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Letter of Interest Description and Maintenance

Dear City of Manhattan Beach,

I am a sculptor, designer, and public artist residing in the Kansas City area. I would like to be considered for the opportunity to create a site-specific sculptural artwork that honors the history and legacy of the Bruces' Beach Neighborhood.

Initially, when I learned about the history of Bruce's Beach, the past injustices, and the ongoing efforts to rectify those wrongs, I was intrigued. However, I hesitated to pursue the project, believing that I might not be the right person for the job since I am not African American and have not personally experienced the impact of what transpired in that community. Nevertheless, I couldn't shake off the project from my mind as I pondered how the events at Bruce's Beach are not isolated to your city. The suppression of minorities or weaker populations by those in power seems to be a universal failing of humanity. We struggle to overcome our irrational fears of those who are different and our insatiable desire for dominance. This behavior is not unique to Manhattan Beach; it is a story woven into the history of every community.

As a woman working in the art world and metalwork, I can relate in some small way. Although I can never fully understand what it means to be black in America, I do recognize that women, like many marginalized groups, have historically been deprived of rights, property, and regarded as second-class citizens. While I am fortunate to be a Caucasian woman in 2023, where opportunities abound, I still witness the undervaluing of women's contributions in my field, with their worth estimated at only 42% compared to their male counterparts (source: Forbes article, "The \$192 Billion Gender Gap in Art" by Kim Elssesser, August 30, 2022). Additionally, to this day, the highest recorded sale price for artwork by a man surpasses the highest recorded sale price for artwork by a woman by a staggering 86%! While I cannot comprehend the African American experience, I do understand the struggle for equality in America.

Eight years ago I took the opportunity to learn metalworking at a fabrication shop in Kansas City. Though I have been an artist all of my life, it was then that I was introduced to the world of public art and found my calling. Following two years of training, I received my first solo large-scale sculpture commission and moved into my own studio/fabrication shop. Since then, I have won 9 public art commissions throughout the US and employed three assistants. I have extensive experience collaborating with architects, engineers, contractors, and art committees. I am happy and willing to work with the City of Manhattan Beach to make the project be the best possible solution for the community! Several of my pieces are similar in scope to this project. Last year, my piece "Gateway" was created with similar methods. See more about the piece in my portfolio images below.

Also note that while I believe my concept is suitable for this project, and although I typically construct my work in my personal fabrication shop, I believe much of this project should benefit a black-owned business. If chosen for this project, I would aim to subcontract the actual fabrication of the piece to either an African-American owned fabrication shop or individual fabricator.

Thank you for your consideration!

Concept Description and Inspiration

Despite these disheartening statistics, I was pleased to learn that Manhattan Beach has officially apologized to the affected families for the actions that deprived them of their property a century ago, and even returned property to the Bruce family, enabling their descendants to reclaim what rightfully belonged to them. This act, along with the natural beauty of a west coast beach, served as the catalyst for my design.

We all appreciate the breathtaking views of the west coast beaches, particularly the vibrant sunsets that illuminate the sky and landscape. These views serve as tangible reminders of the passage of time, as one day gives way to the next. When contemplating the history of Bruce's Beach, I pondered how we cannot erase all the mistakes and injustices of the past, but we can strive for a better future. My proposed artwork, aptly named "A Better Tomorrow," is an interactive and abstract representation of a sunset over the horizon. It will stand behind the newly erected plaque and pedestal with a halo of color and light. The artwork will invite park visitors to walk through the archway, symbolizing a journey into the sunset and emerging on the other side, representing a transition from the past to a brighter future.

The artwork itself will feature six colorful archways, each dedicated to one of the five African American families that were displaced from their land, and one acknowledging the white families who were also displaced, though not due to the same prejudice suffered by their black counterparts. The inside of each archway will display quotes from the youngest descendants of these families, the children of today, expressing their aspirations for the future. These quotes will be laser-cut into stainless steel panels lining the archways, allowing visitors to read the words as they pass under the arch.

Maintenance

I am proposing that the entire structure of the piece be made from painted stainless steel that would keep the piece from rusting if any damage is done to the surface. It would be highly durable and difficult to damage.

