



exterior view at dusk

Under the Surface

Interior public art proposal
Bend Public Works Headquarters

The design of the Public Works Headquarters reflects the high desert's geology, using materials that harmonize with the environment. Our proposed art installation, a vivid, molten crystalline structure inside the building, aims to captivate and spark curiosity about the systems that support the city of Bend.

We aim to highlight the often-overlooked public works infrastructure, which is largely hidden underground or unnoticed. The artwork, spanning from the two-story lobby to the third floor, illustrates a cross-section of the city's infrastructure, revealing components like pipes and valves that are vital yet typically unseen.

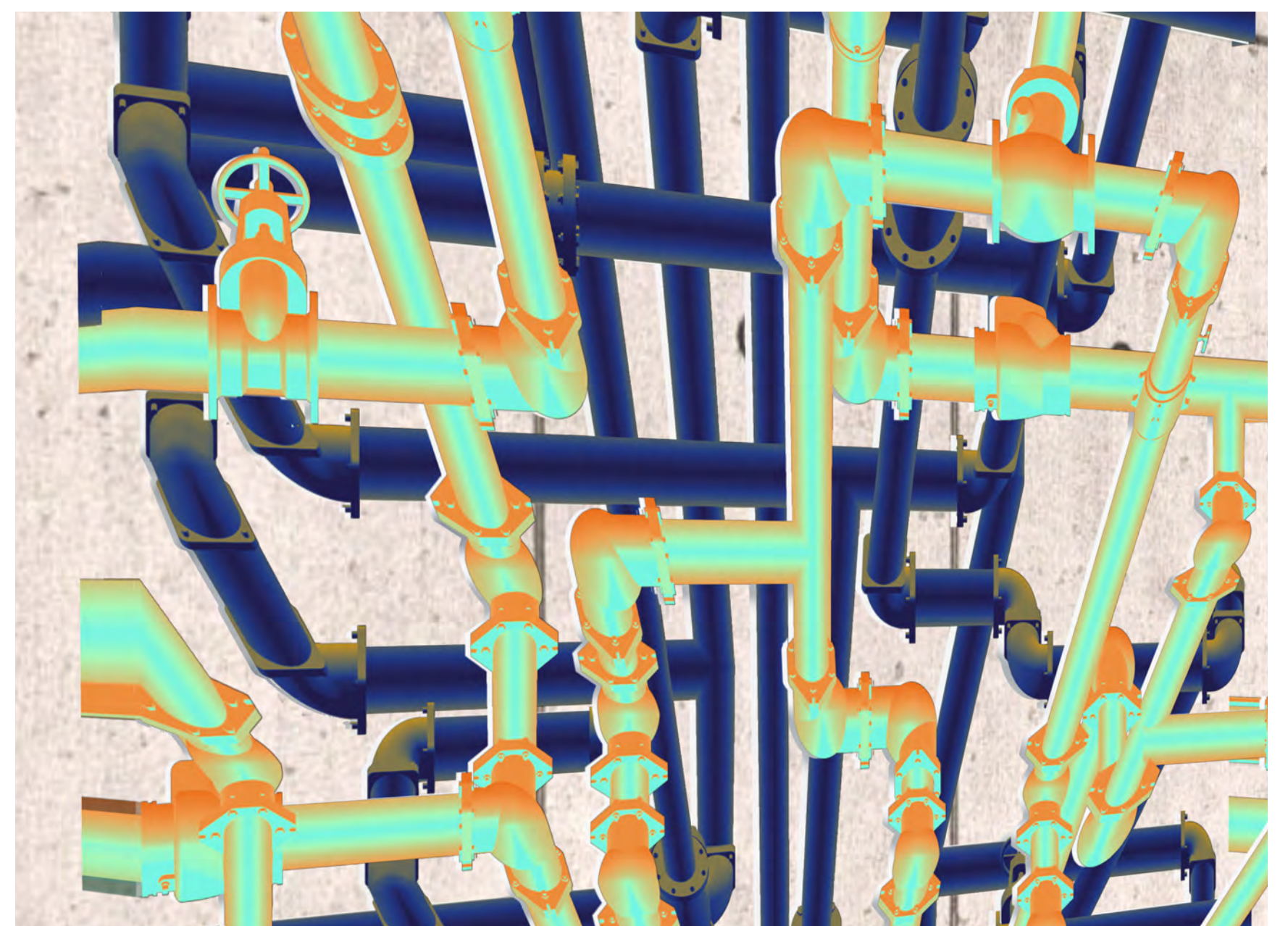
Our installation visualizes this extensive network in a whimsical, expansive manner, not as a precise diagram but as a representation of its vast scope and essence. It invites viewers from the ground floor to perceive it from below, while those on the third floor see it from above, and on the terrace, enlarged details of pipe fittings enhance visibility from various building points.

The piece is comprised of two layers, creating a depth that activates the image as one moves through the space. Constructed from laser-cut 16-gauge #6 stainless steel, the artwork is resilient. The steel is fully masked by a printed image that creates an applied materiality, vibrant yet allowing views through to the poured concrete wall behind. The porosity of the steel sheets complements the printed color palette. LED lighting embedded in the exterior portion illuminates the terrace, making the artwork a beacon visible from around the site.

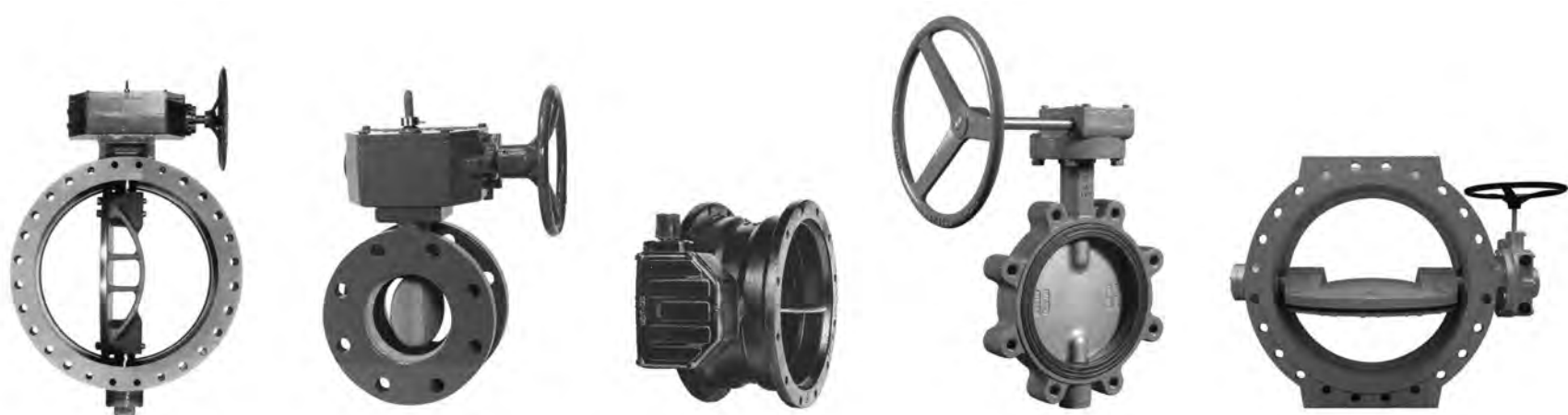
Thus, our project transforms the unseen elements of public works into a visible, celebrated part of the city's lifeblood.



patio view



panel detail view



pipe fittings





view from entry



view towards stairs



building section of artwork areas

