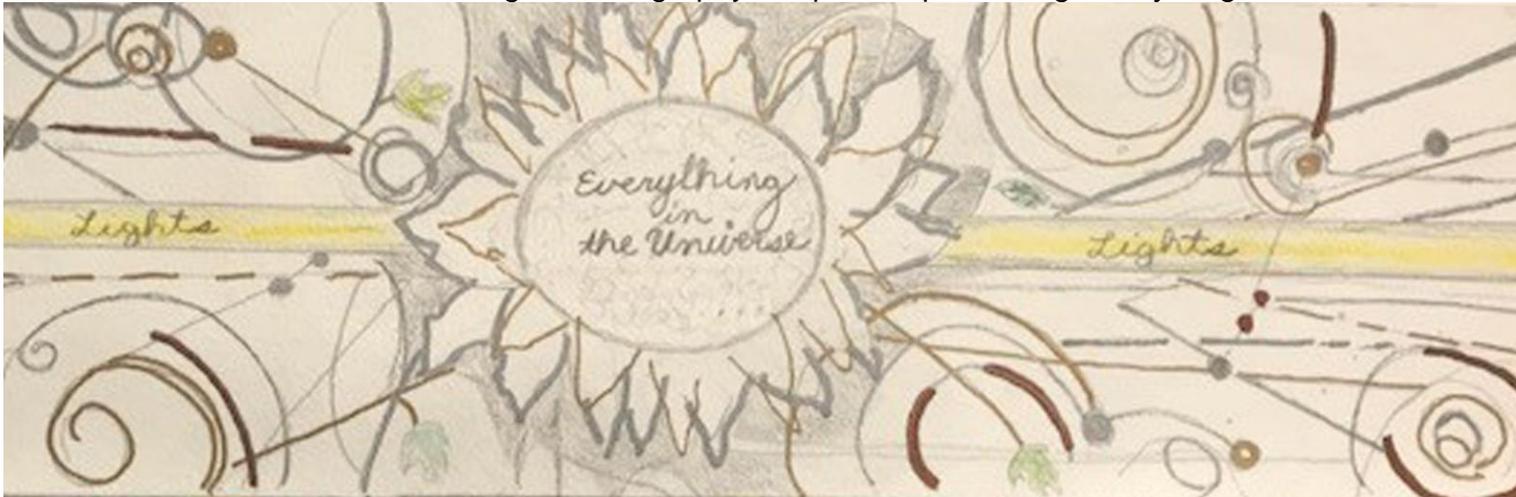
All art inside the tunnel will be above 8-feet high to deter vandalism, and all surfaces will be coated in an easy-to-clean, anti-graffiti coating.

This underpass installation would combine everything I have learned about Detonography and public art in the past 30 years. As a long-time resident of Albuquerque, it would be an honor to develop this unique project in Los Alamos, and I would view it as one of the crowning pieces of my career.

Entrance to the Tunnel



Above: The entrance to the 502 underpass tunnel (left) takes its shapes from the CERN supercollider (right), transforming them into organic representations of nature and technology. Below: the swirling “particles” along the upper walls and ceiling lead to a “collision” in the center of the tunnel, with a large Detonography sculpture representing “everything in the universe.”



*Cost-saving measures integrated into current proposal*

The artist has been responsive to the Board's concerns about the cost of this project. In order to bring the proposal to a budget the Board believes will not eliminate future opportunities,

Having an entrance with the intricate design described above is essential to the artwork, but having such art at both entrances to the tunnel would cost an additional \$25,000- \$30,000. Obviously, APPB was looking for ways to limit the budget without gutting the project, so the artist proposed one entrance be scaled down dramatically to support the concept that is fully executed in the entrance installation at the other end. As another example, the artist's proposal includes lengthy swirls of colorful metal along the ceiling and upper sections of the interior walls paired with the safety lighting to provide a clear continuity of the artwork between the entrance and the centerpiece without investing in more expensive detail work throughout the tunnel.