

PURPLE LINE

Art-in-Transit

Balt. Ave.-College Park-UMD

Walter Hood Design Studio



The corner of Rossborough Lane and Baltimore Avenue at the University of Maryland into College Park is a crossroads. Three wayfinding pylons mark this gateway referencing Bottle Trees, a tradition originating in West Africa still practiced in the South to this day.



Glass bottles reflect and refract light transforming our beliefs in the living world and the afterlife, confusing, dissuading, and capturing errant spirits.

The sculptural pylons frame either side of Rossborough Lane, bearing a name of a significant nearby location, (such as Lakeland, The University of Maryland, and College Park). Each supports the shining, reflective, anodized bottle kaleidoscope. The bottles are multifaceted, refracting light in all directions, reflecting sky, trees, buildings, the street, the sidewalk, and the cars, bikes, trains and people that pass by. At night, LED lights reflect into the sky, sidewalk and street, creating a constellation of light that illuminates its immediate surroundings.

On one side of Rossborough Lane there will be two wayfinding “trees”, one at 30’ tall, the other 25’ in height, one blue, one red. On the opposite side of the Lane there will be one purple 30’ element freestanding. The pair will be connected by a cross-beam. This reinforces their structural stability. Our initial structural recommendation sizes each post be at least 18”at the base, and set within a concrete footing. The exact dimensions and details of the footing are dependent on more complete information on soil types and climate loading. A structural engineer will sign be subcontracted to offer input and sign drawings before construction. Each tree will weigh between 700-1000 lbs.





