



sonicarchitecture

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sonicarchitecture

The art of sound.

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Create a timeless moment.®

Sonic Architecture is **art that resonates.**

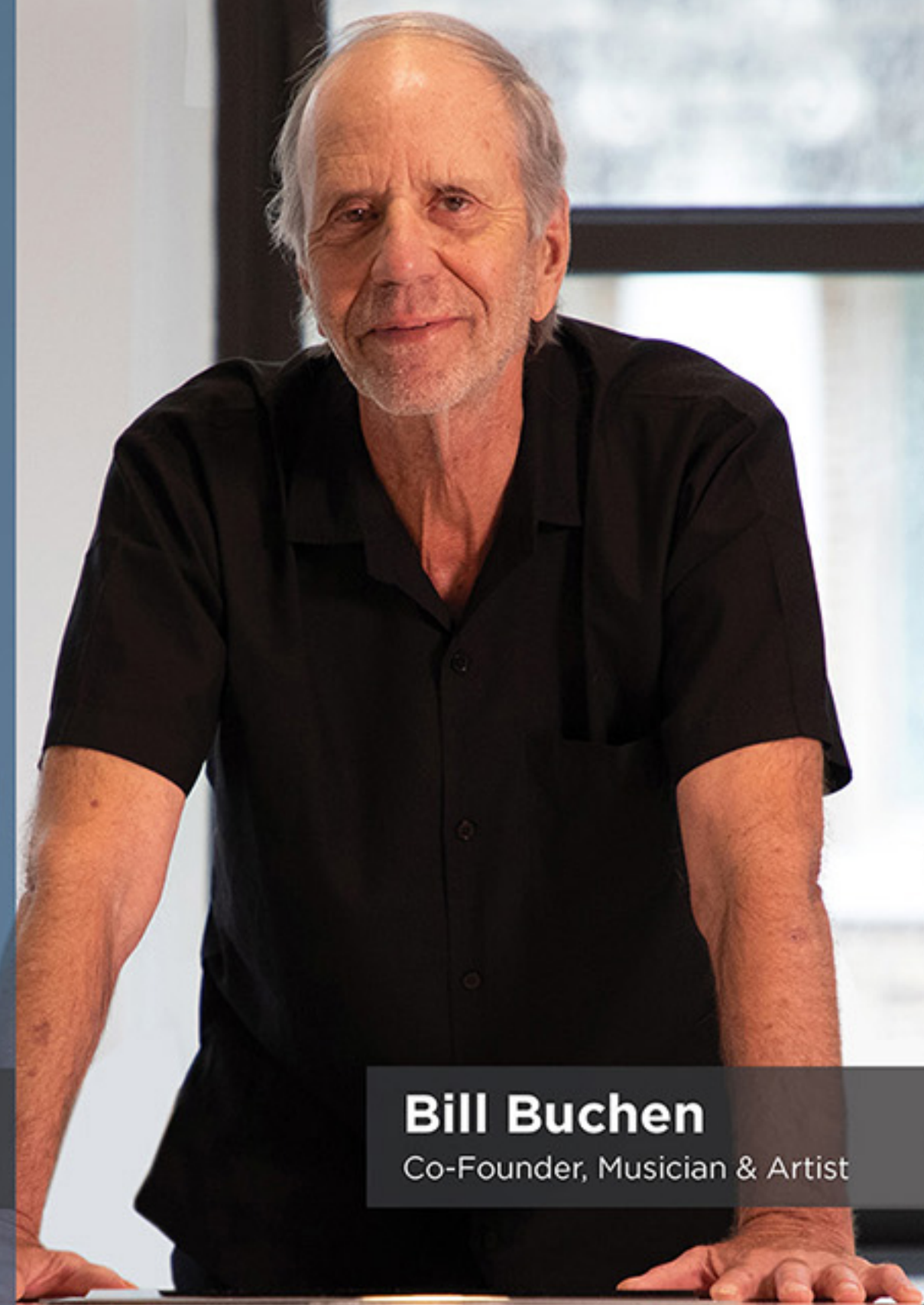
Art.



For over 40 years artist/musician team, Bill and Mary Buchen, have designed public art installations and interactive sound sculptures. Their works are featured in parks, schools, science centers, transit stations, children's museums, and playgrounds around the world. Sonic Architecture sculptures invite active play and group participation, whether tapping rhythms on percussion instruments inspired by global music cultures or investigating environmental phenomena.



