

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

# Final Design for a Sculpture Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou for the San Francisco Main Library

Public Art Final Design Review

## Lava Thomas, Project Artist

### TEAM

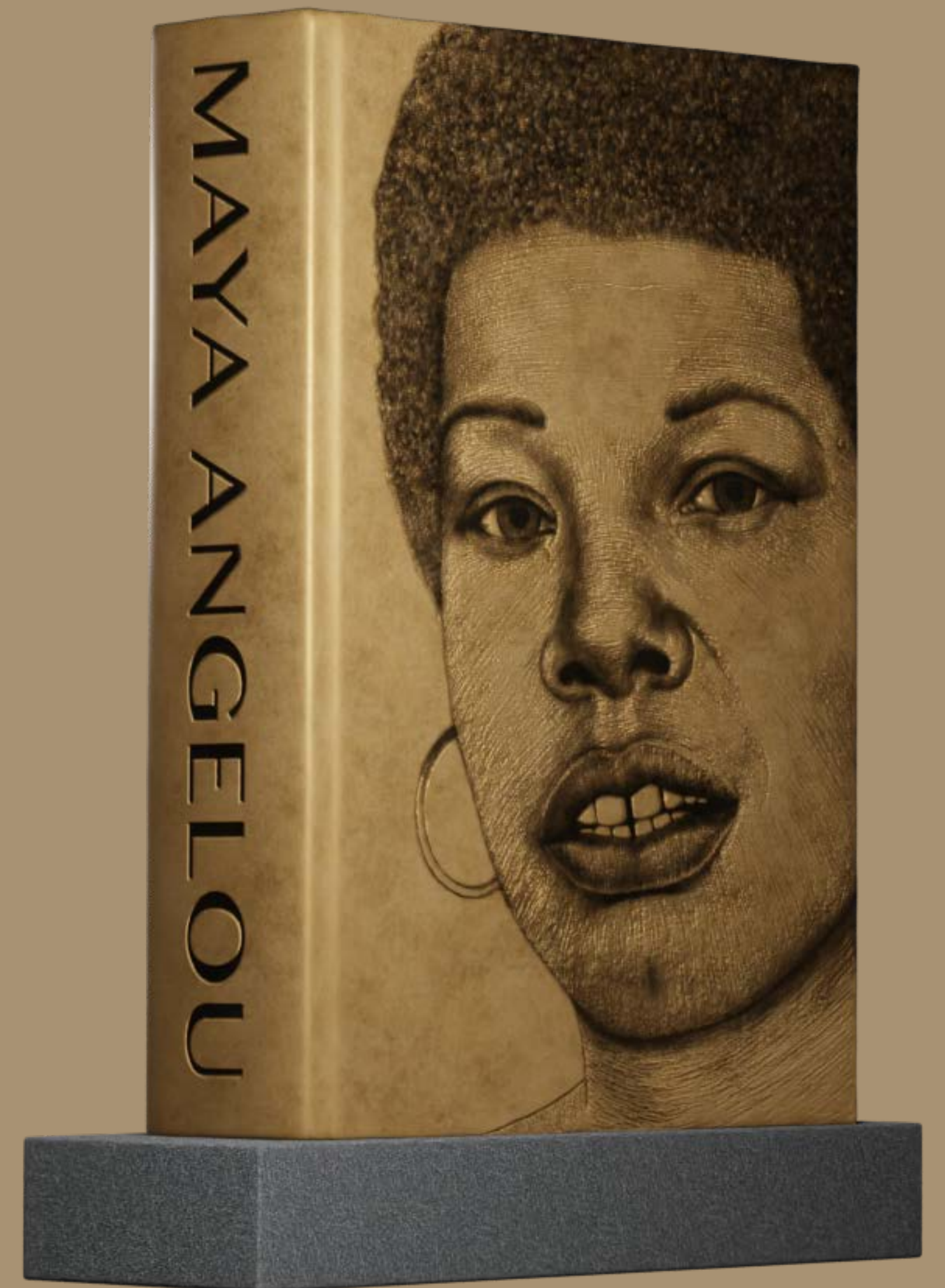
Shelly Willis, Project Manager for the Artist, San Francisco Public Art Project

