

## ARTS

# Arlington hopes new art electrifies Rosslyn area

By Missy Frederick  
Staff Reporter

Rosslyn's future is getting a little brighter.

A new public art effort will add 20 illuminated sculptures along North Lynn Street between the Meade Street Bridge and the Interstate 66 overpass in the years to come.

The Corridor of Light project was initiated as a way for several projects, including The JBG Cos.' Waterview and Central Place mixed-use projects, to meet requirements outlined in their site-plan approvals.

Arlington County is also sprucing up two bridges in the area, including pedestrian improvements on the esplanade adjacent to the Key Bridge and the Meade Street Bridge near the Iwo Jima memorial.

"We figured it might make more sense to coordinate these rather than execute it parcel by parcel," said Angela Adams, the county's public arts administrator, who worked with the Rosslyn Business Improvement District on the effort.

California-based artist Cliff Garten was chosen through a competitive process based on his previous work. He has produced public art projects in Long Beach, Calif., and Salt Lake City. Garten is currently working in Fort Worth, Texas, on a similar project called the Avenue of Light.

"Rosslyn is undergoing massive changes," he said. "It's up and coming, and the buildings which are going up are changing the scale, so it really wants a new identity. It will be an undeniable urban statement as you drive through Rosslyn."

The steel sculptures are transparent and illuminated

with light-emitting diode, or LED, lights, with one color on the outside and another on the inside. The street will be flanked by 12 26-foot sculptures and eight 21-foot sculptures. The lights could be timed to go on and off at certain moments, stay lit or change colors, Adams said.

A model showing the lights will be on display at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Rosslyn Spectrum.

"I think what makes them beautiful is that they are classical in their form but also very contemporary," Adams said. "They're totems that will uniquely brand Rosslyn as what it is — a real 21st century downtown."

The sculptures, however, are designed not to detract from the area's more historical vistas, such as views of the Iwo Jima memorial.

Garten will also redo some street lanterns and benches so they fit the new theme of North Lynn Street.

The work is being entirely funded by developer contributions. Between \$1.25 million and \$1.5 million has been raised already, Adams said. The total budget isn't yet available, but each sculpture costs about \$150,000.

The Corridor of Light will probably begin to be implemented in about three years. Sculptures will be added as new projects are finished. The first will likely coincide with Central Place or the esplanade bridge improvements.

It has been about six years since Rosslyn had a large-scale public art project, when the neighborhood got Ned Kahn's "Liquid Pixels" piece at 1801 N. Lynn St.



RENDERING



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**LIGHTED PATH:** Twenty glass towers ranging from 21 to 26 feet tall will line both sides of North Lynn Street from the Key Bridge to the Iwo Jima memorial in the coming years. Artist Cliff Garten designed the sculptures.