



HARAMBEE ALL PULL TOGETHER



Redwood City Harambee Events 2015 • FAQ

What is happening in our park?

Redwood City has commissioned an emerging artist, Michael Koliner, to build and install sculptural seating with the help of the community at the upcoming Harambee events.

What does Harambee mean?

"Harambee" means "all pull together" in Swahili. It is the name of the newest Redwood City three day event in which the community will come together to help Artist Michael Koliner create new sculptural seating at three parks, Andrew Spinus, Mariner and Mezes.

Why the name Harambee?

Communal work is when a gathering takes place to accomplish a task. These gatherings are both social and utilitarian events. Such gatherings often include refreshments and entertainment. It sums up the community aspect of these events. These seating structures are meant to be built with lots of participants.

When will the Harambee take place at these parks?

• Andrew Spinus Park (2nd and Bay Road)	Friday, October 16th	3:30pm - 6:30pm
• Mariner Park (end of Bridge Parkway, Redwood Shores)	Saturday, October 17th	10am - 2pm
• Mezes Park a.k.a. Tank Park (Warren and Standish)	Sunday, October 18th	1pm - 5pm

Why were these parks chosen?

We wanted to link the neighborhoods across the city and give residents an opportunity to experience Harambee.

Why is the city having these made?

Redwood City is committed to public art as a means for vibrancy, cultural uniqueness, community building, improving the quality of life, and making Redwood City an arts and entertainment destination. The city is actively looking to include capital improvement projects as public art. This project is one example.

How is the community helping out?

The community has several opportunities to help with these projects. Besides pitching in at the Harambee dates above, Michael needs help installing the substructure at Mariner Park. To see the schedule and sign up please go to: <http://vols.pt/HelpRWCHarambee> or just stop by and help when you see him there!

How can I participate?

Just show up! The Redwood City Parks & Arts Foundation is coordinating volunteers for the Harambee events and other help the artist needs. This is a great opportunity for students, adults, clubs and organizations (think of this as the ultimate team building event!). Community services hours will be granted for students upon request.

Who is paying for these?

These seating structures are funded through the Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Dept. capital improvement budget for seating in the parks.

Who approved these designs?

Michael was commissioned to design and build these seating structures based on the installation he did in Washington DC last year for the Nonuments exhibit. He then submitted site-specific drawings for the three Redwood City parks which were then approved by the Redwood City Public Art Task Force and Civic Cultural Commission.



How did the city find the artist, Michael Koliner?

The city is currently working with Fung Collaboratives on public art projects. Fung Collaboratives worked with Michael Koliner on the Nonuments project, and selected him for this project.

<http://www.fungcollaboratives.org/>

What is Michael's background and is he a professional artist?

Michael is an interdisciplinary artist born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He came into his art practice through early drawing experiences as a way to communicate with his friends and family. He is a graduate of The Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore with a Bachelor's of Fine Art in Interdisciplinary Sculpture. He has collaborated on the production of several spaces such as Bell Foundry's skatepark, Junk Bones, Camp Tommy, Tank Gallery, House Boat Gallery, and was selected to participate in the re-design of MICA's sculpture studios. He has curated several shows including Reap featuring the artist Ben Kelley and Nonsense at In/Flux Gallery. Since graduating, Michael has worked as a designer and/or fabricator for several well renowned artists and designers. In 2014 he created public seating for Fung Collaboratives' sculpture park "Nonuments." He currently resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania working as a resident-artist at TechShop and teacher at the Mattress Factory.

What was the artist's inspiration for these sculptured seatings?

Michael grew up skating and often found himself sliding on the sides of benches. This led him to think that every object has the potential to be reinterpreted and turned into a moment of exploration and expression. The sculptural seating he creates is meant to reinterpret functionality. The way we engage with the built environment is formed through memory, so his seating operates outside of that.

What motivated Michael about Harambee?

After high school he built a skate park and was fascinated with how people interact with their surroundings. After that, he started attending earth building workshops, and was more interested in the relationships of people, old and young, working together and having fun.

Contemporary architecture justifies itself as an imposing structure, but doesn't look fun to create. On the other hand, cob (adobe clay) is used on all continents, all throughout history, and is not imposing. People who participate in making the sculptural seating create their own story and have their own relationship to it.

What are these seating structures made of?

At each park a different substructure will be utilized based on the design of the seating. All the seating structures will have cob (adobe clay) applied for the seating area.

- Andrew Spinus Park the substructure is all metal.
- Mariner Park the substructure is earth bags filled with soil.
- Mezes Park the substructure is oak wood and metal framing.

What is cob made of and why was cob chosen?

Cob is composed of clay, straw and sand. Michael chose this material because it can be mixed in a very physical way, by mashing all the ingredients together with people's feet. The production of a material is just as important as the object it creates. So if the material is engaging then the objects carry that engagement in their final form.

Are these seating structures permanent?

They are built with materials that are meant to last at least 5 years or more.

What is the plan if the seating is tagged or vandalized?

The city will be placing anti-graffiti coating on each bench and any graffiti can be washed off with soap and water.

How can I learn more about these activities?

<http://redwoodcity.org/harambee>

Links for further information

<http://michaelkoliner.com/>

<http://www.fungcollaboratives.org/projects/current/harambee/description/>

<http://rwcparf.org/>

<http://strawclaywood.com/>

<http://www.buildnaturally.com/EDucate/Articles/Cob.htm#whatiscob>