Iris Moore, Lava Thomas Studio Manager

Jonathan Follet, Project Manager, Walla Walla Foundry, Walla Walla, Washington

Ian Kelso, Director, Tipping Structural Engineer

Connie Lee, Lava Thomas Studio Assistant





# Sculpture Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou *Portrait of a Phenomenal Woman* by Lava Thomas

Author, poet, activist, mother, feminist, global citizen, educator and much more, Dr. Maya Angelou's extraordinary life, spirit and works are commemorated in the sculpture *Portrait of a Phenomenal Woman*. At a total height of 9 feet, the sculpture's monumental scale speaks to Dr. Angelou's towering achievements in the face of adversity and celebrates her lasting impact on humanity. The sculpture is fabricated in bronze which suggests timelessness and permanence, with a rich patina that conveys the warmth that Dr. Angelou exuded throughout her life.

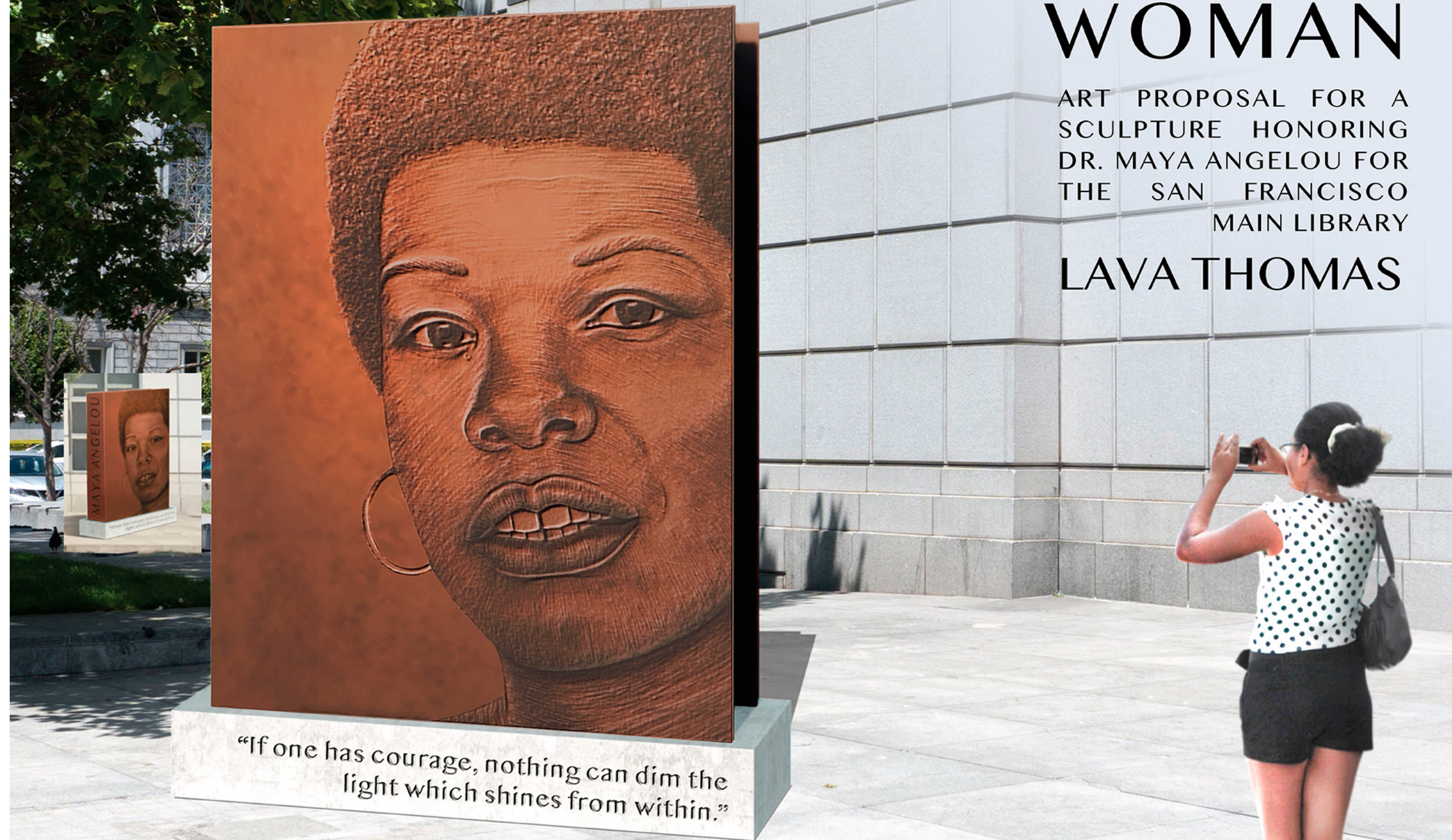
The sculpture is inspired by the form of a book with the author's name on its spine in bold capital letters. A portrait of Dr. Angelou appears on the sculpture's surface, translated in shallow relief from an original drawing. Based on a still from a 1973 interview with the author, the portrait depicts Dr. Angelou as if she is about to speak, captured in thought with her gaze directed toward the viewer as she discusses pressing social and political issues that still resonate today. By portraying the author as a young woman, the sculpture serves as a role model for a younger generation, particularly for young women and girls.





# PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN

ART PROPOSAL FOR A SCULPTURE HONORING DR. MAYA ANGELOU FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO MAIN LIBRARY  
LAVA THOMAS



Author, poet, activist, mother, feminist, global citizen, educator and much more, Dr. Maya Angelou's extraordinary life, spirit and works are commemorated in the sculpture PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN. Its monumental scale speaks to Dr. Angelou's towering achievements in the face of adversity and celebrates her lasting impact on humanity. The sculpture takes the form of a book with a portrait of Dr. Angelou, translated in shallow relief from a drawing onto the sculpture's surface. Based on a still from a 1973 interview with the author, the portrait depicts Dr. Angelou as she discusses pressing social and political issues that still resonate today.

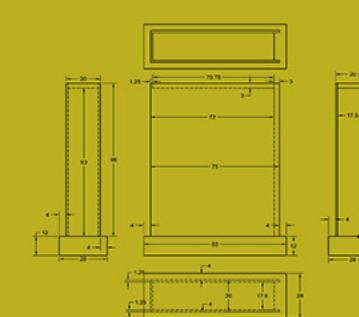
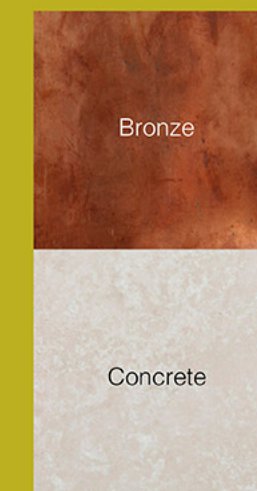
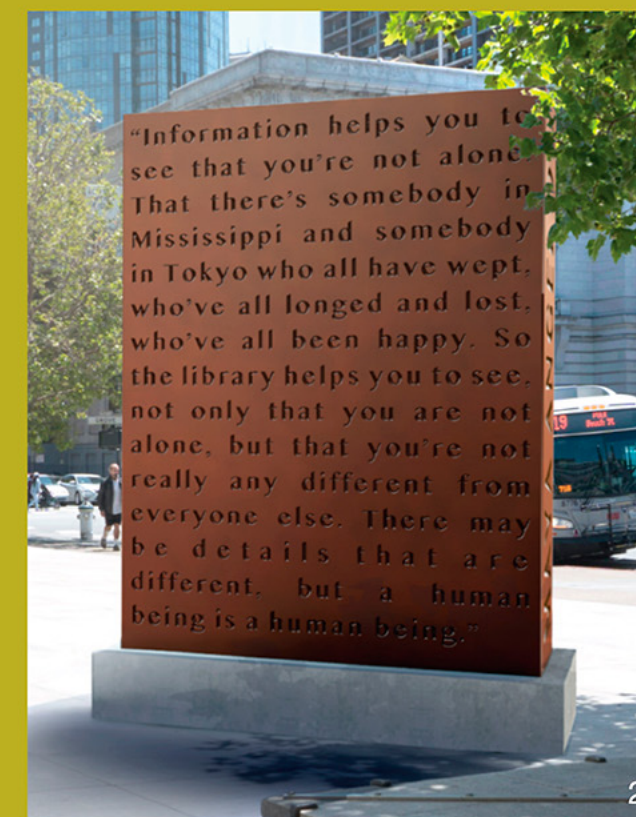
Quotations by the author are inscribed on the sculpture's base and surface, allowing her words to reach the public across time and memory. As Dr. Angelou continues to illuminate our world through her life and words, PORTRAIT OF A PHENOMENAL WOMAN creates an inspiring presence, encouraging us to find our own voice and courage while reminding us that despite our differences, we all belong to the human family.



