

= Pod (sculpture) =

Pod is the name of a 2002 modern sculpture by American artist Pete Beeman , currently installed at Southwest 10th Avenue and West Burnside Street in downtown Portland , Oregon . The 30 @-@ foot sculpture , intended to represent the " infrastructure , energy , and vibrancy of Portland " , is supported by its static tripod base with a 15 @-@ foot diameter . It is constructed from stainless steel , galvanized steel , bronze , titanium , lead and other materials . Pod was fabricated by Beeman and David Bermudez , and engineered by Beeman and Peterson Structural Engineers . It is considered interactive and kinetic , with a central , vertical pendulum that swings back and forth when pushed . The sculpture cost as much as \$ 50 @,@ 000 and was funded by the Portland Streetcar Project . Pod is part of the City of Portland and Multnomah County Public Art Collection courtesy of the Regional Arts & Culture Council .

= = Description and history = =

Pod was designed by native Portland resident Pete Beeman as a public art project for the Portland Streetcar . According to Beeman and the Regional Arts & Culture Council , the modern sculpture is designed to represent the " infrastructure , energy , and vibrancy of Portland " . Of the work 's design , Beeman said :

" I was thinking about how Portland is designed and planned and built , and how the planning and infrastructure of Portland is really important in what makes Portland great . I was thinking of the static tripod as the infrastructure . The moving part was the vibrancy and life . " " The most interesting part of the sculpture will be watching people try to move it . "

Pod is constructed from stainless steel , galvanized steel , bronze , titanium , lead , plastic and rubber . The 30 @-@ foot sculpture is supported by its static tripod base with a 14- to 15 @-@ foot diameter . Each of the three " legs " , cut to size by BBC Steel , stand 14 @-@ feet tall and are grounded by two cubic yards of cement . The central pendulum structure consists of 73 titanium rods ; each of these connects to a " star fruit " -shaped bronze bulb at the base of the pendulum . Pod was fabricated by Beeman and David Bermudez , and engineered by Beeman and Peterson Structural Engineers . The work is considered interactive and kinetic ; the central , vertical pendulum swings back and forth when pushed . The upper and lower parts of the pendulum " swing and flex in different rhythms , affecting each other " until returning to a resting position . Pod cost \$ 40 @,@ 000 ? \$ 50 @,@ 000 and was funded by the Portland Streetcar Project .

The sculpture was installed at a triangular traffic island at a " busy " street intersection (Southwest 10th Avenue and West Burnside Street) in downtown Portland in November 2002 . In 2003 , Pod was included in a walking tour by the Americans for the Arts Public Art Conference . It was cleaned and underwent maintenance for approximately two weeks in August 2010 . Dual Pendulum (2000) , Beeman 's kinetic prototype of Pod , was installed at Oregon State University for Da Vinci Days in 2007 .

= = Reception = =

In 2002 , D.K. Row of The Oregonian called Pod a " complex , funny piece " , comparing it to a " mechanical spider with an unlikely spine sticking in the air " . Row said the sculpture evoked the curves of sculptor Richard Serra and design style of architect Frank Gehry . Michael Powell , owner of Powell 's City of Books (located across the street from Pod) , called the sculpture " wonderful " . Pod has been compared to a scrotum and has even been referred to as " Satan 's Testicle " and " The Nutsack " .