



## STAGE 2 SHORTLISTED PROPOSAL

Title: **Surge**  
 Artist: **Tony Vieira and Robert De Ieso**



## Artist Concept Statement

**SURGE** is a sculpture and a place for mindful tranquility. SURGE invites you to immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of a unique waterfront location, and enact a state of placemaking. As a visitor to the Van Wagers Beach site you can observe SURGE from the exterior and explore the extensive stencil artwork that represents the past, present and future of hydroelectricity in the Hamilton area. The north/south facing passageway invites you to step inside the icosahedron structure and immerse yourself in history. As the sun's rays pass through the stencil artwork, the ground at your feet will be illuminated and adorned with the images featured on SURGE's surface. This interior experience is dynamic due to the ever-changing nature of sunlight, thus creating a new and unique experience for every visitor, ever time.

**SURGE** reflects the complex social, environmental, and physical impact that AC hydroelectric power, developed by Nikola Tesla and brought to Hamilton by the five Johns, has had and continues to have on the city. This immersive sculpture will showcase the role that AC power played as a catalyst for Hamilton's development, influencing its population through an immigration boom and shaping the city physically and culturally. This sculpture interrogates our changing relationship to energy as it transitioned from the visible to the invisible, with hydroelectricity becoming quiet, cheap, constant, and easier to take for granted. This project will create a memorable element within the Hamilton waterfront landscape and serve as a reminder that a sustainable future requires responsible innovation.