Mary Buchen
Co-Founder & Artist



Bill Buchen
Co-Founder, Musician & Artist

“Our innate desire to express ourselves through song and dance is propelled by our response to rhythmic drumming. **It’s our only non-verbal universal language.**”

Mary Buchen
Co-Founder & Artist





We **resonate** with **Landscape Architects.**

Schools.

Developers.

City Planners.

Parks & Recreation.

Parents.

Children.

Musicians.

Artists.

“

These drums are beautiful. You do not need anything to play them with except your hands, no mallets, or sticks, just your hands. They are perfect expressions of art, whether visual or musical.

Donna Walcavage | Principal, Landscape Architect - Stantec

The drum collection plays a key role in the New York Hall of Science Playground. The design is beautiful and timeless, adding creativity, a sense of community, and joy to the visitor experience.

Joan Krevlin | FAIA - BKSK Architects, LLP

What Sonic Architecture does is beautiful. The work can stand as art as well as usable musical instruments in the landscape.

Amy Seek | Senior Associate - Stantec

These drums beckon you to embark on a journey through rhythm and time. What's equally significant is how they challenge the notion that only professionals or virtuosos should take the lead, while others simply listen. This setting provides an open invitation for everyone to join in, allowing them to discover their own path within the rhythms. This overarching concept in a public setting serves as a powerful catalyst for spontaneous improvisation.

Steve Gorn | Grammy Award Winning Musician and Educator


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Sonic Architecture is **multi-generational**.

People of all ages enjoy tapping out rhythms together. Exploring rhythms is instinctual and fun. Different shapes and sizes make the drums inclusive for everyone.

