

Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light

October 4, 2016 – April 1, 2017

Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light brings nine temporary art installations to public spaces in ten neighborhoods throughout the city. The project is a partnership among the City of Spartanburg Police and Community Relations Departments, internationally renowned light and digital media artist Erwin Redl, the Chapman Cultural Center, and neighborhood associations in the city of Spartanburg. *Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light* builds on *National Night Out*, an annual event that promotes crime prevention efforts, police-community partnership, and neighborhood camaraderie.

The City of Spartanburg was selected as one of four cities to participate as part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge, a new program to support temporary public art projects that celebrate creativity, enhance urban identity, encourage public-private partnerships, and drive economic development.

In late Fall 2015, artist Erwin Redl began collaborating with the city's police department and selected neighborhood associations to design and develop LED light installations that would transform open spaces and create safer, more vibrant neighborhoods.

More information about the project is available at our Visitor Center and on our website, seeingspartanburg.com

More about the artist Erwin Redl:

Through my work I explore the invisible. Through my process, I investigate the structures that govern what we perceive; the invisible behind the visible.

In the context of public art this means the artwork has to be immersed in the specific conditions of a site and its social circumstances. With the generous support of Bloomberg Philanthropies, art is able to take a leadership role in building community, placemaking and creating a unique identity through a series of aesthetic interventions.

Each of the nine projects that are a part of *Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light* is tailored to its specific environment and explores artistic opportunities through light-based installations.

This diversity of approaches and manifestations refer back to my interest in the invisible. Different structures lead to different aesthetic explorations and community engagement possibilities. I would like to thank the citizens of Spartanburg. They have been inspirational collaborators in this process.

Artist's bio:

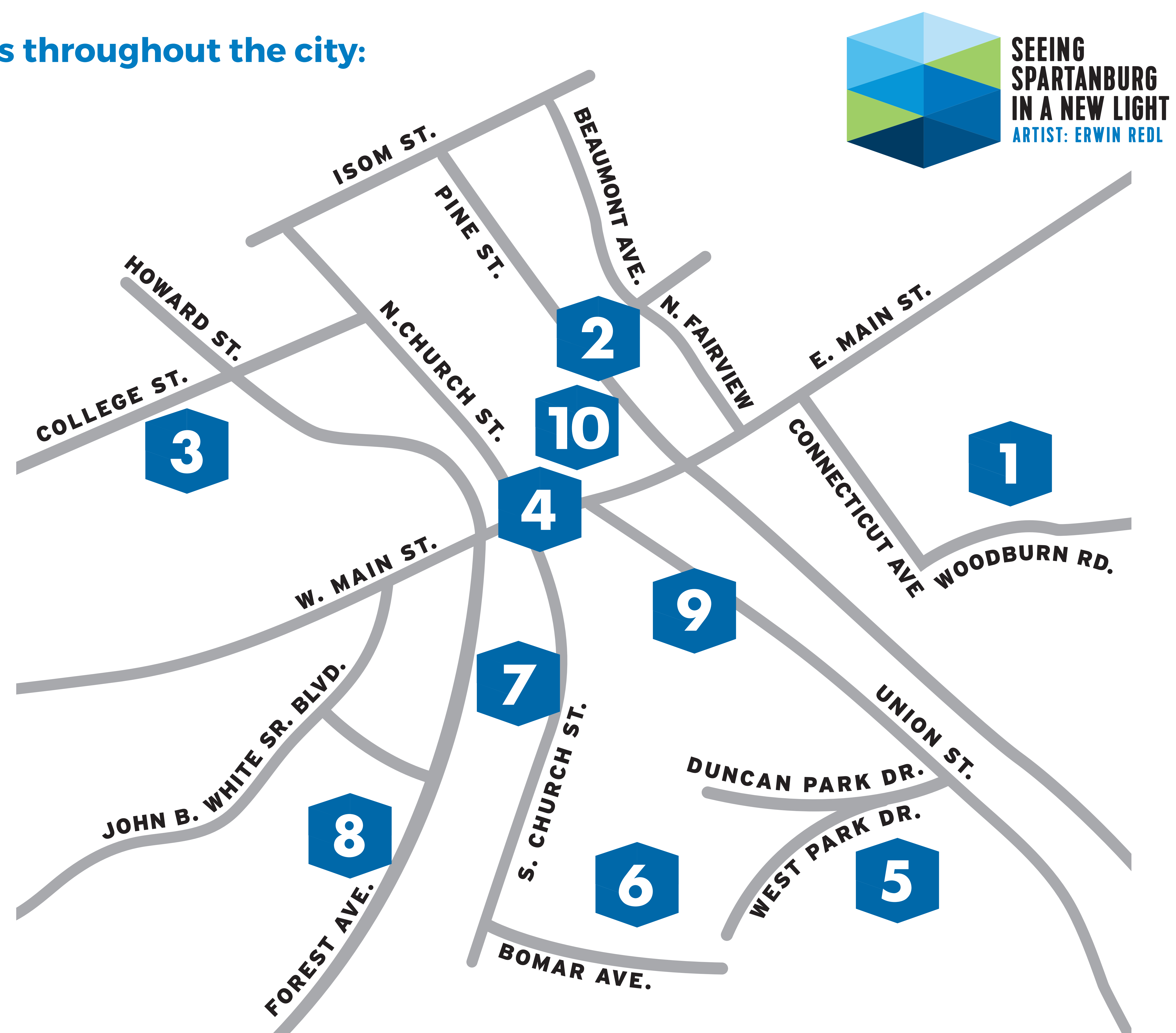
Born in Austria in 1963, Erwin Redl finished his studies at the Vienna Music Academy with two degrees, a BA in Composition and BA in Electronic Music. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for graduate studies in computer art at the School of Visual Arts, in New York City. Redl is inspired by virtual reality and 3D computer modeling and applies it to the real world through his large-scale light installations.

