



# SWEET CONTENTS + UNDER WRAPS

**Randy Walker**

April 2018 – June 2019

**Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal**

32° 41' 57.192" N 117° 9' 25.128" W

**National City Marine Terminal**

32° 38' 58.4196" N 117° 6' 46.6596" W 04

Commissioned by  
Waterfront Arts & Activation  
Port of San Diego

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A forward by Yvonne Wise

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National City Marine Terminal

20-33









# SWEET CONTENTS + UNDER WRAPS



This publication memorializes Sweet Contents and Under Wraps, a dual site-specific installation by artist Randy Walker, commissioned through the Port of San Diego's Port Spaces curatorial program. This program aims to provide the public with experimental temporary art installations and social interventions throughout Port tidelands.

From April 2018 to June 2019, Walker activated two of the Port's operating marine terminals: the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal in San Diego and the National City Marine Terminal in National City. Walker was tasked with activating the two marine terminals by responding to the existing industrial structures and tools that make up the identity of the site.







Known as a fiber artist, Walker is interested in engaging spaces to reveal some underlying structure or dimension.

“A large part of my practice has been about transforming existing objects or found spaces. In looking at material, in this case fiber, it was particularly relevant to this project because it was developed to use in marine applications, so there is a connection there with the maritime environment.”

At both sites, Walker uses large spools of colorful fiber, a signature material he has used throughout his career. Responding to existing architectural structures and objects, Walker invents novel ways of hanging, tethering and binding the material, transforming the physical nature of the industrial

landscape. These two site-specific interventions act as a sculptural diptych — separated by space but connected through their material gesture.

The artworks serve as pop-up creative encounters for the local communities of San Diego and National City to experience and highlights the activities that occur on the maritime terminals. With this publication, we hope to reproduce the effects that Sweet Contents and Under Wraps had in temporarily altering the industrial landscape and bringing about a heightened awareness of the activities of the working waterfront.

**Yvonne Wise, Director**

Waterfront Arts & Activation  
Port of San Diego









## PART ONE

### **Sweet Contents**

#### Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal

A main feature of the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal is a series of three enormous decommissioned tanks that once held unrefined molasses and palm oil. Walker was asked to activate these architectural forms in a way that would be visible to the public from the nearby Cesar Chavez Park.



## PROCESS

With the help of a crew of fabricators and a custom spooling jigger, Walker systematically hung long strands of the fiber material, running vertically against the tanks, effectively painting them with a palette of vivid stripes.



Installation of Sweet Contents



“I imagined thousands of gallons of molasses that these former storage tanks once held as shimmering lines of color overflowing into the light.”



