

RFP HSBP1017R0023, PHASE 1

Concept Paper/
RFQ for Border Wall Design Build
US Government
March 31, 2017

Submitted by J.M. Design Studio
Based in Pittsburgh, PA

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1) Demonstrated Experience

We are a team of designers, artists, and creatives who believe the simplicity of design and the integrity of materials are the foundation of any design proposal. We see the future as a place where sustainability, human rights, and a focus on land management and environmental advocacy are essential and necessary to every creative project. We have experience working under a variety of challenging conditions that include systemic racism, sexism, and the denial of basic human rights. Because of our unique abilities to make our outstanding work no matter what, we believe we are perfectly positioned to take on this project.

2) Management and Technical Competence

JM - Lead artist and designer.

TM - Lead designer and visionary.

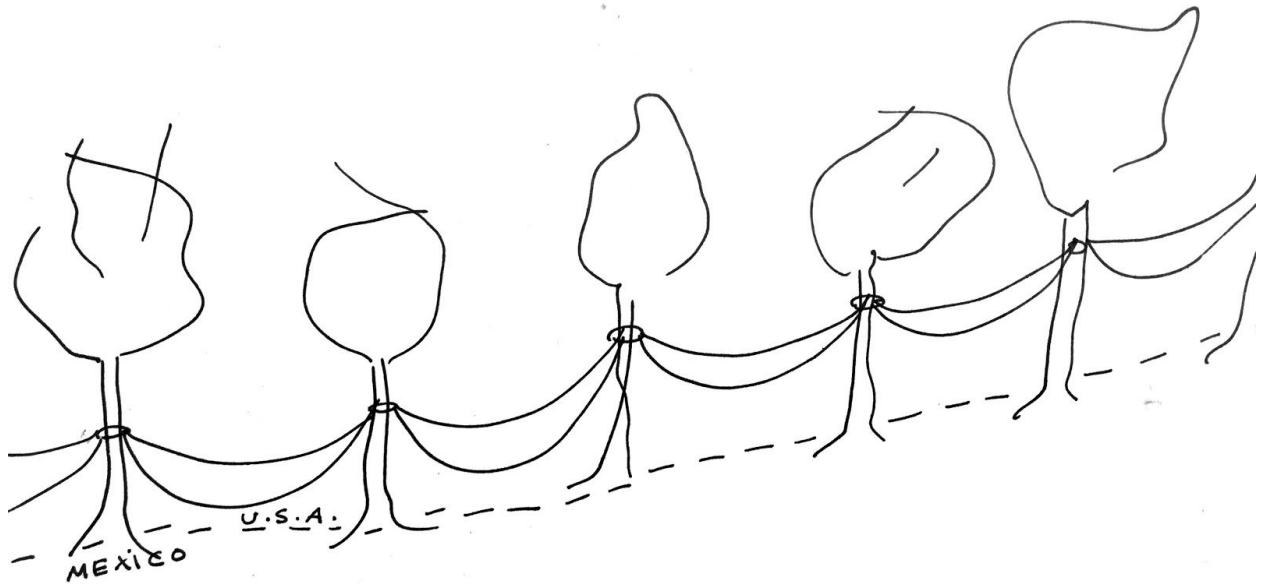
LP - Lead designer and director.

TB - Lead artist and designer.

We are a team of all-women creatives who have had experience working internationally on projects large and small for the past 30+ years. Combined we represent a diversity of talent and technique that is unmatched anywhere in the world. We are based in Pittsburgh, PA. Our work has been supported and celebrated by major foundations, organizations, and institutions. We have experience working, teaching and designing internationally and in a multicultural and multinational teams.

