

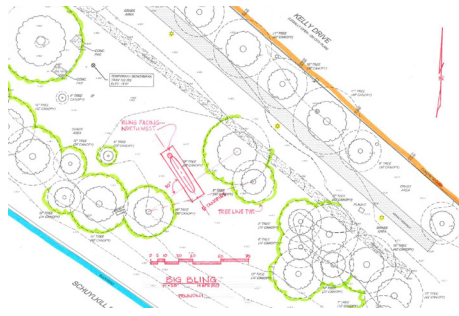
## Bringing Big Bling to Philadelphia

The [Association for Public Art](#) (aPA), working with New York's Madison Square Park Conservancy in a first-time collaboration, brought internationally acclaimed artist Martin Puryear's Big Bling to Philadelphia as a temporary installation. The sculpture was commissioned by Madison Square Park Conservancy, New York, where it was first exhibited before coming to Philadelphia.

**Robert Glick** AIA, LEED AP worked with aPA on site evaluation and installation. As Bob stated 'My admiration for Martin Puryear is no secret to those who know me. I have been a fan for decades, so when aPA was looking for an Architect to assist in the site and installation process, my name rang out and I was eager to provide the help'.

After months of evaluating multiple locations, the site was selected just weeks prior to opening. A team was assembled to provide Civil and Structural work, working with Fairmount Park Association and the Rigging Team as well as lighting the Work. It was a wonderful experience working with aPA.

Big Bling was installed along Philadelphia's Kelly Drive, between Fountain Green Drive, the Connecting Railway and Girard Avenue Bridges. It was on view from June through November 2017, not far from Puryear's Pavilion in the Trees, a permanent installation from 1993.



Rising forty feet high, and eliciting many varied interpretations, Big Bling is Puryear's largest temporary outdoor sculpture to date. The colossal, multi-tiered wood structure is wrapped in chain-link fence and anchored with a gold-leaf shackle near the top. Layers of laminated timbers and plywood stack together to create a form that is both animal-like and abstract, with an amoeboid shape in the center.

After a six-month installation along the Drive, the Work was slated for disassembly and its materials were to be donated for other uses. Madison Square Park Conservancy, working with [MASS MoCA](#), came to a last-minute agreement to bring the artwork to a corner of New England. The work recently traveled to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, MASS MoCA, in North Adams, MA. MASS MoCA is currently working with Puryear to site and install the colossal work.