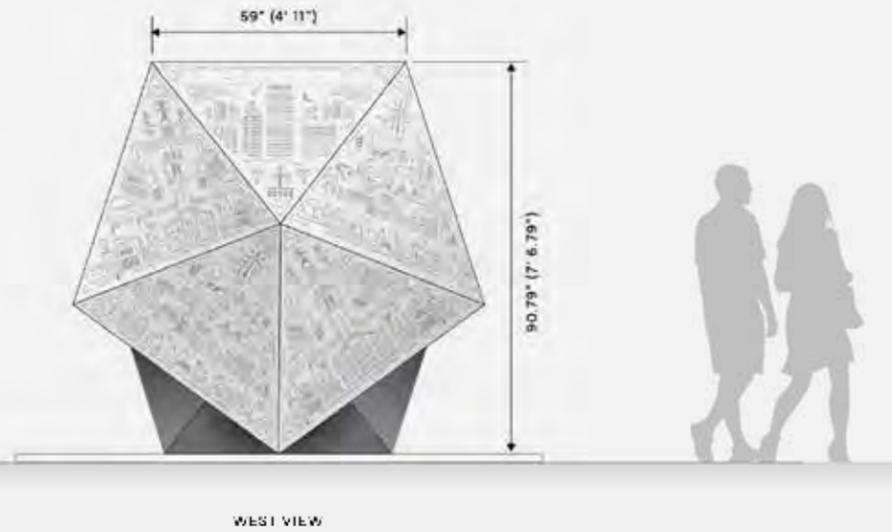
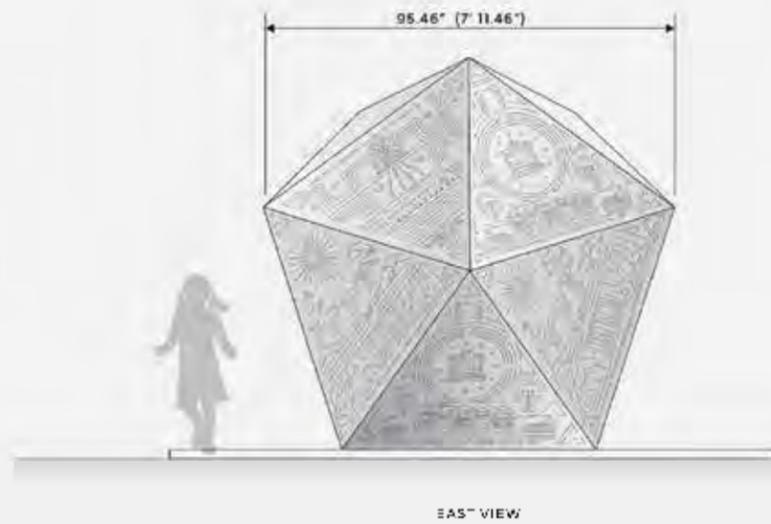
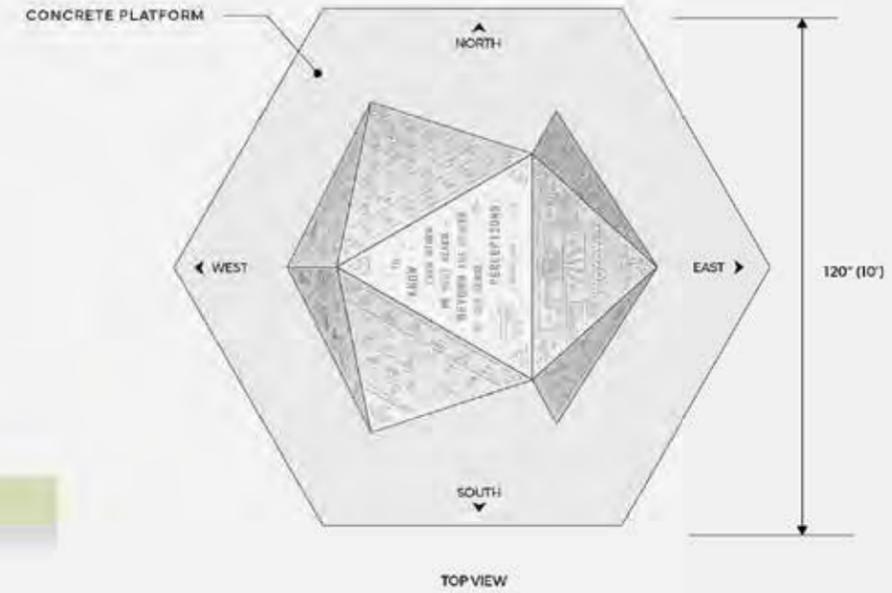
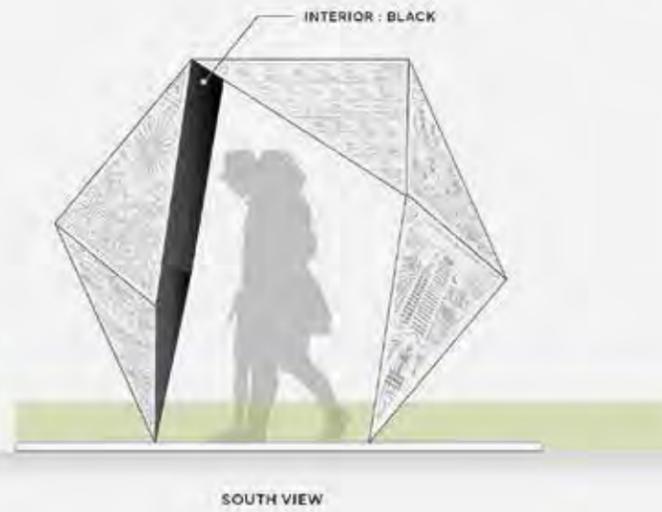
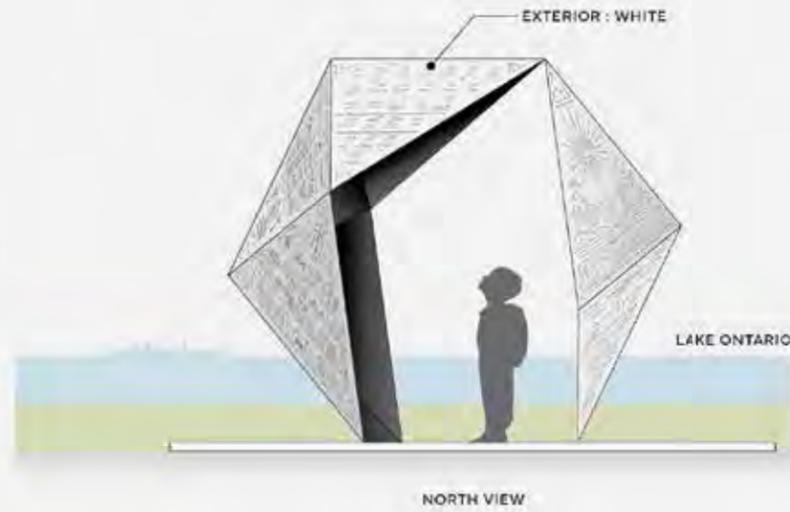
**SURGE** was a natural choice of title for our project as it embodies the relational triumvirate of: the power of water, the hydro-electricity that this power generates, and the population growth in the Hamilton area as a result of this newly developed inexpensive and reliable power. The shape of the icosahedron was chosen as the physical structure of SURGE due to its symbolic meaning within the group of five Platonic solids as the shape that represents water. The icosahedron shape is made up of 20 interconnected equilateral triangles. This shape represents not only the elegant complexity of Tesla's numerous technological innovations, but also the interconnectedness of the local communities as a result of the transmission of power from the Niagara region and the countless ways in which modern life has become intertwined with the technologies that would not have existed without Nikola Tesla. In more recent times, the icosahedron has appeared as a symbol of the interconnectedness of all things and as a representation of the concept of a holistic or unified worldview.

*"To know each other we must reach beyond the sphere of our sense perceptions."*  
 – Nikola Tesla

The spirit of innovation embodied by this Tesla quote is intended to serve as an inspiration to youth today; encouraging future innovators to approach technological progress with a mindset of respect, humility, and sustainability.



