

FLATIRON NOMAD

TO: Qualified Metro NYC Fabrication Firms

FROM: Jane Rossman, Director of Planning (jrossman@flatironnomad.nyc)

SUBJECT: Request for Quotes - Fabrication & Installation: *The Machine of Unknowing*
by HAQUE TAN

DATE: 1/22/2026

CC: James Mettham, Kurt Cavanaugh, Claudia Rincon, John Considine, Peter Steiner, Angelos Kontos

RFQ – FABRICATION

The [Flatiron NoMad Partnership](#) (“the Partnership”) is releasing a Request for Quotes (RFQ) to metro NYC fabrication studios to build, transport, connect, maintain, deinstall, and remove *The Machine of Unknowing*, an interactive public art installation designed by UK-based firm HAQUE TAN, in the Flatiron South Public Plaza, located on Broadway between East 22nd and East 23rd Streets, in the summer of 2026. **The installation goal date is mid-August 2026 through September 2026.**

Project description, Dimensions & Technical Requirements

The *Machine of Unknowing* by HAQUE TAN is a temporary outdoor public artwork scheduled for a six-week exhibition period from mid-August through September 2026. The artwork consists of a 20’ x 20’ immersive interactive structure that will be installed on Flatiron South Plaza, adjacent to the Flatiron Building.

The interactive structure (see attached drawings) is formed from sixteen stainless steel posts distributed on a four-by-four grid, 4’ apart (each post to be 12’ tall, 4”x4” section) all mounted on a robust floor structure clad in decking capable of supporting several thousand visitors over a six-week operation period, with appropriate safety ramp edges. On each post will be mounted 4 individually actuated ‘fog’ nozzles (for a total of 64 individually actuated fog nozzles) that together can trigger a wide range of three-dimensional fog shapes. RGB lights (provided by others) will be mounted on the four corner posts, and two microphones & four speakers (provided by others) will be mounted on the four inner posts. The fog system should be able to actuate from 1 to 16

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nozzles at a time for a period of three to five seconds, before changing configuration to produce a wide range of three-dimensional, slowly animated shapes and forms.

This structure will utilize existing electrical infrastructure located on the South Plaza and in the Flatiron Plate food kiosk.

Firms are asked to consider the following when responding to this RFQ:

- Quote to fabricate the interactive structure, including posts, flooring, fog delivery system, water management system, and control system housing (computer-control system, RGB lights, and audio equipment to be provided by others). The structure should be able to perform in all weather conditions, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a six-week period. See Parts & Materials list below.
- Quote shall include costs to transport and install the structure on the Flatiron South Plaza, costs to secure a signed and sealed letter certifying structural integrity by a licensed NYS engineer, and costs to provide indemnification and insurance (GL of at least \$3M and Umbrella Liability \$5M).
- Quote shall also include a full dry-run assembly of the piece off site at the fabricator's studio.
- Firms will also need to make timely repairs or adjustments as needed during the installation period and operational period (including storage of replacement parts); quote shall also include de-installation and removal of the installation at the end of the operation period.

Parts & Materials

- FLOOR: 16ft x 16ft @ approx. 4" Tall, clad in decking, including adjustable leveling feet. Each side shall have a ramp to avoid tripping hazards.
- POSTS: 4x4 grid of 16 steel posts (4"x4" @ 12ft tall) with 4 fog nozzles and ports each
- AV ATTACHMENTS: 4 attachments for RGB lights and 4 attachments for combo mic & speaker units (lights and AV equipment to be provided by others)
- FOG AND WATER SYSTEM: 64 individually controlled fog nozzles via 64 solenoid actuated valves, pump, tubes, manifolds, 750-gallon water tank



- CONTROL SYSTEM HOUSING: Securable weatherproof box to house and protect computer, pump, control system, and audio equipment
- MISCELLANEOUS: floor protection from control system housing for electric and water delivery (cord cover ramps)

Note: Control system will be provided by others, expected to consist of a computer-controlled interface that will drive the 64 individually controlled fog solenoid valves and nozzles in FOG AND WATER SYSTEM above, as well as the audio equipment mounted on the posts (also provided by others).

