Planning a sculpture commission

TECHNICAL PLANNING PACK / NOVEMBER 2026

A guide for institutional teams, architects and facilities staff. This pack identifies the decisions and documents needed for a project. It is not an engineered installation drawing or a specification for every work.

Before a proposal

Share the institution, purpose, proposed location, site photographs or a floor plan, target dates and budget range. Identify an institutional decision-maker and the architect, engineer or facilities contact.

Material and finish schedule

The project schedule identifies the structural body, metal coating or cast metal, patina, protective finish and any base. Recycled PETG refers to the printed component where specified; a finished sculpture may also contain metal, resin, adhesives and coatings. No blanket environmental certification or service life is implied.

Site, loading and anchoring

Confirm clear dimensions, total weight, base dimensions, fixing details, access routes, lifting and handling, wind or other site loads, drainage and contact with the public. A qualified project engineer and the host approve site-specific foundations and anchoring before fabrication or installation.

Delivery responsibilities

Agree design approvals, payment stages, fabrication and installation milestones, packing, transport, customs, insurance, site preparation and photography. An unveiling date follows an agreed production and approval schedule.

Maintenance and handover

Receive a work-specific care sheet, approved cleaning methods, inspection schedule, coating or patina maintenance, repair contact and photographic condition record. Products and renewal intervals depend on the actual finish. The Jefferson care sheet is an example for that work, not a universal treatment.

Technical schedule to confirm

Record the sculpture and base dimensions separately, object weight, materials, installation drawings, handling restrictions, installation team, responsibilities, condition report and care instructions. Missing public catalogue details remain subject to studio confirmation.

Materials and public records

The catalogue separates a metal coating from a cast metal work where recorded. Unrecorded dimensions, weight and substrate remain subject to studio confirmation. Obtain a project-specific signed schedule before procurement or installation.

Begin with the studio

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