The steel would be sand blasted, primed and painted with a Sherwin Williams brand Industrial Direct to Metal acrylic exterior primer and top coat. This paint is chosen for the following reasons:

- All paint eventually fades. There are very tough urethane based paints used in the automotive and aviation industry that have excellent color retention and UV stability. However, even these paints fade and can crack with time. When they do, repainting is very labor intensive and expensive! The Sherwin William DTM Industrial acrylic is used on metal doors and roofs in the building industry. While it may not last quite as long as an urethane, (estimated 7-10 years, as apposed to 10-15 years) the ease and relative affability of refinishing this paint is the advantage.
- The pieces could be power washed and repainted in place with a common paint sprayer.
- The brand of paint is readably available across the US and can be mixed to many different colors
- It is water based, uses water clean up, and has low VOC (volatile organic compounds) that is more environmentally friendly and easier on the health of those applying it.
- Scratches can be easily touched up with a light buffing and a small brush.
- It can be coated with anti-graffiti coating that will ad more UV protection as well as allow graffiti to be washed off with a power washer.

Regular Maintenance Plan

- Conduct routine visual inspections to identify any signs of damage, such as chips, cracks, or peeling paint.
- Check for any accumulation of dirt, debris, or pollutants on the surface of the sculpture.

Cleaning:

- Clean the sculpture periodically using a mild detergent mixed with water. Gently scrub the surface with a soft-bristled brush or sponge to remove dirt, dust, and other contaminants. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove any residue. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, harsh chemicals, or abrasive materials that could damage the paint.

Touch-up and re-painting:

- Inspect the sculpture for any areas where the paint has chipped or peeled. Remove any loose or flaking paint using a gentle scraping or sanding technique. Clean the area thoroughly to ensure it is free from dirt and debris. Apply a small amount of the same acrylic industrial direct-to-metal paint to the damaged area using a brush or roller. Blend the touch-up paint with the surrounding painted surface to achieve a seamless appearance. Allow the touch-up paint to dry completely according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Repainting entire piece: After 7-10 years, the color may be faded enough to repaint. Power wash the pieces. Remove any peeling paint. Prep for painting as any other building (check manufacture recommendations). Cover all but the portion that you want to repaint with tarps. Tape off stainless strips or acrylic pieces. Paint with a brush, roller or paint sprayer. Allow to dry according to manufacture recommendations.

Stainless steel word panels:

- Stainless steel is highly resistant to corrosion, but it is still important to prevent any potential corrosion from occurring. The stainless panels will be coated with a clear coat called "Protecta-Clear" by Everbite Coatings @ everbritecoating.com
- Inspect the sculpture regularly for signs of corrosion, such as rust spots or discoloration.
- If any corrosion is detected, gently remove it using a non-abrasive cleaner or stainless steel cleaning solution.
- Rinse the area thoroughly and Protecta-clear coating. It easily brushes on.

Acrylic stars

- The glow in the dark acrylic stars will recharge for many years, but if one becomes damaged or faded and needs to be replaced, the frame around the star will be removable. There will be extra stars supplied for this purpose, and the a digital file of the shape will be supplied as well.

Budget worksheet

Artist Fee		15%	\$52,500.00
Materials			\$92,000.00
	SS sheet/laser cutting	35,000	
	SS expanded sheet	18,500	
	SS bar/structural	12000	
	acrylic/cutting	1500	
	primer/paint/finishing	25,000	
Fabrication			105,500
Installation			\$10,000.00
Transportation/delivery			\$10,000.00
Engineering Cost/study			\$5,000.00
permits/fees			\$1,500.00
Gelological/site survey			\$3,500.00
Foundation/concrete			\$50,000.00
Contigency			\$20,000.00
			\$350,000.00

Professional Experience

LARGE SCALE AND PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS

- 2023 Public Art "Still Wild" Wildflower Sculpture, Castle Rock, CO
- 2022 Public Art "Gateway" Sunflower Sculpture, Prairie Village, KS
- 2022 Public Art Gunnison Mural and Wildflower sculptures, Gunnison, CO
- 2021 Public Art "The Flame of Inspiration", Sculpture, Fremont, CA
- 2021 Public Art "Native Color at Unity Square" Bartlesville, OK
- 2020 Public Art "Give Them Wings", Art Walk, Coral Springs, FL
- 2019 Public Art "The Spirit of Crested Butte", Crested Butte, CO
- 2019 "Indefatigable Soul", Sculpture, The Fairways of Ironhorse, Leawood, KS
- 2018 Public Art "Ripple" Functional Art Bench, Overland Park City Hall, Overland Park KS
- 2017 "Tempest Ballet" Sculpture, Genesis Health Hospital, Davenport, IA
- 2016 "Branches Fireplace Sculpture", Sculpture, Summers Residence, Vail, CO
- 2015 "Wheels of Progress", Sculpture, Heart of America Group, Embassy Suites Olathe, KS