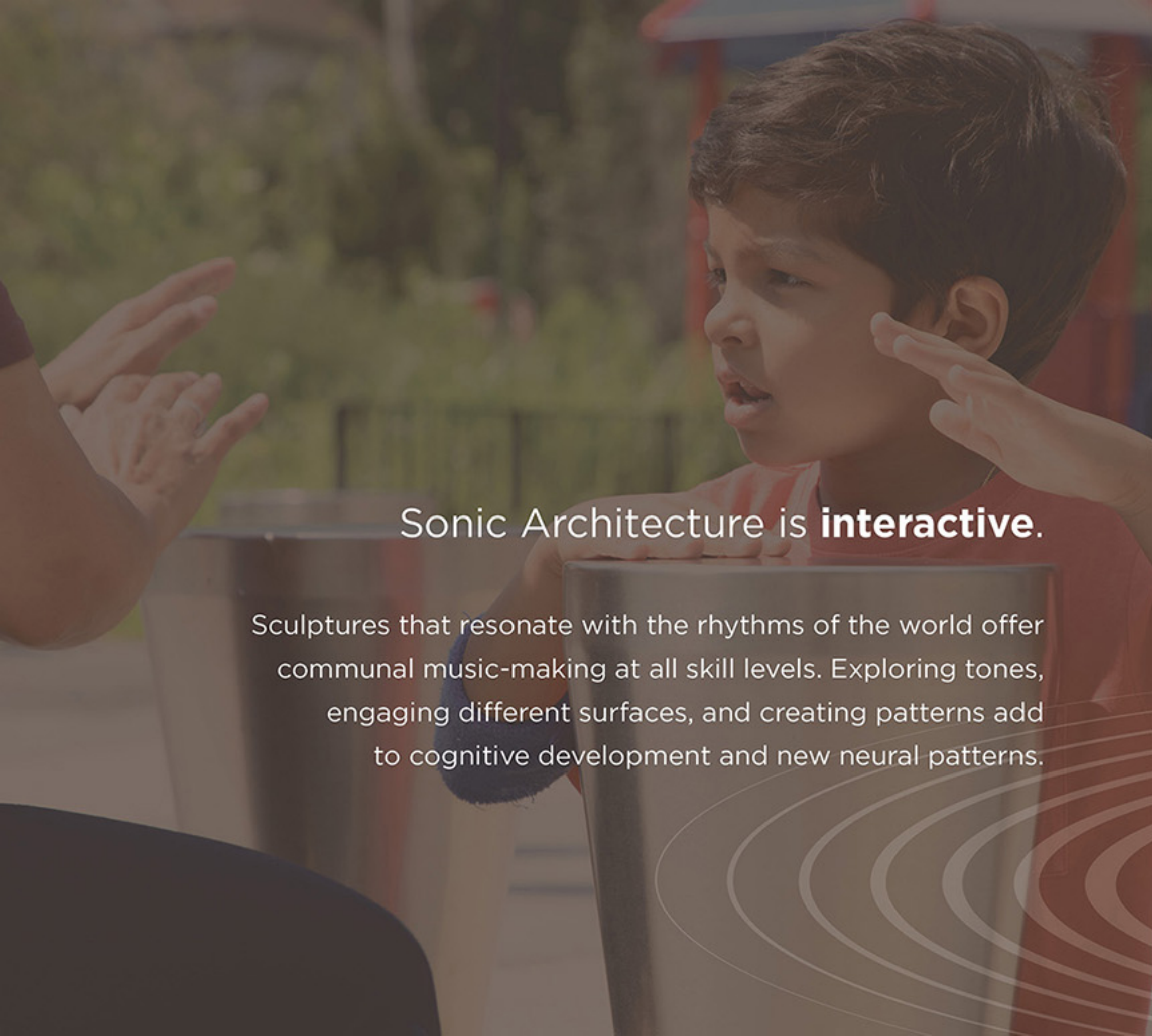




Sonic Architecture is **multi-cultural**.

Drawing inspiration from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, Sonic Architecture offers cultural resonance that can be heard and seen. Developed from years of study, travel, and performance, the sculptures reflect the richness and depth of the world's percussive traditions. Specific designs are available for unique communities and cultural traditions.





Sonic Architecture is **interactive**.

Sculptures that resonate with the rhythms of the world offer communal music-making at all skill levels. Exploring tones, engaging different surfaces, and creating patterns add to cognitive development and new neural patterns.





Handcrafted art that **resonates.**

A skilled artisan's custom work adds sophistication, beauty, and timeless shapes to contemporary renditions of global music styles.

Custom forming, finishing, and attention to detail realize the artists' vision through a collection of interactive musical sculptures. Stainless steel ensures low maintenance, long life, and durability in all climates and conditions. These artworks will serve intergenerational families for years to come.



**“Art should stand the test of time
and public spaces.”**

*Bill Buden
Mary Bucher*

Our sculptures are
beautiful and **durable.**

Sonic Architecture artwork brings resiliency and durability to the public realm. Careful attention to details in all phases of fabrication and installation delivers excellence to stakeholders and art communities. With 40 years of experience in designing public art installations, Sonic Architecture’s sculptural instruments offer the very best in unique or custom design and are crafted for extreme longevity.



Listen)))
for yourself.



Sound.

Our sculptures.



Kids Drums

Caribbean, African, and Kids Communal drums form a world rhythm ensemble that is especially designed to develop smaller children's skills with percussive music making.

Kids Communal

At traditional gatherings known as Pow Wows, the drum sets the heartbeat for the rhythm and tempo of ceremonial songs and dances. Designed especially for communal play by smaller children.



African-Asian

These sculptures incorporate the shapes of both West African and Asian forms. They offer visual elegance as well as cultural relevance.



Caribbean

Derived from the Afro-Caribbean tradition of Conga, Quinto, and Tumba drums, they are the most famous drums in the Americas and are often used in popular American music.



Brazilian

Africa and Brazil meet in this traditional conical form that creates harmonious drum sound and echoes the past.



World Drums

World drums celebrate global rhythmic traditions, and invite communal music making. Bata, Aztec, Triple Play, and Timbales are inspired by drums found in Haiti, Brazil, the Caribbean, and Mexico. Designed for all ages.



Congas

With names that mimic their tones, the Quinto, Tumba, and Conga comprise a classic Afro-Cuban drum ensemble found in music ensembles across the Americas.

Bata Drum

A two-headed drum with multiple playing surfaces, the Bata reflects the deep cultural traditions of the Caribbean and Africa.



Triple Play

Incorporating three frame drums on one stand, Triple Play represents universal drum forms found throughout Europe, the Americas, and Asia. It features three playing surfaces, is easy to play from all sides, is a great value, and a centerpiece of percussive play.

Timbales

Incorporating two drums on one stand, the Timbales draw from the instruments of Africa and Latin America offering value, cultural tradition, and great sound in one instrument.