Qualified firms are asked to respond with an itemized quote to Jane Rossman, Director of Planning & Public Space Management (jrossman@flatironnomad.nyc), and HAQUE TAN (hello@haquetan.com) no later than Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 5PM EST. Questions may be submitted to the email addresses above through Friday, January 30, 2026 (5PM EST) and responses will be posted by 5PM EST Monday, February 2, 2026.

HAQUE TAN

DESIGN FOR SHARED FUTURES

創造許多共同的未來

CONCEVOIR POUR DES FUTURS PARTAGÉ

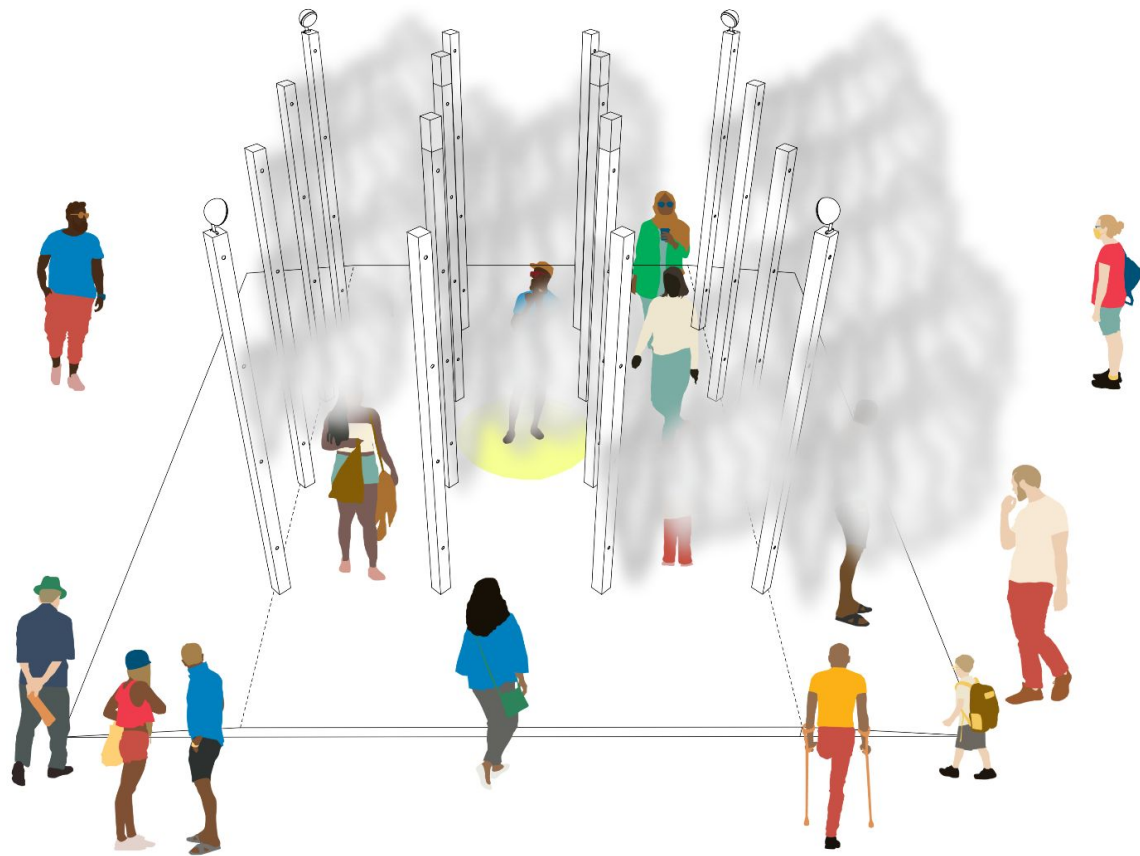