3) Prototype Concept Approach

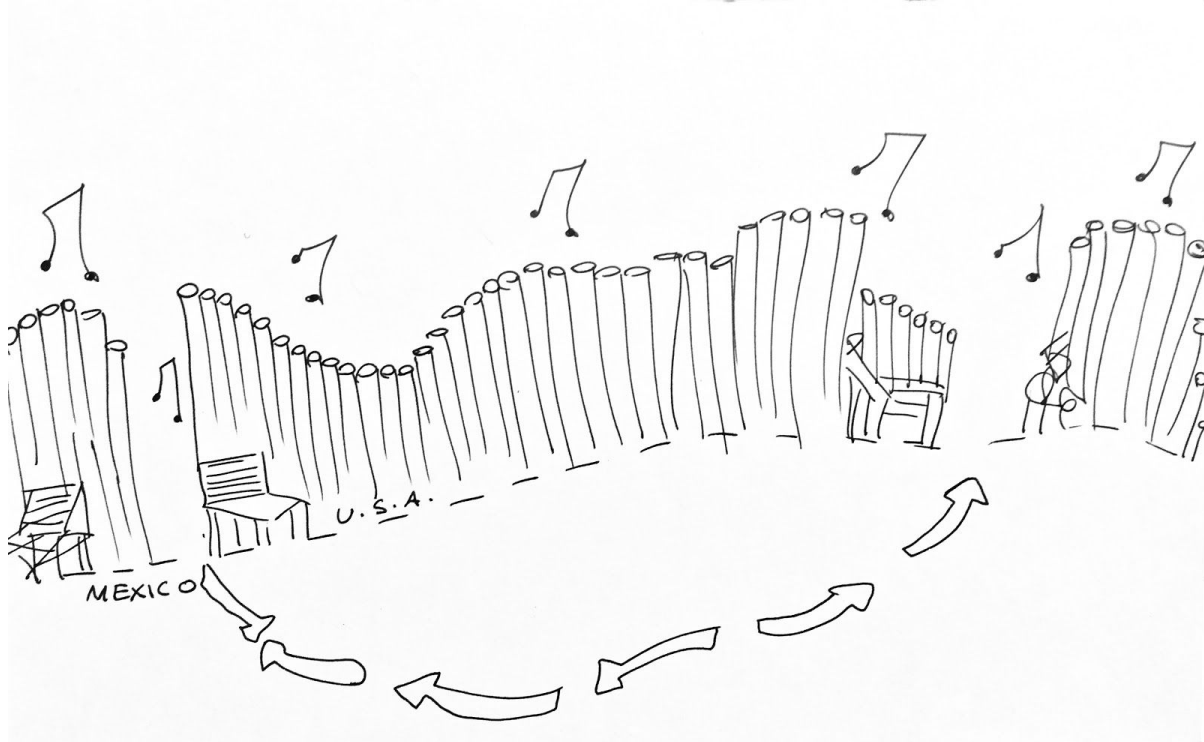
The following prototypes represent our vision and understanding of what this wall requires and entails. We understand the limitations of vision that many other design teams may present to the committee, and therefore find our proposal extremely important and relevant to consider. We understand that the wall is a construct for power, violence, and hostility, and are proposing ways to open this space up to invite other realms of thought and consideration. We would like you to deeply consider what we are presenting to you here, in the following 6 prototypes.