Aztec Drums

Drawing from the rich cultural traditions of Mexico, these forms reflect the drums used by Aztec cultures throughout history. Their tones are similar but lower than the Congas. Sound emanates from the traditional Aztec cut out at the base of each drum.

Slapped Pipes

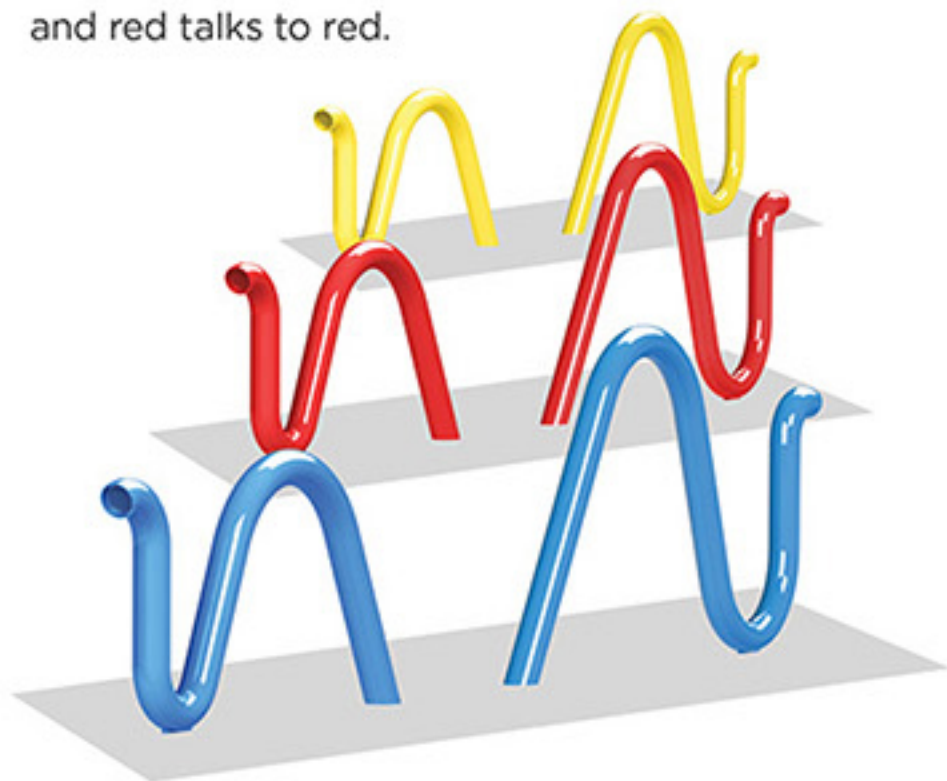
This sculpture consists of a radial configuration of vertical pipes tuned to a 2-octave five-note (pentatonic) scale. When the open ends of the pipes are slapped with paddles or the flat of the hand, percussive tones of the scale are produced. The resonant frequency of the pipes can also be heard by listening at the open ends. Each pipe has a different harmonic.

The forerunner of this instrument is a series of hollowed-out bamboo tubes in the Solomon Islands of Micronesia. It is also related to the Chinese Sheng, a musical instrument made of bamboo pipes.



Telephone Tubes

Linked by underground pipes, paired serpentine tubes are color matched for developing cognitive learning skills! Yellow talks to yellow, blue talks to blue and red talks to red.