Other Accomplishments

Book Publications

- 2011 *Spenser's America*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- Spenser Loves America*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2010 *Spenser Goes to El Paso*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- Spenser Loves Savannah*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- Spenser Loves El Paso*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- Spenser Loves St. Louis*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- Spenser Loves Portland*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2009 *Spenser's Savannah*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- Spenser Goes to St. Louis*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2008 *Spenser Goes to Portland*, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2006 *Scampering Through Savannah*, OnWords Publishing
- 2004 *The Quest for Elloshidii*, Granite Publishers and Distribution

Employment

Owner

Farris Wheel Studios, LLC
DBA Amie Jacobsen Art and Design
March 2017-Present
3D design and custom metal fabrication specializing in sculpture, artisan furniture and public art. 5000sq. ft shop/studio employing 3 assistant fabricators

In-House Designer and Resident Artist

Machine Head Metal Fabrication,
Kansas City, MO
Feb. 2015-Feb. 2017
3D design and fabrication assistant of all products from concept to completion.

Professor or Illustration, eLearning

Savannah College of Art and Design,
Savannah, GA
Aug. 2006-May 2014
Taught design, painting and technical illustration courses for undergrad through graduate level students. Authored 3 permanent eLearning courses for SCADs online degree program.

Illustrator and Graphic Designer

Amie Jacobsen Art and Design
Aug. 2006-May 2014
Freelance Illustration and Design services specializing in children's book illustration and anything else that paid!

Education

Master of Fine Arts,
Illustration Savannah
College of Art and Design
June 2006

Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art
Western State College,
Gunnison, CO
May 1997

Amie Jacobsen
REFERENCES

Susan Mong, MPA

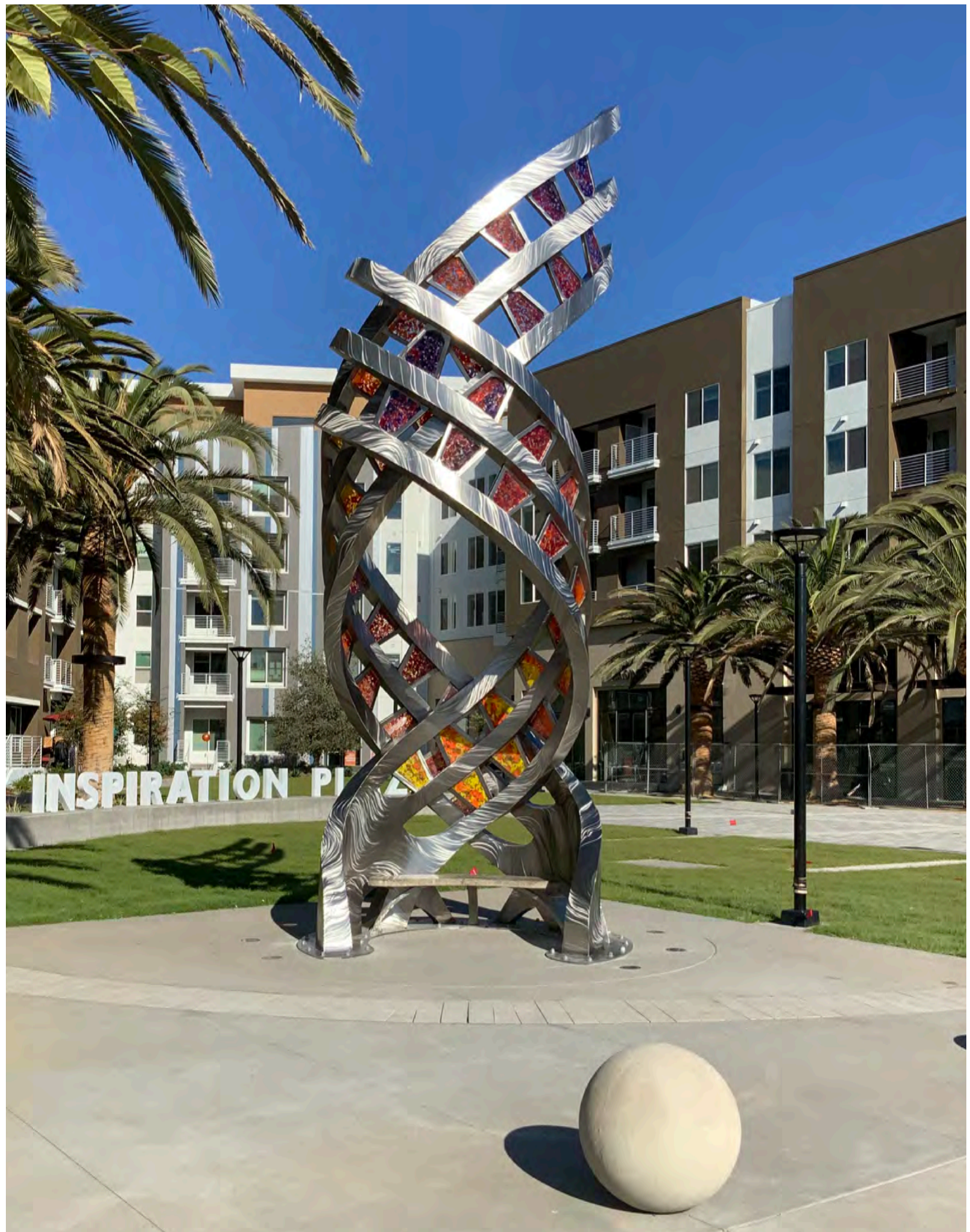
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The Flame of Inspiration

