



Pics: Joshua Spitzig

## WHERE WE NET

As part of a complete landscape lighting design for North Carolina's new LeBauer Park, Focus Lighting was also commissioned to design the lighting for *Where We Met*, a permanently installed net sculpture by renowned artist, Janet Echelman. Suspended over the park's great lawn, the piece spans 200ft and is crafted with over 35 miles of twine and half a mile of rope. Through extensive mock-ups and analysis, and the development of a custom light fixture, the team produced a lighting solution that brings each of the sculpture's vibrant strokes of colour to life.

At the outset, the Focus Lighting team was met with an enormous challenge: they wanted to use LED fixtures to light the piece, but were given an extremely limited budget. To afford the LEDs, the team decided they would specify a single-channel fixture instead of a standard four-channel (RGBW) tunable fixture, and limit the quantity of fixtures to the bare minimum required.

It was Focus Lighting's first time lighting one of Echelman's pieces, so they began with an in-depth study of the sculpture's material. "The net is unique because of its limited surface area, so we had to determine how much light was needed to make it stand out at night," said senior designer Joshua Spitzig. "Janet provided us with a sample net that we hung outside our studios in Harlem. We illuminated it with increasing intensities and viewed it from different angles until we had the right amount of brightness."

Next the team had to find the right colour of light. Using sample threads Echelman

provided, including each colour she planned to use in the sculpture, Focus Lighting tested the LEDs in a range of colour temperatures of white light, as well as with coloured filters. Results revealed either a washed out look under white light, or fading of some of the thread's colours when filters were used, neither being favourable.

The team resolved to use a custom mix of coloured LEDs, without any filters. This allowed for maximum brightness, while the individual LED colours enhanced each thread colour. To determine the best mix of LED colours, the team experimented with lighting the threads using a controllable RGBW fixture. They found a ratio of colours -19% blue, 37% red and 44% white - that made all of the threads look great. Focus Lighting worked with fixture manufacturer Amerlux to find matching coloured LED's and to have them custom populate their LED boards with as close to this ratio of red, blue, and white LEDs as possible.

Glimpses of the sculpture can be seen from almost anywhere in the four-acre park, throughout which the Focus Lighting team implemented a lighting treatment that reinforces the landscape design. Rows of evenly-spaced trees in straight lines were formally lit with inground uplights. In 'wild' areas, where trees are sporadically arranged, pole-mounted pattern projectors point at the ground. Fixtures throughout the park use a 3,000K colour temperature, offering guests a warm, comfortable setting.

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