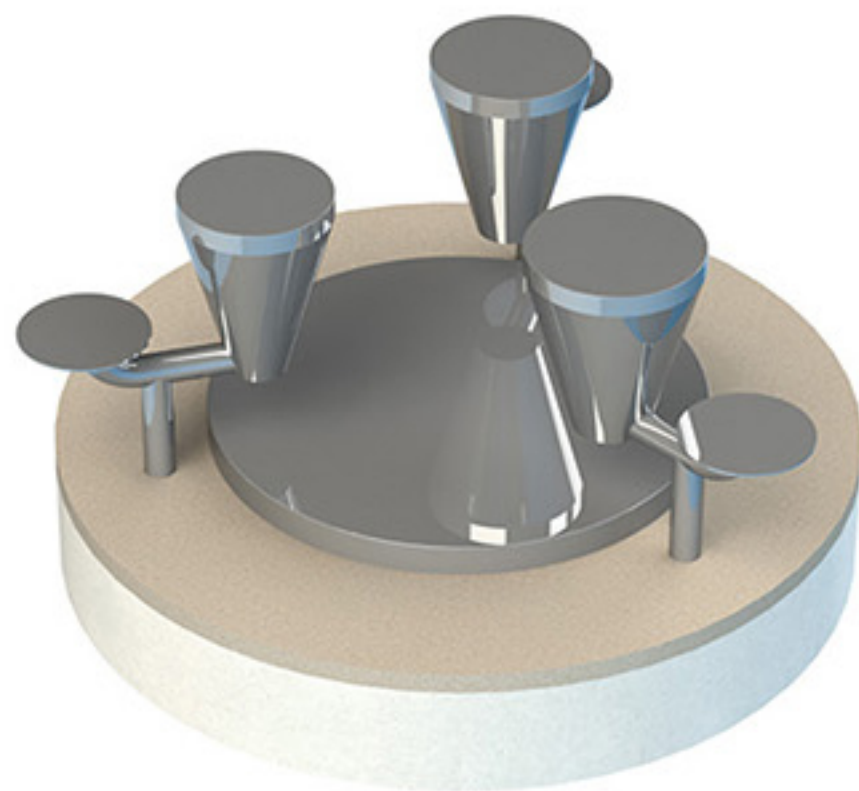
Sun Drums

Sun Drums are inspired by universal drum forms found throughout Europe, the Americas and Asia. Single frame drums are mounted at an easy angle for playing.

Earth Drum*

Originating from an ancient African tradition of striking a large leaf or animal hide mounted over a pit that acts as a resonator chamber amplifying the sound of the Earth. Played together with the Djembe, the two drums engage hand/foot coordination between multiple drummers.

* Shown with three Djembes with Seats



Djembe with Seat

Originating on the West Coast of Africa (the Gold Coast), Djembe drums are now heard in almost all African music. The versatile design couples the conical drum shape with a seat mounted on a single pedestal.



Communal Sculptures

Playing rhythms together strengthens group interaction and teamwork, and develops new skills in music performance.