Redl's work is owned by prestigious national and international institutions, among them the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; the Milwaukee Art Museum; and Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul; as well as by private collectors.

ARTIST'S WEBSITE: www.paramedia.net

Artwork is installed in these neighborhoods throughout the city:

- 1 Andrews Farm and Converse Heights - Cottonwood Trail: *"River Poetry"*
401 Beechwood Drive 29302
- 2 Beaumont - Smokestacks: *"Glow"*
201 Beaumont Ave. 29303
- 3 Northside - Smokestacks: *"Glow"*
200 College St. 29303
- 4 Downtown - *"Mobile Suspension"*
203 E. Main St. 29306
- 5 Duncan Park and Maxwell Hills - Duncan Park Lake: *"Islands of Light"*
293 West Park Dr 29306
- 6 Forest Park - CC Woodson Recreation Center: *"Benchmark Spartanburg"*
210 Bomar Ave 29306
- 7 Hampton Heights - National Beta: *"Spartanburg Swing"*
267 S. Spring Street 29306
- 8 Highland - Cammie Clagget Courts: *"Video Village"*
317 Highland Avenue 29306
- 9 South Converse - Picnic Shelter: *"Under One Roof"*
440 S. Converse St. 29306
- 10 Visitor Center - Chapman Cultural Center
200 E. St. John St. 29306



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Maxwell Hills

Duncan Park Lake: *Islands of Light*

The artist Erwin Redl explores the fertile intersection of art, nature, and technology with this installation of eight floating islands recalling the image of cattails or reeds swaying with the breeze in an aquatic environment. The scale of the site was particularly interesting to the artist, as it allowed for interactions among water, wind, and sky in addition to light and reflection.

The logistical challenges of the project were first taken on by students from Daniel Morgan Technology Center. After meeting with Redl and an engineer, these young technicians created a working prototype, which became the blueprint for the finished islands. A local dock builder was engaged to install these floating light-topped structures. The local waterfowl have officially adopted these islands of light.



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