Prototype #1

A Wall of Hammocks

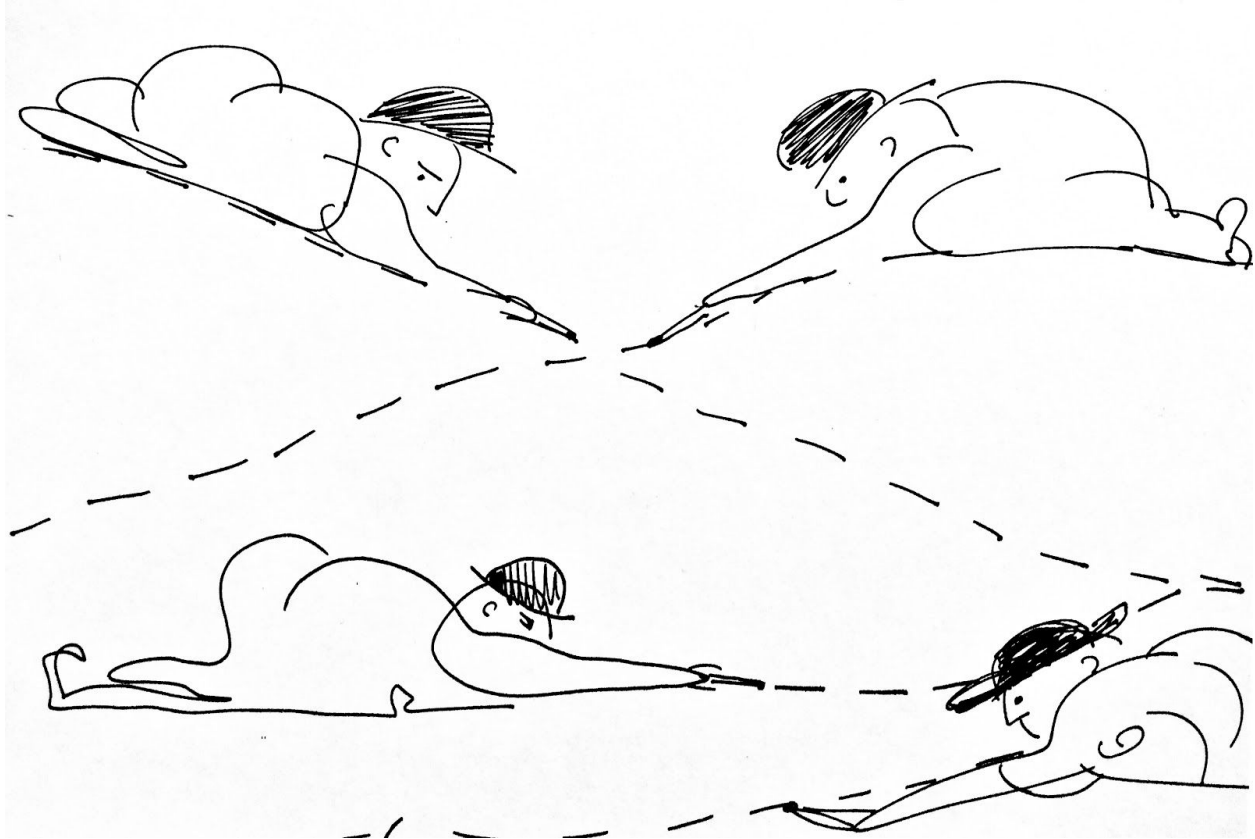
A continuous wall of nearly 3 million hammocks, strung together across the entire border with 30' Western White Pines between them for support. This is the tree of Peace. These hammocks are available for anyone's use - as a place to rest, relax, and dream. As a place to take refuge, recuperate, and move between the two countries with an ease usually only felt when on vacation. We envision this wall as a place of restoration, beauty, and friendship that celebrates, and advocates for, human rights and the end of prosecution for refugees fleeing oppressive and violent regimes.



Prototype #2

A Wall of Pipe Organs

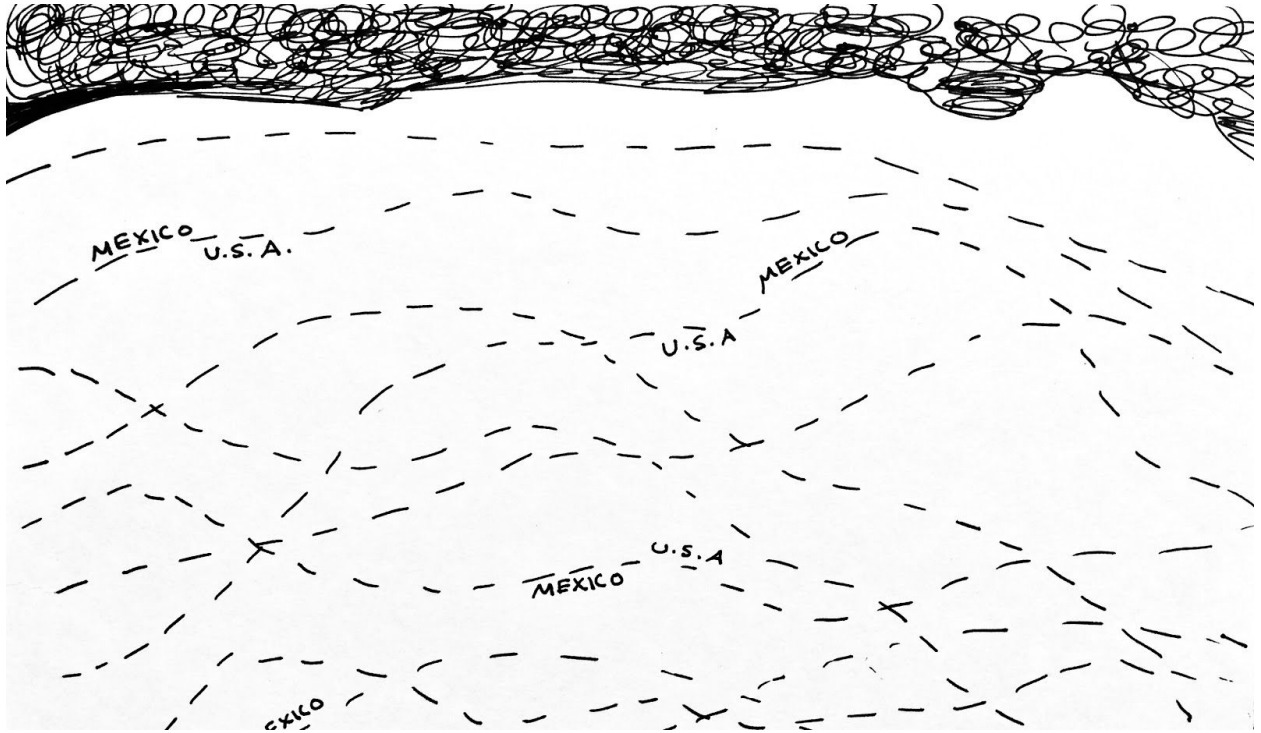
A semi-continuous wall of nearly 10 million pipe organs, in a line that follows the entire border. For the most part, these stand at approximately 30' high. Every 20' there is a opening, like an archway, which enables people from either side to walk through - but not before sitting down to play a quick (or long) tune on the organ. This is a wall of music, and the only requirement is that every person who passes through must spend at least two minutes playing the organs.



