In keeping with the spirit of the public square as a venue for public dialogue, “Stand Tall, Stand Loud” stands as a symbol for positive social change. My hopes are for it to generate the type of dialogue that will help people to recognize the common ground of decency and respect that we all stand on. As an instrument for social cohesion, at its location on Site 6, it will serve as a reminder to the diverse flow of visitors that we each should encourage and strive to make tolerance and understanding a daily minimum requirement.

As well as supporting the narrative in an artistic and engaging way, the elements that compose “Stand Tall, Stand Loud” were chosen because as graphic shapes their iconic recognition would challenge the viewers sense of familiarity while inviting investigation.

The NOOSE: In this context it is the embodiment of all forms of hate found in society. Hatred directed towards LGBT communities, religious communities, racial and ethnic communities. Hatred manifested by corrupt members of police departments and corrupt governments as well as hatred manifested by bullies and egocentric politicians.

The SYMBOL: A globally recognized symbol, here representing zero tolerance for any and all manifestations of hatred.

The WIND TURBINE: A metaphorical heart for the engine of justice that governs the moral compass of our society.

The HANDS: The hands of tolerance.

The TORSOS: An intersection of humanity and diversity unified against hate.

The QUOTE: (Dr. Martin Luther King) An inspiration for creating “Stand Tall, Stand Loud”. Individually and collectively we are an empowered people who can make a positive difference, and there are times when we need to stand tall, stand loud.