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BNA: A \$900K hanging sculpture and a new mini-concourse among airport changes coming soon

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Editor's note: An earlier version of this story listed the incorrect price of the \$900,000 hanging sculpture



Newest renderings from BNA of the \$900,000 hanging fiberglass sculpture for the new airport terminal under construction. February 2022

The threads connecting Nashville International Airport's artistic redesign reflect the state's peaceful rolling hillsides, its tranquil glimmering rivers and, of course, popular country music.

There's even a reference book outlining Tennessee's most beautiful features for the designers and architects recreating the expanding 1987-era terminal.

The terminal centerpiece will be a \$900,000 shimmering hanging sculpture made of 8,000 fiberglass rods that mimic the many colors of the Tennessee sky and clouds.



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"Placemaking and calming," BNA President Doug Kreulen said, of the aesthetic inspiration. "We have a design guide that shows the state from the coast of Memphis to the Smokies to the Cumberland. We're proud of what we're doing."

The sculpture will hang from a new, taller wooden roof held firm with massive steel beams that have already been installed. It will fan out over escalators and a suspended walkway that will accommodate passengers entering from the parking garage.

The airport is booming with more business than ever before, following the intense year-long business lull due to COVID-19 protocols.

"We're at 18 million passengers and going to 30 million passengers by 2041," Kreulen said.

Artist Jacob Hashimoto is now completing the massive hanging sculpture, which he describes as a "sweeping, cloud-like suspended landscape that drifts elegantly out of the space as it traverses the central escalators."

Hashimoto was chosen over 70 other artists who bid on the project. It will be the largest sculpture in the state, Kreulen said.

"The ambition of the artwork is to be beautiful, sublime, and meditative," Hashimoto said, in a statement. "It will recognize and celebrate a sense of place, both ecologically and culturally. It will be, I hope, a captivating, courageous, and spectacularly poetic gesture that can offer a quiet moment of grace, a moment of reflection and recognition for those who are beginning a journey or those who are coming back home."