1. 3/4 Front View 2. Rear View 3. Materials 4. Specifications 5. Spine View 6. Elevation



"Information helps you to see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really different from everyone else. There may be details that are different, but a human being is a human being."



## CHANGES TO ORIGINAL PROPOSAL:

1. Sculpture will be fabricated from a 3-d model of the book
2. Base material is basalt, not concrete
3. Text has been taken off base



**BACK**

The back of the sculpture bears a quote that emphasizes the importance of libraries in shaping her work's guiding philosophy. As Dr. Angelou continues to illuminate our world through her life and words, Portrait of a Phenomenal Woman creates an inspiring presence on Civic Center Plaza, encouraging us to find our own voice and courage while reminding us that despite our differences, we all belong to the human family.

**SPINE**

Maya Angelou





**“Information helps you to see that you’re not alone. That there’s somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who’ve all longed and lost, who’ve all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you’re not really any different from everyone else. There may be details that are different, but a human being is a human being.”**

**Dr. Maya Angelou**

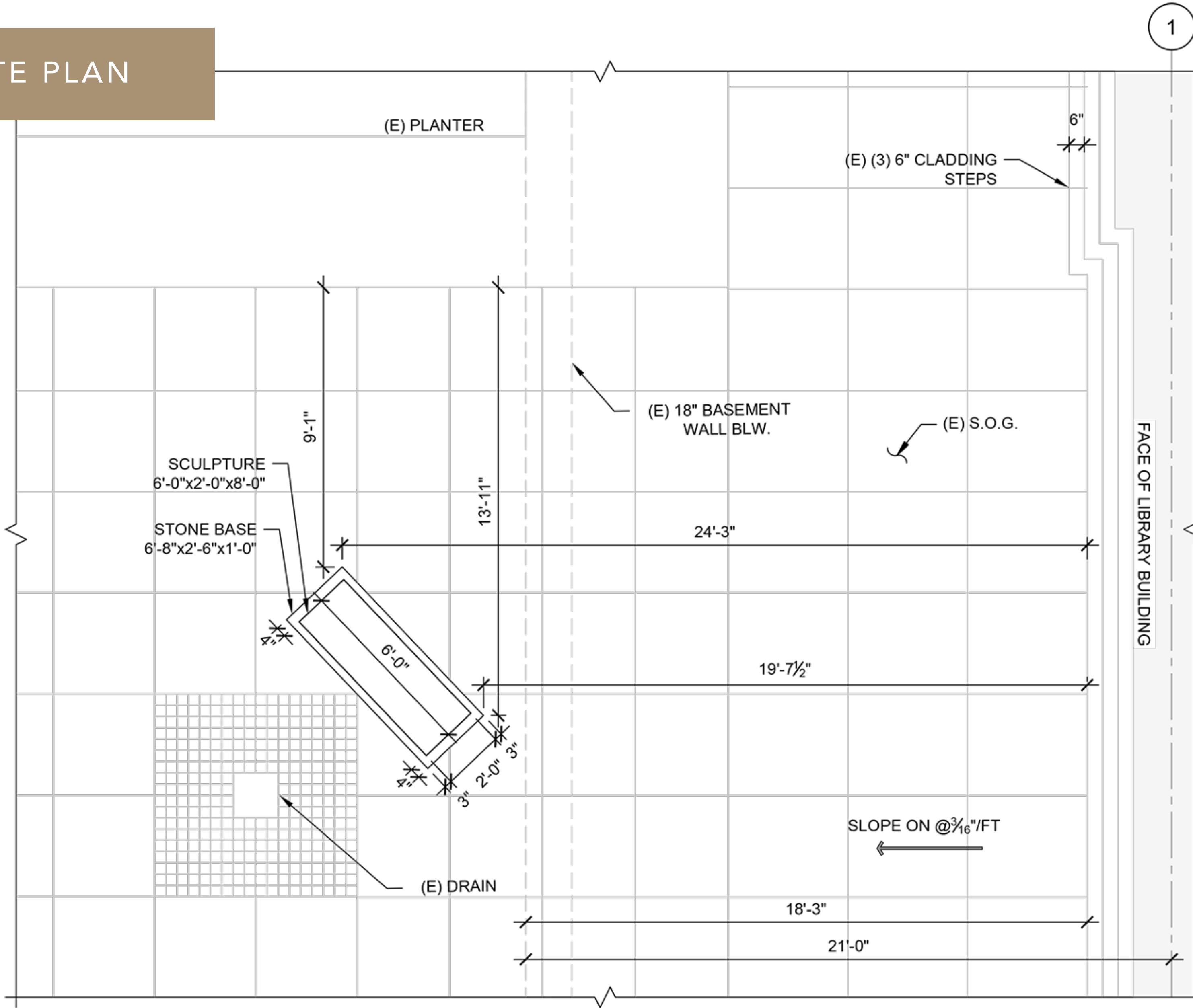


FINAL CONCEPT





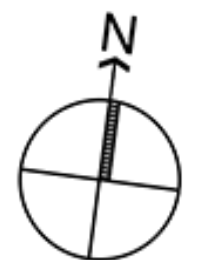
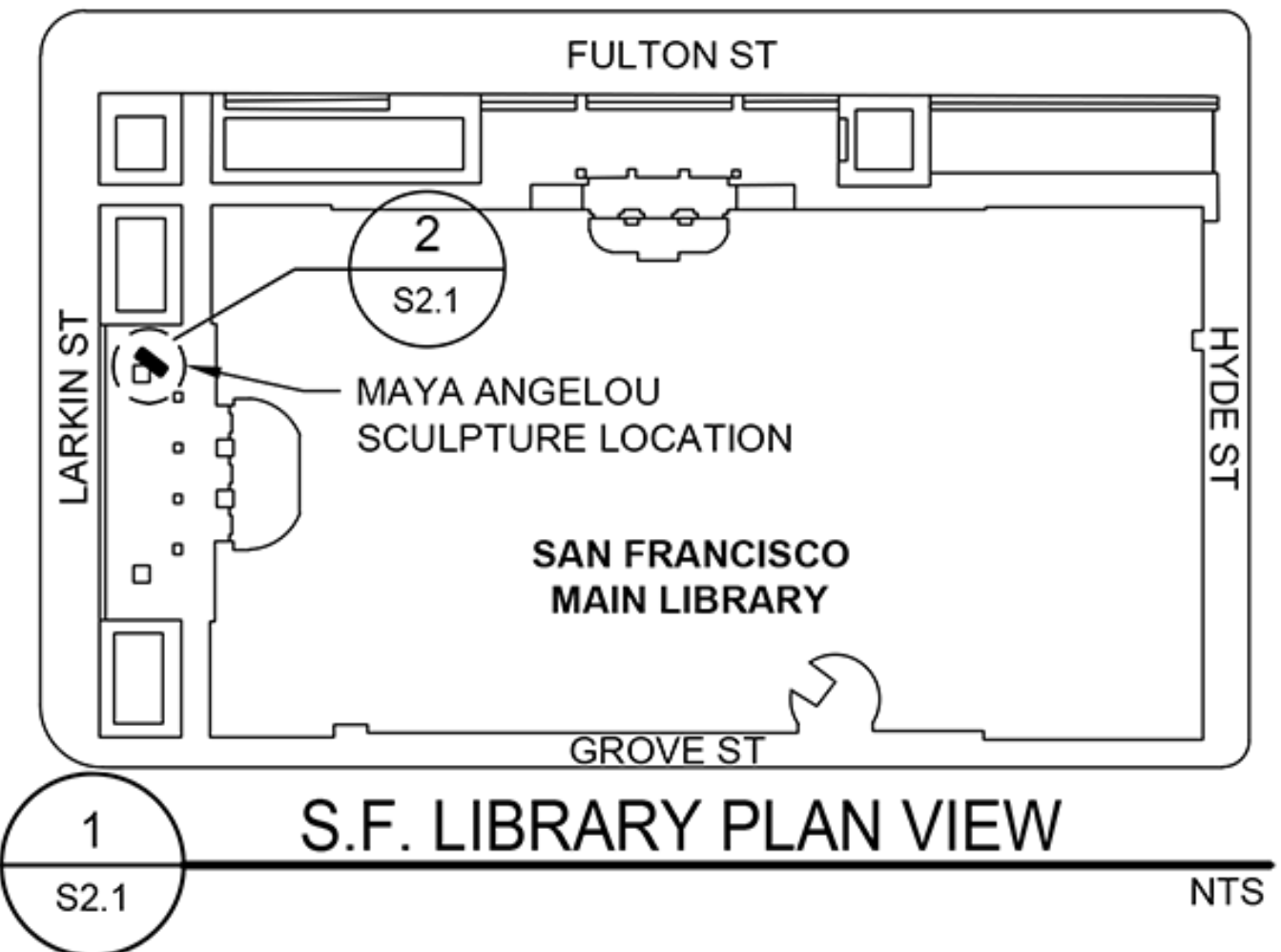
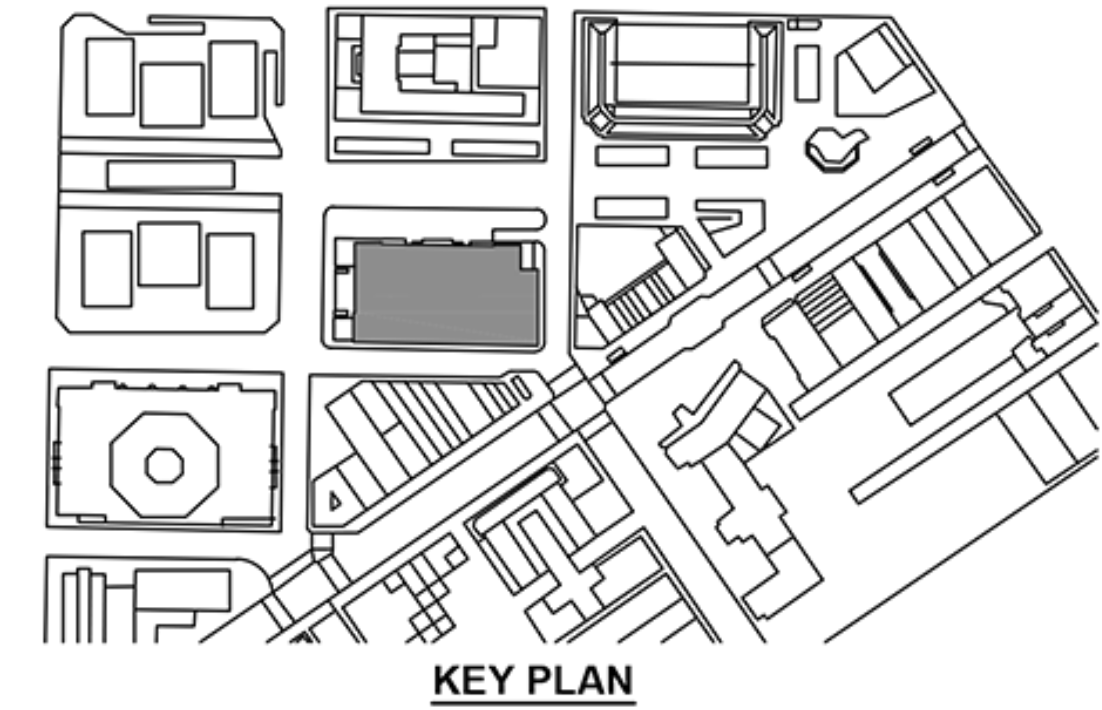
# SITE PLAN



