



Title: ***Triple Blome***, 2014

Location: Swope Soccer Village, 63rd and Lewis Rd.

Artist : Jake Balcom/Mettle Design

Media: steel, stainless steel

Most people probably don't think much about a soccer ball beyond hoping to kick it into a goal. Leave it to local artist/designer Jake Balcom to recognize that, in geometric terms, the unique shape and construction of a soccer ball is called a *Truncated Icosahedron* and, more importantly, it provides wonderful opportunities to create a myriad of sculptural shapes. (The famous architect/designer Buckminster Fuller also used this geometric form as the base of his geodesic domes or, as they're better known, "Bucky Balls.")

As part of his proposal to the artist selection panel, Jake explained the elegantly simple geometry of the soccer ball and how he planned to reconfigure it into three distinct metal sculptures mounted atop ten foot tall poles to enhance the plaza area adjacent to the four soccer fields east of Lewis Road in the new Swope Park Soccer Village. The artist selection panel liked the idea of using a soccer ball as a base form and appreciated how Jake planned to create an iconic installation of three sculptures nestled within the bustling soccer environment.

Jake worked closely with City staff from the Municipal Art Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, and Sporting KC to develop his ideas and determine the best location for the sculptures. All agree that people will enjoy seeing the artwork and the shadows that will pass daily across the plaza. *Triple Blome* will serve as a natural meeting place for the parents and children who'll activate the site.

The local artist for this one percent for art project was selected through a competition by a panel comprising stakeholders, citizens, city staff, and arts professionals. As required by the City's one percent for art ordinance, one percent of the building facility project's construction budget was set aside for artwork.