Prototype #3

A Wall of Artists Redrawing Borders

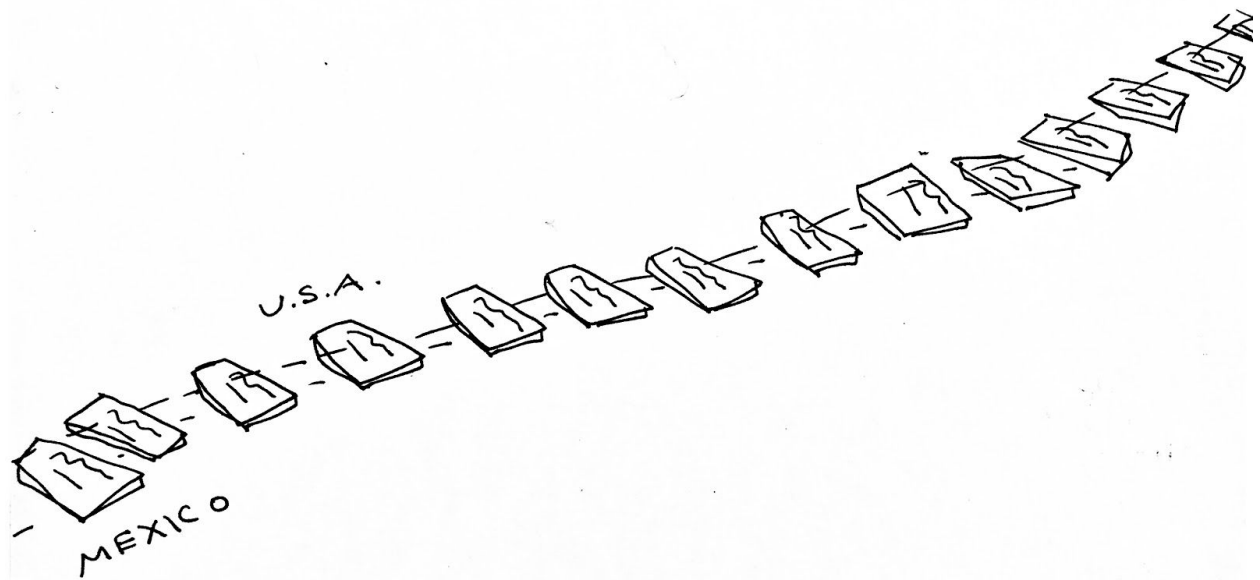
Where the border between Mexico and the United States currently exists, we propose to hire artists from Mexico and the US to redraw the border. In this proposal, the wall is human beings who draw directly onto the earth with a variety of interesting, non-toxic, colorful materials. We estimate there would be between 5-10,000 artists needed for this proposal. This provides stable income to many artists who are having a very difficult time right now making a living, as well as create a new attitude that advocates for the essential re-questioning of what borders mean and how they were formed initially. We would like to see this implemented at every border around the world.