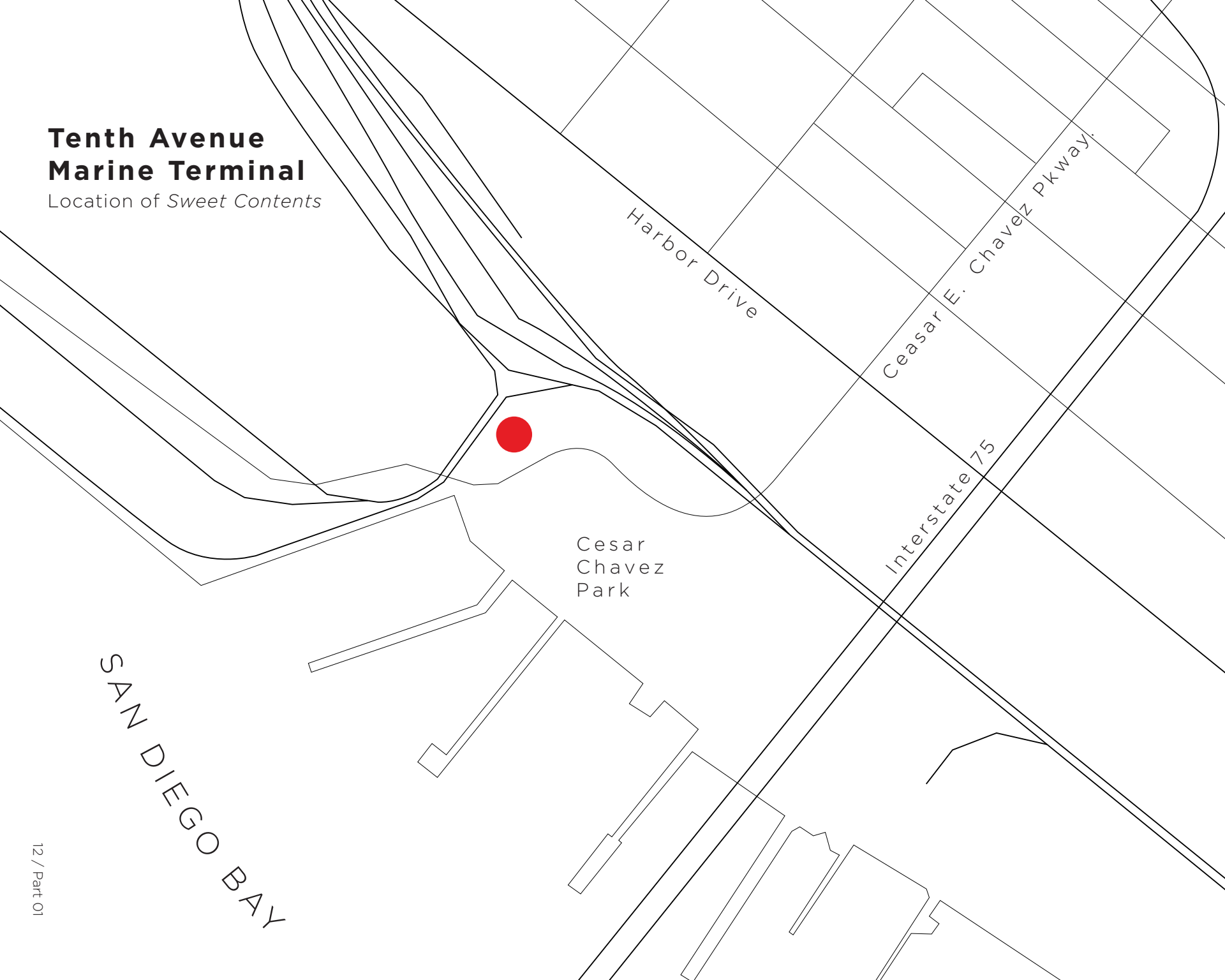






**Tenth Avenue  
Marine Terminal**

Location of *Sweet Contents*



Harbor Drive

Cesar E. Chavez Pkwy.

