

Seattle City Light presents

Sonic Bloom at the Pacific Science Center



Contents

Introduction	3
Top 3 goals of the project	5
About Green Up	5
How Sonic Bloom works	6
About the artist: Dan Corson	9
Project press	10

Sonic Bloom interactive art project educates the public about solar energy

In partnership with the Pacific Science Center, Seattle City Light's Green Up program commissioned local artist Dan Corson to create Sonic Bloom. Five sculpted flowers standing up to three stories tall now greet visitors to the Pacific Science Center and Seattle Center with a creative lesson on renewable energy. The project was launched August 14, 2013.





Top 3 goals of the project

- Demonstrate, in a creative way, how solar works in Seattle. Solar panels built into the artwork and atop the science center will generate enough electricity to power its sound interactions and light it at night.
- Celebrate the partnership between Seattle City Light and Pacific Science Center. City Light's Green Up renewable energy program is funding the installation as a renewable energy demonstration project. Pacific Science Center is hosting the art and will incorporate it into educational programs they offer.
- Invite the public to experience Sonic Bloom as a work of art and an opportunity to learn about solar.

About Green Up

Green Up is Seattle City Light's voluntary green power program for residential and business customers. By enrolling in Green Up, customers help support new green power generation in our region and demonstration projects throughout our service area to raise awareness of innovative, clean energy options. Institutional partners including the Pacific Science Center, Woodland Park Zoo, University of Washington, Seattle Parks and others, expand and leverage opportunities to spread the message about renewable energy. Choosing green power reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, improves air quality and helps reduce the growth of climate-warming emissions.

The Green Up program is Green-e Energy certified and fulfills LEED™ Project green power requirements. Through Green Up you may also purchase green power for your organization's event.

How Sonic Bloom works

In the playful context of Seattle Center’s festival grounds, Sonic Bloom is a permanent interactive art installation at the foot of Seattle’s Space Needle and a defining entry sculpture to the Pacific Science Center. 5 giant solar flowers absorb the sun’s energy and express it at night with patterned LED lighting and in the daytime with a chorus of interactive harmonic tones triggered by people’s movement around each flower. The striped stalks are also massive barcodes that allow inquisitive types to decode the supersized puzzle.

The specs

17 local fabricating companies worked with artist Dan Corson to create this project.

Components of the project include:

- 5 flowers: 20' diameter and up to 40' tall
- Steel
- Fiberglass
- 270 custom solar panels
- LEDs
- Sensors
- Interactive sound system
- Energy data monitoring

“Sonic Bloom is one way Pacific Science Center is bringing the science of sustainability to our community to help us understand options leading us to a healthier future for our planet. By bringing art, science and education together, this project will be a teaching tool and source of inspiration for all ages for years to come”

— Bryce Seidl
Pacific Science Center, President and CEO





About the artist: Dan Corson

Dan Corson's Artwork straddles the disciplines of Art, Theatrical Design, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and sometimes even Magic. His projects have ranged from complex rail stations and busy public intersections to quiet interpretive buildings, meditation chambers and galleries.

He is an award-winning public artist and sculptor who served as Seattle City Light's first Artist-in-Residence for the City of Seattle's % for Arts program in 2001. He holds a MFA in sculpture from the University of Washington, was a Skowhegan Scholar at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and a Pilchuck Scholar at the Pilchuck Glass School. Among numerous projects locally and nationally, he has created "Wave Rave Cave" under the Alaskan Way viaduct for City Light, the "Rain Drum Courtyard" at the Cedar River Watershed Visitors Center in North Bend WA for SPU and a number of projects for Sound Transit including the green and black striped "Safety Spires" at the ST Maintenance Facility.

"It was exciting to be able to sculpturally showcase solar generation in a more unique and playful way that goes beyond standard rooftop installations. While we can't actually see electricity, we can see the effects of it through these dynamic flowers both day and night," artist Dan Corson said. "Working with Pacific Science Center and Seattle City Light allowed me to continue my exploration of green design and new technologies and how these tools can frame and amplify the natural world and our shifting relationship to it."

Project press

Click on the **bolded** titles to go to the stories.

August 14, 2013

NPR/KPLU

'Sonic Bloom' Showcasing Solar Power at Seattle Center

August 14, 2013

Seattle Times

Science Center 'Flowers' Bloom at Night, Thanks to Solar Power

August 16, 2013

Runta: NW Somali News

New Art Project Unveiled to Educate Public About Solar Energy

August 22, 2013

Design Boom

Dan Corson's Solar Powered Flower Installation: Sonic Bloom

August 23, 2013

Grist

These Giant Singing Flowers Are Also Creating Solar Power

August 26, 2013

Clean Technica

Seattle's Renewable Flower Power; Solar-Powered Flower Installation Sonic Bloom

August 26, 2013

CNN.com from an iReporter's photo

Seattle Space Needle "Sonic Bloom"

August 30, 2013

Express

Top 10 Reasons to Visit Seattle

September 18, 2013

smithsonianmag.com

Sonic Bloom! A New Solar-Powered Sculpture

Pacific Science Center photos

“Solar energy is part of the future of sustainable energy here in Seattle. This is a creative way to engage people in a conversation about renewable energy and climate change.”

— Mike McGinn
Seattle Mayor



Thank you!