

Leafy Wader Public Art
Sound Transit Federal Way Link Extension
 Federal Way, Washington



The Project

As part of Sound Transit's Federal Way Link Extension public art program, artist Donald Lipski created *LEAFY WADER*, a two-story illuminated Tiffany-style lamp for the new Downtown Federal Way Station in Washington state. The artwork was commissioned through Sound Transit's SStart program, which creates places within transit facilities that reflect surrounding communities, their values, and a shared sense of belonging.

The title *LEAFY WADER*, an anagram of "Federal Way," reflects the artist's site-specific approach while honoring the Pacific Northwest's legacy as a center of contemporary American glass art.

Inspired by historic Tiffany stained glass, the illuminated sculpture serves as a welcoming beacon for riders, visitors, and the Federal Way community, and represents Lipski's first outdoor public work made primarily from glass.

FEATURED PRODUCTS	Alice® Direct-to-Glass Printing, Laminated Glass, Pearl™ Satin Etched Glass
COMMISSIONED BY	Sound Transit art program (SStart)
ARTIST	Donald Lipski
PROJECT MANAGEMENT FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION	Public Art Services Elmendorf/Geurts
GLAZING CONTRACTOR	All Star Glass Denver
YEAR COMPLETED	2025

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The Challenge

As a permanent exterior public art installation, *LEAFY WADER* required a custom glass configuration that could withstand demanding outdoor transit conditions while preserving the artist's visual intent. The illuminated Tiffany-style lampshade needed to emulate the richness, color variation, and handcrafted character of historic stained glass.

Additionally, the decorative glass needed to remain colorfast and stand the test of time. Exposed to sunlight, moisture, temperature fluctuations, and weathering 24/7, the custom glass panels had to maintain the desired color intensity, light transmission, and visual depth while meeting the long-term durability requirements of an exterior public artwork.

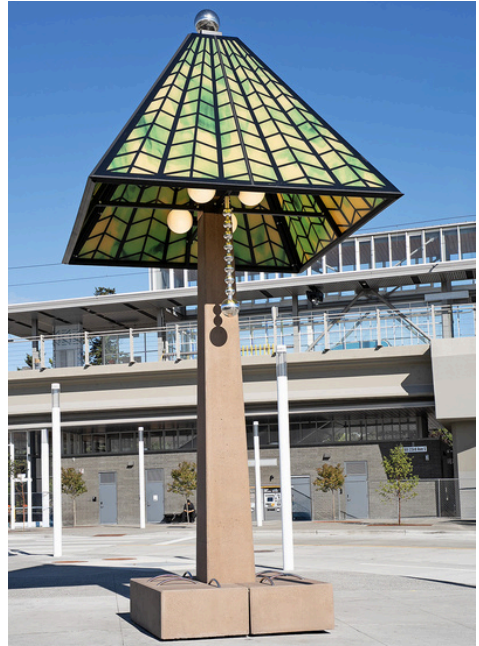
The Solution

GGI collaborated with John Grant, principal of Public Art Services, for over two years to translate the artist's Tiffany-style design intent into a durable exterior glass application.

GGI fabricated eight oversized decorative laminated glass lites for the illuminated lampshade feature. Each trapezoidal panel measured approximately 8 feet tall and nearly 5 feet wide at its largest point, with the total decorative glass scope measuring approximately 190 to 200 square feet.

Each panel was fabricated using one lite of 10mm (3/8-inch) low-iron glass and one lite of Pearl™ Low Iron Ultra satin-etched glass, laminated with a .060 SentryGlas® ionoplast interlayer for added structural integrity, durability, and exterior performance.

Alice® direct-to-glass printing was applied to surfaces #1 and #3 to create layered color, depth, and the visual character of historic Tiffany-style stained glass. The Pearl™ satin-etched glass helped diffuse the internal lighting, giving the completed shade its warm illuminated effect.



The Outcome

The completed 22'0" tall *LEAFY WADER* installation combines a concrete column and bench, stainless steel framework, lighting components, and GGI's custom decorative laminated glass into a permanent illuminated public artwork.

As part of Sound Transit's STart program, the sculpture helps create a welcoming station experience that reflects the spirit and identity of the Federal Way community while giving riders a stronger sense of connection and belonging.

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The Artist

Donald Lipski is an internationally recognized artist known for large-scale public art installations that combine humor, imagination, and technical complexity. Born in Chicago in 1947, Lipski earned a bachelor's degree in American history from the University of Wisconsin–Madison before earning a Master of Fine Arts degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art. His work is represented in major museum collections, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Art Institute of Chicago.

In recent decades, Lipski has focused on public art commissions that transform familiar objects into memorable civic landmarks. Notable works include *The Yearling* in Denver, *Sirshasana* at Grand Central Terminal in New York, and *F.I.S.H.* along the San Antonio River Walk. Although he has worked with glass for five decades, the *LEAFY WADER* installation at Federal Way Station marks his first outdoor public artwork constructed primarily of glass.

The Installation

Fabricating and installing *LEAFY WADER* required close coordination between the artist, project manager, public art studio, glass fabricator and glazing team. The 22-foot-tall artwork was designed as an illuminated Tiffany-style lamp structure, combining a concrete column and bench, stainless steel framework, lighting components, and custom decorative laminated glass.

Artist Donald Lipski collaborated with John Grant of Public Art Services, who managed the project from production through installation. Grant sourced the custom glass from GGI and coordinated with Elmendorf/Geurts, All Star Glass, and GGI to align the structural, glazing, and visual requirements.