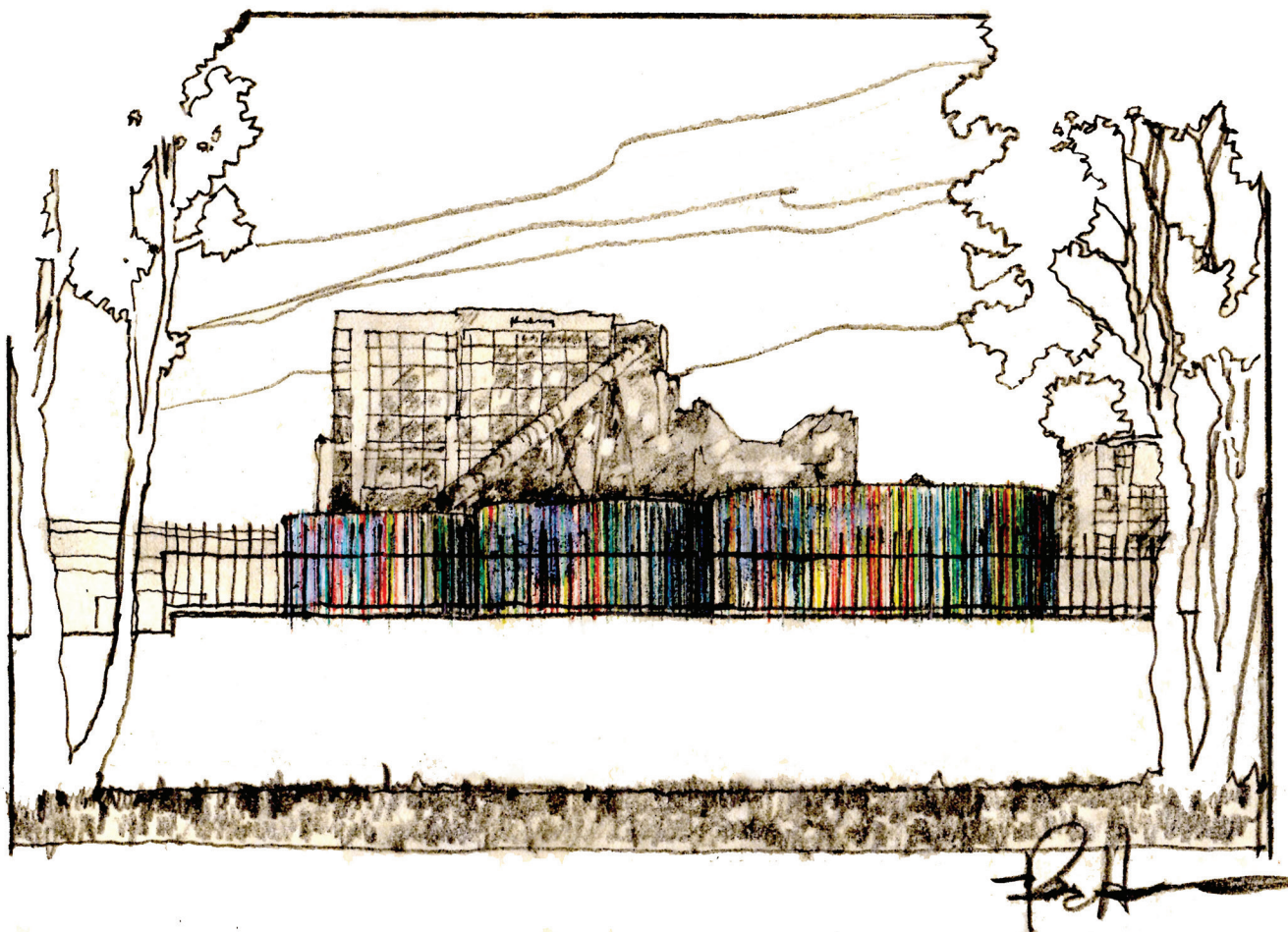
Interstate 75

Cesar  
Chavez  
Park

SAN DIEGO BAY







Sketch by the artist.



View of *Sweet Contents* from  
Ceasar Chavez Park.












A photograph of a building at dusk. The building features a facade made of vertical corrugated metal strips in various colors like orange, blue, and red. A yellow light pole stands in the foreground. The text "Sweet Contents" is projected onto a concrete wall in the foreground. Trees are visible on both sides of the building.

**Sweet  
Contents**





An artwork by

Randy W...

ARTWORK BY  
RANDY W...

© 2010









## **PART TWO**

### **Under Wraps**

National City Marine Terminal

The National City Marine Terminal, operated by Pasha Automotive Services, serves as the primary port of entry for one out of every 10 new foreign cars shipped to the United States. Pasha donated a decommissioned passenger van to serve as Walker's artistic inspiration.





## PROCESS

As part of his artistic process, Walker invited the National City community to work hand-in-hand with him to wrap the van in colorful fiber on site at the arts organization A Reason To Survive. Walker later transported the van to the terminal's southeastern

edge, where the tethered van could be viewed from Pepper Park.











“We are taking this employee van and were going to wrap it with the same fiber material, but instead of me and my crew, this van is going to be taken out into the community and be wrapped by community members and then brought back to the terminal where it can be viewed from Pepper Park.”

