

Statement for Dewey Street Bridge Project

The design for the Dewey Street Bridge was inspired by Fort Worth's rich history of ranching and the cowboy. Fort Worth was the last major stop for the cattle drivers heading up the Chisholm Trail. Later with the building of the railroad, Fort Worth became a major shipping point for livestock. In 1889 the Union Stockyards was built with Armour and Company and Swift and Company building plants next to the Stockyards. The stockyards flourished until 1962 and finally closed in 1971. Shortly after, the North Fort Worth Historical Society was formed to preserve Fort Worth's history.

This bridge is in close proximity to the historic stockyard area as well as to Trail Drivers Park. It is also the next bridge up on the Lebow Channel expansion project from 28th Street Bridge, which draws upon the traditional embroidery that cowboys and cowgirls wore on their clothing especially during special occasions.

At the Dewey Bridge, I wanted to celebrate another aspect of cowboy life, the riding of horses and the objects associated with that life. Leather tooling can be found on saddles as well as clothing that the cowboy and cowgirl wear such as boots, bags, and belts. This bridge design is inspired by the beautiful leather tooling that was created by the artisans that provided these much needed objects to the cowboy.

On the bridge rail, a design inspired by leather tooling is integrated into the cement casting by the use of form liners. The overall bridge as well as these panel areas are stained in two shades of tan, alluding to the color of leather. At two points on each side of the bridge is a 5 pointed 12 inch star that is antiqued to look like the metal that is used to connect leather pieces in saddles and other cowboy accessories. The star of course also refers to the Texas lone star on our state flag.

At the sidewalk crossing areas, a medallion is installed, made of glass mosaics that combine the star and flower design found on the bridge. It will be 3 feet in diameter. These medallions continue the idea of crossings and directional markers for a future hike and bike trail that may follow this path. The star will be oriented to point out the direction of the trail.