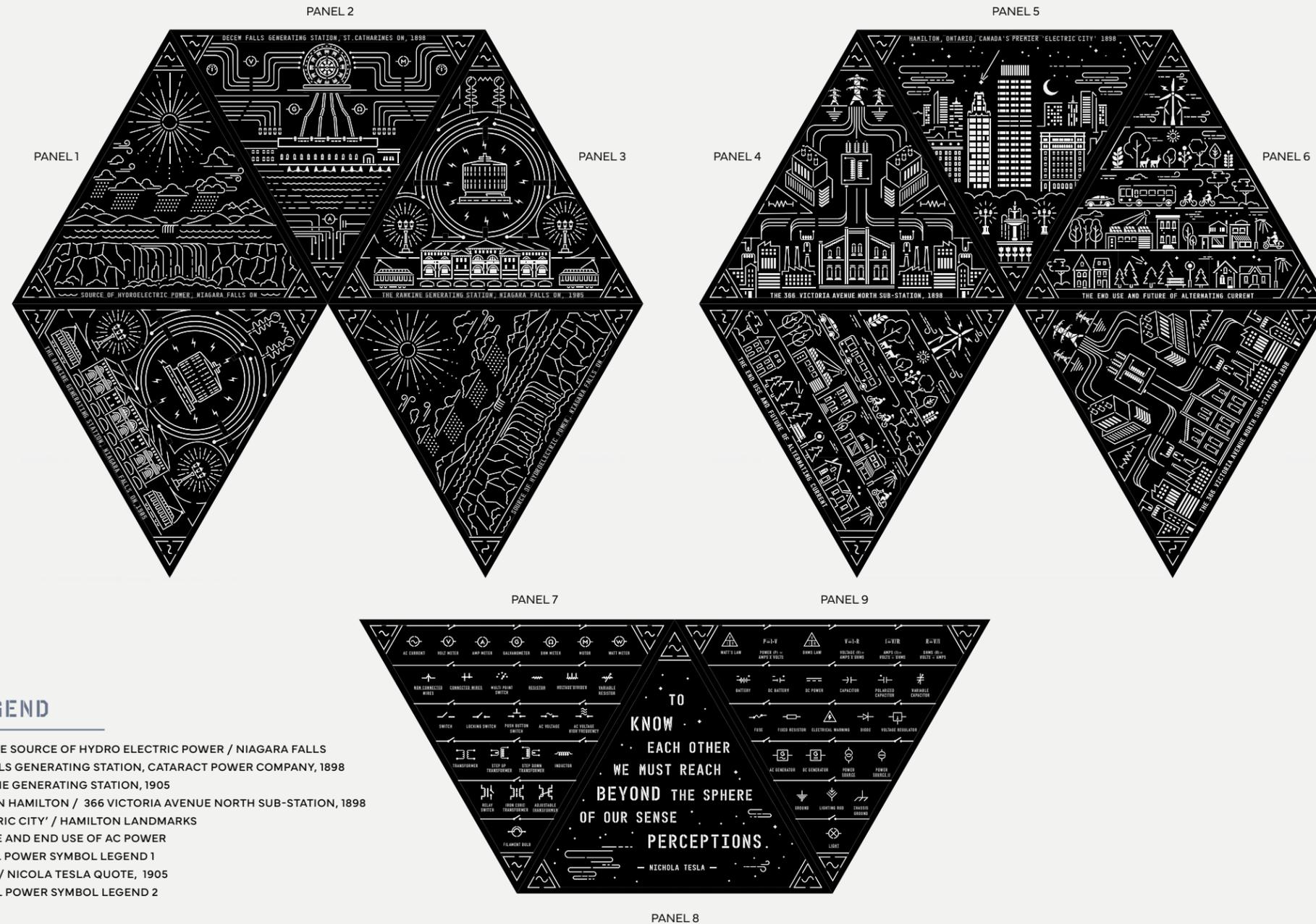
### SURGE | ICOSAHEDRON SCULPTURE VIEWS



#### MATERIALS

- 1/4" STAINLESS STEEL MATERIAL
- TWO-TONE POWDER COAT (WHITE EXTERIOR, BLACK INTERIOR)
- HIGHLY DURABLE ANTI-GRAFFITI COATING

### SURGE | ICOSAHEDRON : PANEL ART, INTERIOR VIEWS



#### PANEL LEGEND

- PANEL 1: THE SUN: THE SOURCE OF HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER / NIAGARA FALLS
- PANEL 2: DECEW FALLS GENERATING STATION, CATARACT POWER COMPANY, 1898
- PANEL 3: THE RANKINE GENERATING STATION, 1905
- PANEL 4: INDUSTRY IN HAMILTON / 366 VICTORIA AVENUE NORTH SUB-STATION, 1898
- PANEL 5: THE 'ELECTRIC CITY' / HAMILTON LANDMARKS
- PANEL 6: THE FUTURE AND END USE OF AC POWER
- PANEL 7: ELECTRICAL POWER SYMBOL LEGEND 1
- PANEL 8: TOP PANEL / NICOLA TESLA QUOTE, 1905
- PANEL 9: ELECTRICAL POWER SYMBOL LEGEND 2

# HAMILTON THE ELECTRIC CITY PUBLIC ART

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Rendering



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