**National City  
Marine Terminal**

Location of *Under Wraps*







View of *Under Wraps* from  
Pepper Park





view from inside the van













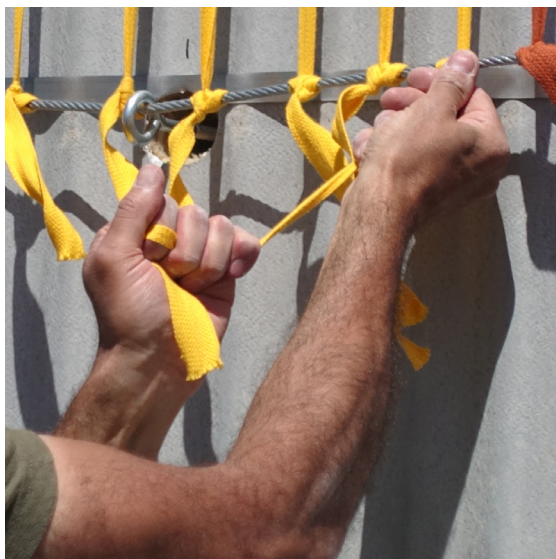
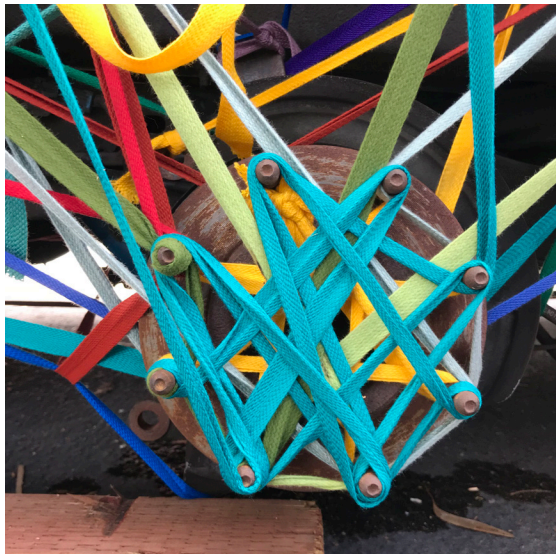
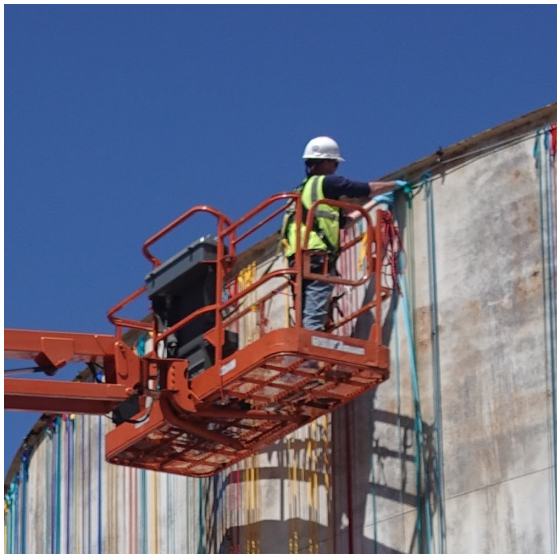




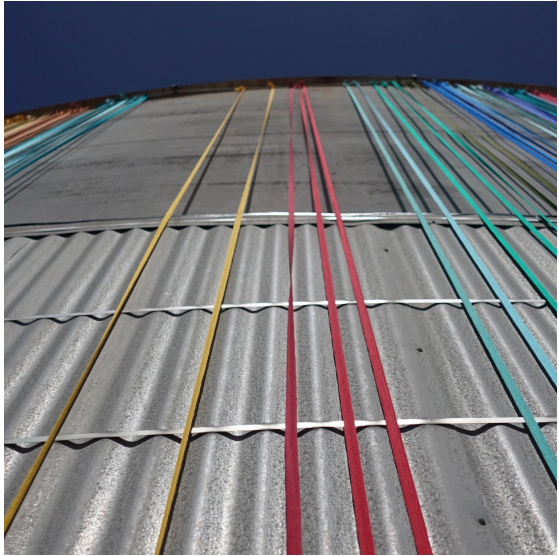
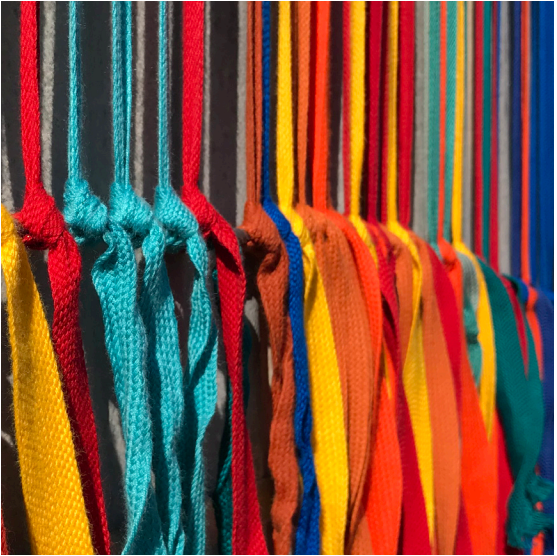
















**Randy Walker** is a Minneapolis-based fiber artist, known for wrapping buildings, bridges and other large-scale structures with fiber, creating new dimensions within architectural spaces. In 2012, his temporary public art installation, “Passage,” was named one of

the 50 best public art projects of the year by *Americans for the Arts* in its 2012 Public Art Network Year in Review. Walker received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from University of Oregon and recently received a McKnight Foundation/Forecast Public Art Midcareer Public