Prototype #3

A Wall of Artists Redrawing Borders

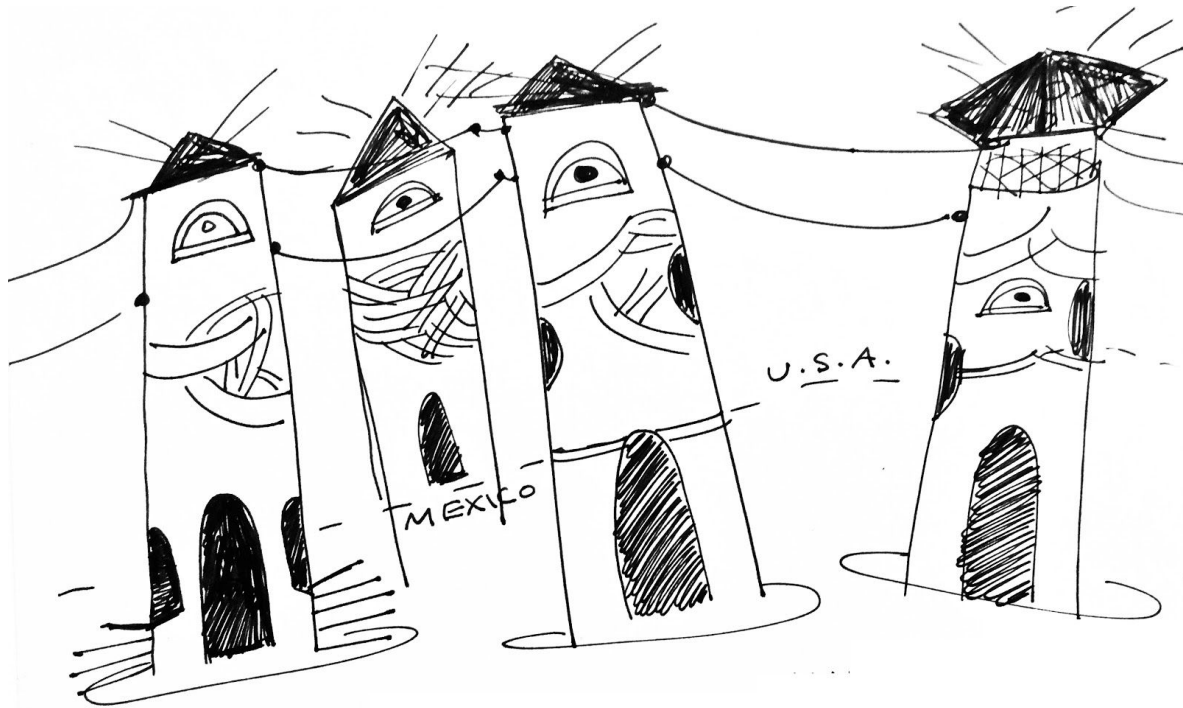
Another view of this prototype, as seen from above.



Prototype #4

A Wall of Gravestones for Migrants And Refugees (Memorial to Asylum)