2  
S2.1

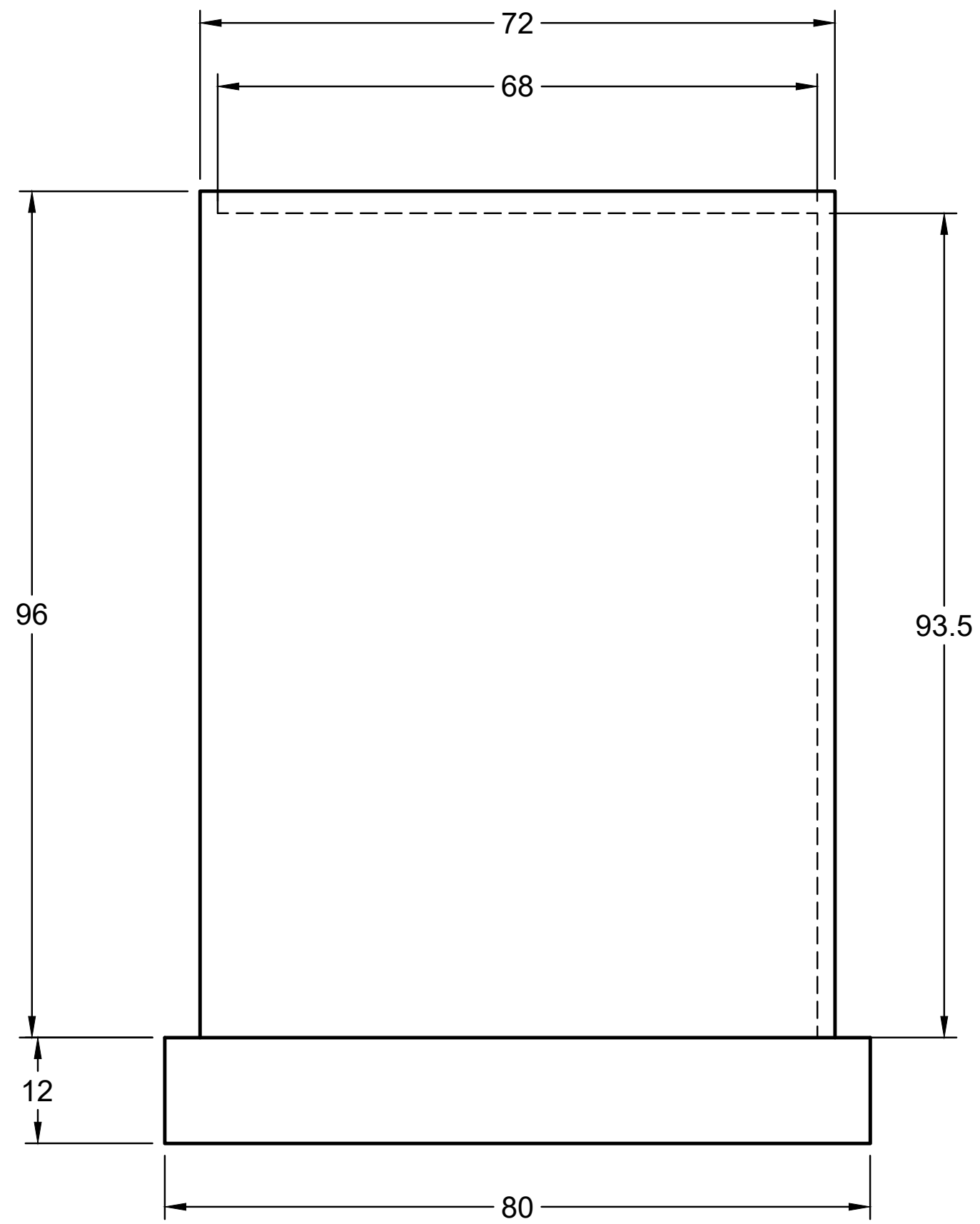
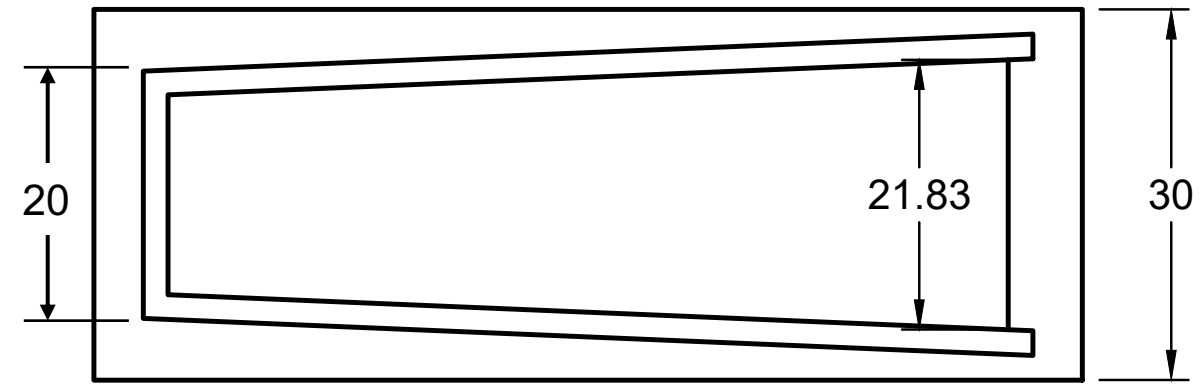
SCULPTURE ENLARGED PLAN VIEW

