

Los Alamos Art in Public Places Board- Public Art Decommission Report

1. Artwork Information

- **Title of Artwork:** *Split Infinity*
 - **Artist Name:** Mark White
 - **Year of Acquisition:** 2018
 - **Medium/Materials:** Kinetic Sculpture/Copper/Stainless steel
 - **Current Location:** Outside Mesa Public Library
 - **Acquisition Method & Cost:** \$2,320; Purchased using a \$9,500 community donation; part of a three-piece coordinated installation created in memory of Nona Bowman.
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2. Removal Request Details

- **Request Initiator:** APPB (based on structural failure reports and staff communication)
 - **Date of Request:** April 2026
 - **Summary of Request:** County staff reported repeated structural failures of *Split Infinity* beginning in 2023. After two incidents of breakage, including a major failure in early 2026, the Mark White Studio (now Luca Décor) advised against further repair and noted the sculpture had been discontinued. The studio recommended replacing it with *Blooming Lily 3 Medium*, provided at no cost if the County manages transport logistics.
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3. Criteria for Consideration

(Check all that apply and provide supporting details)

- Documented adverse public reaction over time
 - ✓ **Damage beyond practical repair or repair cost exceeds value:** The sculpture experienced repeated structural failure; replacement parts were insufficient to prevent further breakage.
- Excessive/unreasonable maintenance requirements
- Duplication within collection
 - ✓ **Faults in design or workmanship:** The studio confirmed the design has wind-tolerance limitations not compatible with the existing installation height.
- Fraudulent or inauthentic work
 - ✓ **Threat to public safety:** Structural failures of a kinetic sculpture pose potential safety risks.
- No suitable display location
- Rarely or never displayed

Explanation of Criteria Met:

The Mark White Studio confirmed in 2023 and again in 2026 that *Split Infinity* was structurally failing. The center rod and bearings required replacement, and the pole height should have been reduced for wind tolerance. Despite repairs, the sculpture broke again in 2026. The studio stated it has been discontinued and advised against further repair, recommending replacement with a comparable kinetic sculpture.

4. Public & County Feedback

- **Summary of Public Input:** Public feedback was not solicited for this deaccession, as the artwork had already collapsed and sustained significant damage, prompting an immediate evaluation.
 - **Summary of County Department Feedback:** County staff confirmed repeated structural failures and direct communication with the Mark White Studio/Luca Décor regarding repair feasibility. Staff are prepared to transport the damaged piece and retrieve the replacement sculpture.
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5. Artist Notification & Input

- **Date Artist Notified:** Mark White Studio contacted in January 2023 regarding structural failures; Contact renewed in early 2026 following the second major failure.
 - **Artist Response:** Recommended lowering the pole to improve wind tolerance; After the 2026 break, advised against further repair and confirmed the sculpture was discontinued; Recommended replacement with *Blooming Lily 3 Medium*; Offered a no-cost exchange if the County handles transport.
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6. Legal Review: Not required. The artist's studio has directly advised against repair and recommended replacement, addressing the relevant considerations that would typically trigger legal review.

7. Recommended Actions

(Select one or more and explain rationale)

- Relocate the work
 - Sell or trade the work
 - Offer artist buy-back (include appraisal details)
 - Auction through County procurement process
 - ✓ **Ethical disposal if other options fail:** Artist studio will recycle usable materials
 - ✓ **Alternative Actions Considered:** Replace work with recommended sculpture (*Blooming Lily 3 Medium*) at no cost
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8. Financial Impact

- **Estimated Costs (Relocation, Restoration, Disposal):** None. County staff will transport the damaged artwork and install the replacement.
 - **Appraised Value:** N/A
 - **Potential Revenue from Sale/Auction:** N/A
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9. Formal Recommendation

- **APPB Vote:** The APPB voted on _____, to recommend deaccession of *Split Infinity* and acceptance of *Blooming Lily 3 Medium*.
 - **Disposition Method Recommended:** Deaccession the broken *Split Infinity* sculpture and replace it with *Blooming Lily 3 Medium* at no cost.
 - **Council Approval Status:** Pending Council meeting on June 9, 2026 (placeholder entered).
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10. Documentation & Compliance

- Attachments:



"Split Infinity"