نئی/اریڈ سے مل سکتے ہوئے ملحقہ مستقبل

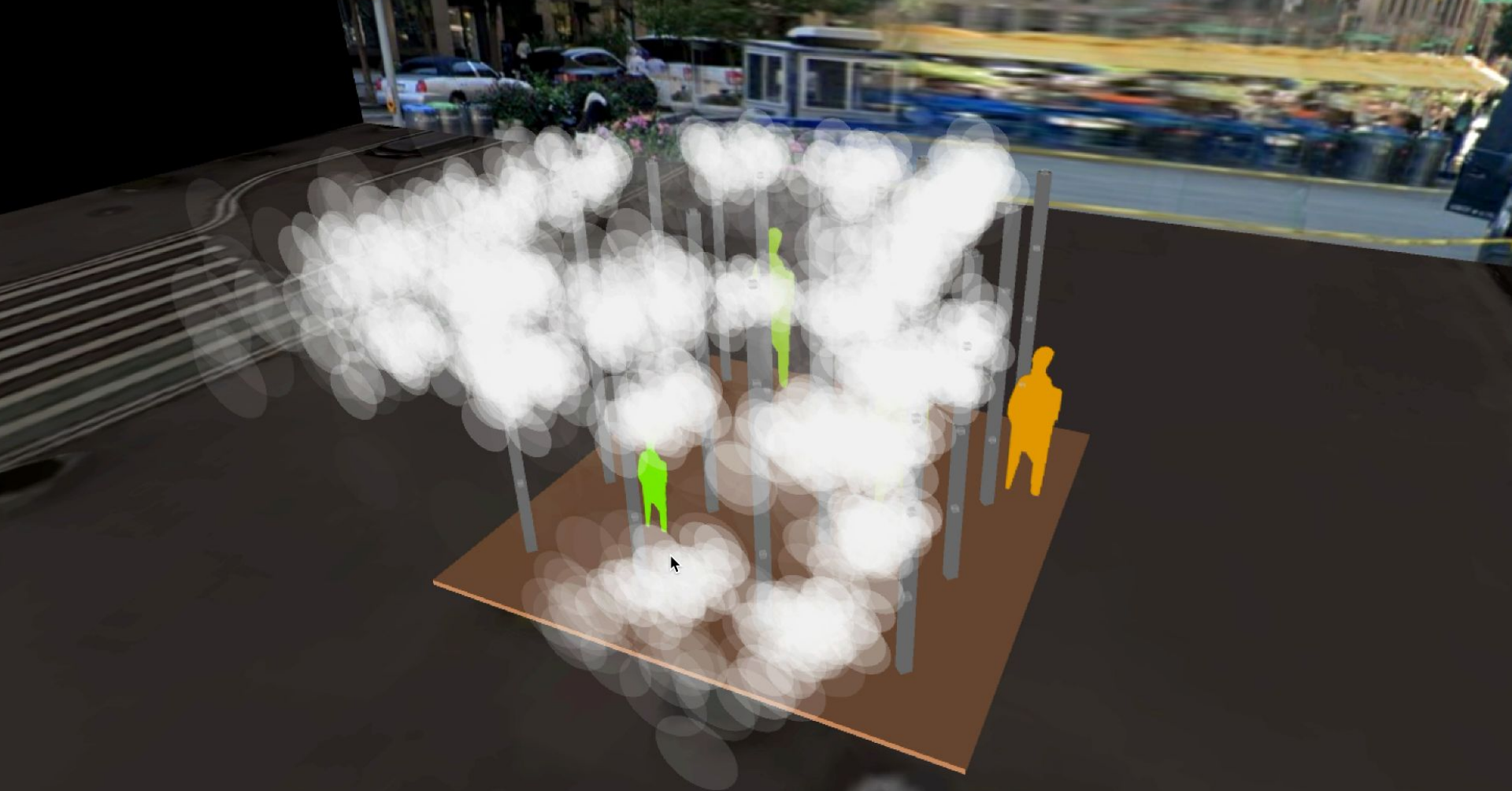
DISEÑO PARA FUTUROS COMPARTIDOS

共有される様々な未来のためのデザイン

Flatiron NoMad Public Space Commission 2026

Additional Material





23rd Street

CROSSWALK

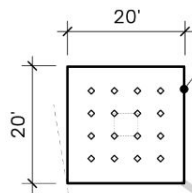