1/4" = 1'-0"





# SCALE





## MATERIALS



Book is cast in bronze  
and patinated



Sculpture sits on  
a basalt base



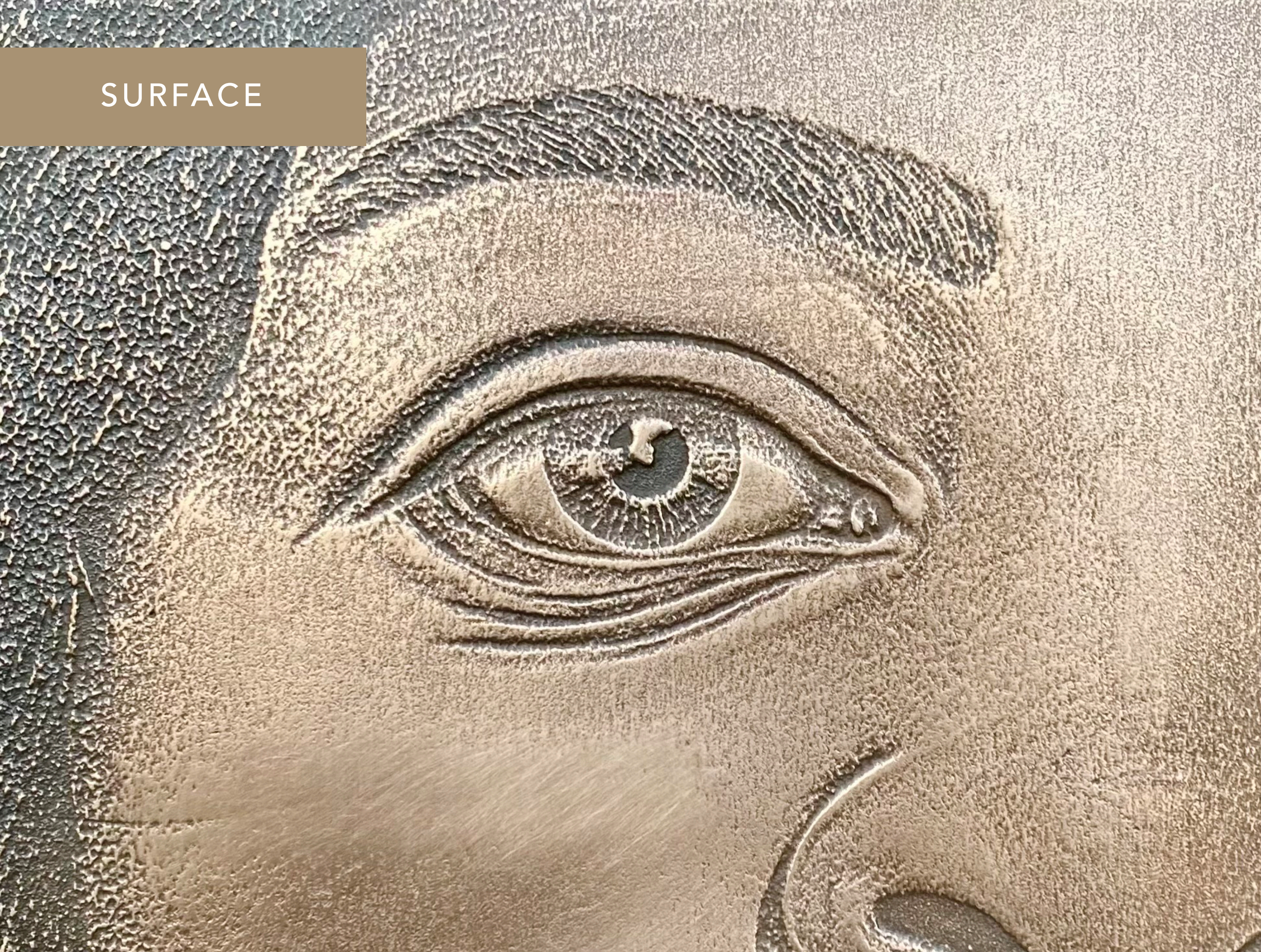


# INFLUENCES





SURFACE



Portrait cast in shallow relief on the sculpture's surface





SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY