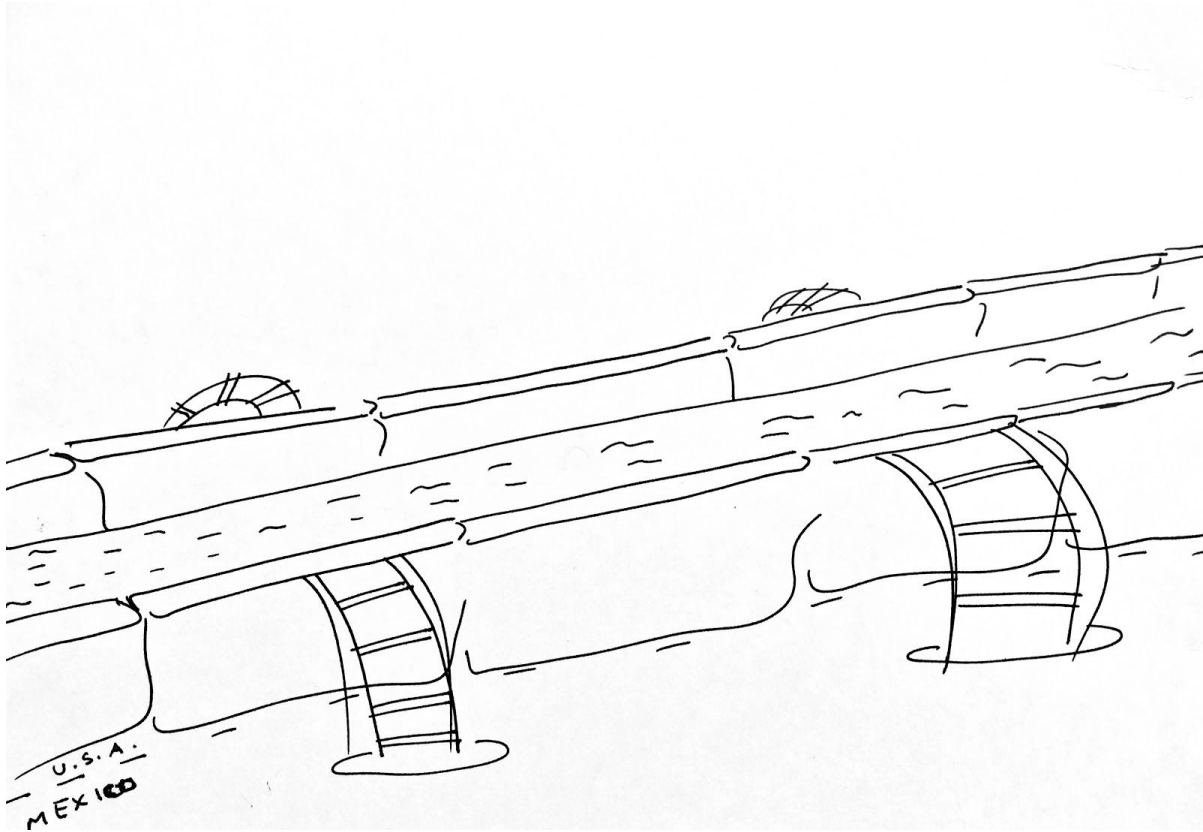
A collection of nearly 1 million gravestones will follow the entire border of the United States and Mexico. These will be simple gravestones, made out of available local stones, and the names on them will reflect those who have died trying to cross this border and all borders throughout the world in their quest for survival. These gravestones can be imagined towering 30' into the air, as the wall proposal specifies, by considering the ghosts of these incredibly strong, valiant, and brave human beings hovering just above each of the graves 30' high into the air. There they billow like sails, if you can only pause for a moment to consider the danger, terror, and horror they must have faced in trying to cross.



Prototype #5

A Wall of Lighthouses for the Border

We consider the border between Mexico and the United States a kind of terrifying, dangerous, and inhospitable place as it now stands today. It is much like the coast of a rugged, wild ocean that is covered in giant boulders. We propose to line the entire border with colorful, functional, and beautiful lighthouses. These are no ordinary lighthouses, they are lighthouses for the desert - they are meant to provide the safe guidance and benevolence to all who see them in their dangerous journeys and travels. These lighthouses will stand 30' in the air, as the wall has specified, and be painted in all manner of wonderful colors. The lights themselves will run on solar power, and the people who are the lighthouse keepers will be the refugees themselves who have had training to do this work. Therefore this wall is a form of employment, beauty, and functionality. These are the major ideas we like to stress in our design work.



Prototype #6

A Wall Of Clean Water

Imagine a wall of clean water along the US/Mexico border. This will provide respite, relief, nourishment, and a moment of relaxation to anyone who has just spent a series of terrifying days in the harsh, inhospitable desert that flanks the border. This wall belongs to everyone, of all ages. It is a welcoming sign from the US, and a welcoming sign from Mexico. It is a fluid wall, and signals a new era where borders are fluid, designed for a functionality that increases overall human well being and kindness. The water will be sourced from the Pacific and through a sophisticated desalination process, be clean enough to drink as it winds easily through the wall. This prototype embodies much of what our design studio aims to achieve.