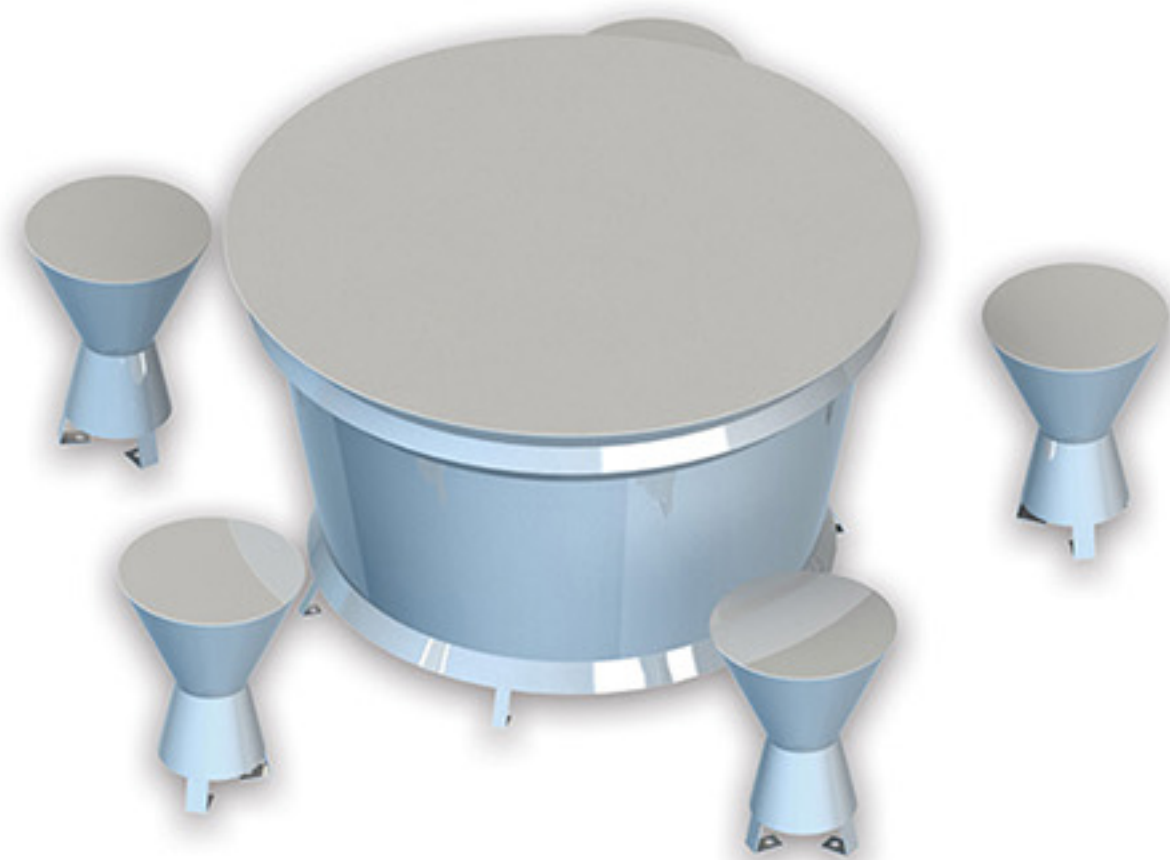


Drum Table & Seats

A trio of sculptures celebrating African drumming traditions, and inviting communal music making. Based on an archetypal drum shape known as Dumbek.

Communal Drum & Seats

Drum circles bring community music-making to the play environment. Group awareness and interplay are developed by exploring rhythms together.

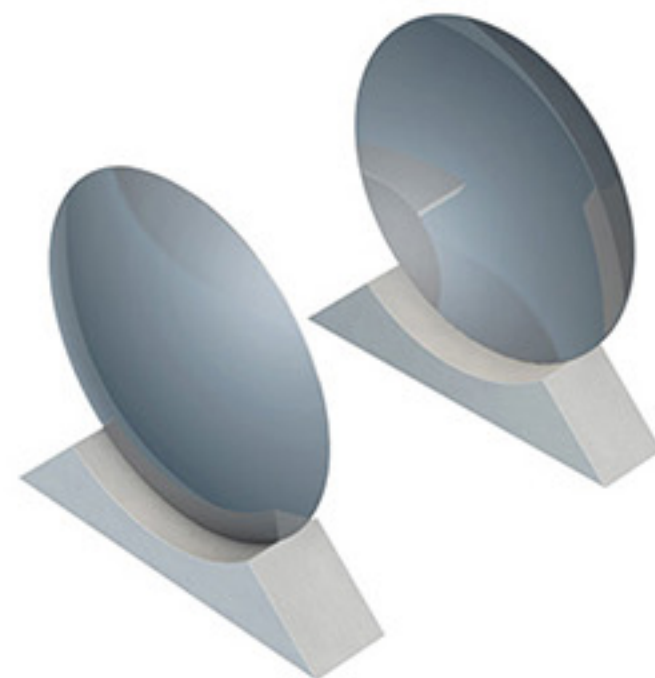




Sound Dish Sculptures

Parabolic dishes installed with seating create visual ambiance and acoustic interaction.

Photo by Paul Warchol

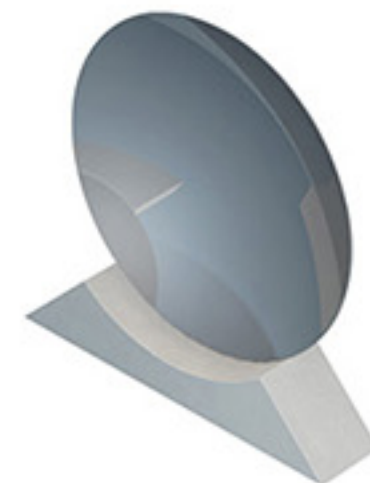


Reflecting Dishes

Clap, speak, and stop sound with a wave of the hand! When speaking at the center between the two 8-foot dishes, two dynamic curved forms reflect and focus sound waves to amplify one's voice. When clapping, an acoustic feedback loop starts with a clap and ends with a wave of the hand.

Reflecting Dish

Throughout history, cultures have created a special space for listening and communal music making. The singular 8-foot curved dish reflects sounds back to the players and audiences and ameliorates traffic noises.



Listening Dishes

These interconnected 4-foot 'big ears' communicate over 100', and bring conversations up close, and personal.

Gong

From Indonesia to concert halls, gongs have amplified the pulse of the planet through their rich deep resonant vibrations, no need for a mallet.





sonicarchitecture
The art of sound.

Sonic Architecture has a larger collection than what is curated here. We design engaging natural phenomena-related projects, plazas, gazebos, and courtyards for museums, science centers, parks, and malls throughout the world. Please contact us to explore all opportunities with sculpture and interactive public art.

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