MACHINE OF UNKNOWING

POWER/DATA/WATER

EXISTING KIOSK

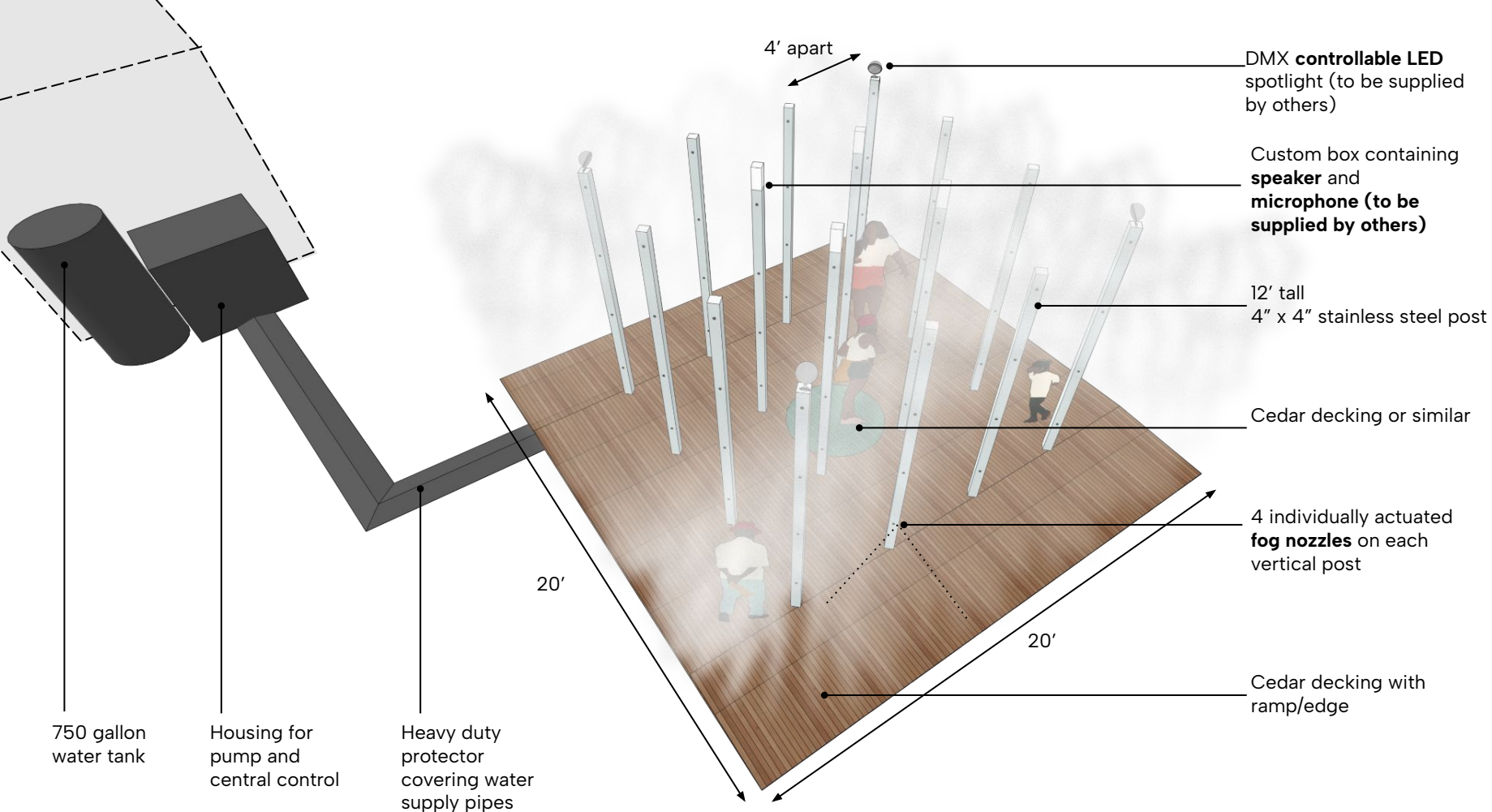
WATER TANK

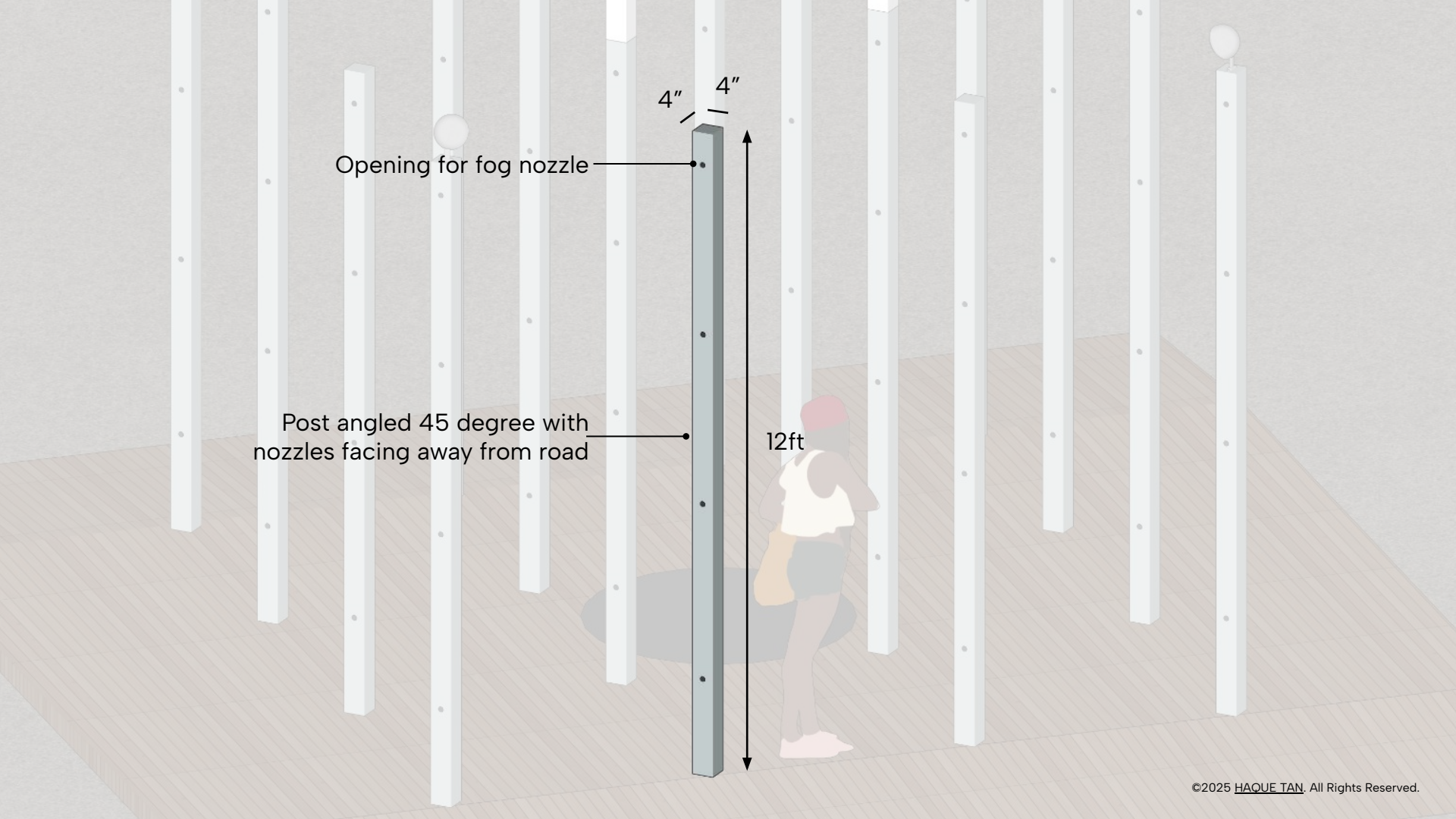
CONTROL BOX



Flatiron Building

Broadway





Opening for fog nozzle

Post angled 45 degree with
nozzles facing away from road

12ft