- 9' x 9' x 22.5'
- Stainless Steel and Cast Glass
- Fremont, CA
- Budget: \$165,000 for design, engineering, fabrication and installation. All site preparation, lighting and concrete footing provided by the city
- Commissioned by the City of Fremont, CA
- Installed Sept of 2021



Gateway

- 17' x 12.5'
- Corten Steel, Powder Coated Steel, Stainless Steel, Cast Glass, and internal LED lighting
- Prairie Village, KS
- Budget: \$95,000 for design, fabrication and installation only. All site preparation and concrete footing provided by the commissioning entity
- Commissioned by Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department
- Installed Oct of 2022
- Inspired by the Kansas State flower, the sunflower, "Gateway" has 25 shaped steel petals with inset cast glass surrounding a center archway. The interior of the archway features illustrations cut from steel representing the history of the area.



Native Color at Unity Square

- 50' x 25' x 12'
- Stainless Steel and Cast Glass with water feature, set in a rock cove
- Bartlesville, OK
- Budget: \$150,000 total. \$105,000 for design, fabrication and installation of artwork. Additional \$45,000 used for site preparation, plumbing, lighting and concrete footing.
- Commissioned by the City of Bartlesville, OK
- Installed May of 2021



Give Them Wings

- 14' x 10' x 12.5'
- Steel, Stainless Steel, and Cast Glass
- Coral Springs, FL
- Budget: \$97,000 for design, fabrication and installation only. All site preparation, lighting and concrete footing provided by the city
- Commissioned by the City of Coral Springs, FL
- Installed May of 2020

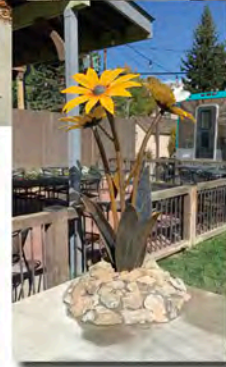
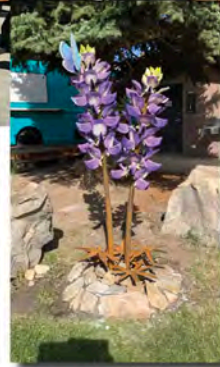
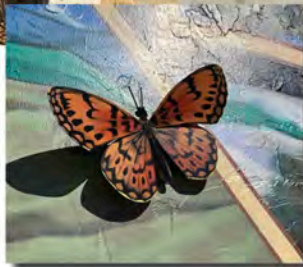


Still Wild

- Powder Coated steel and Corten Steel
- Castle Rock, CO
- 9ft x 16ft x 9ft
- Budget: \$75,000 for design, fabrication and installation only. Site preparation, lighting and concrete pedestals provided by the commissioning entity
- Commissioned by the town of Castle Rock
- Installed March of 2023



Title: Gunnison Mural and Sculpture project
Year Completed: 2022
Materials: Spray paint, acrylic paint, steel and painted steel
Client: Gunnison/Crested Butte Tourism Association
Location: Gunnison, CO
Budget: \$68,000

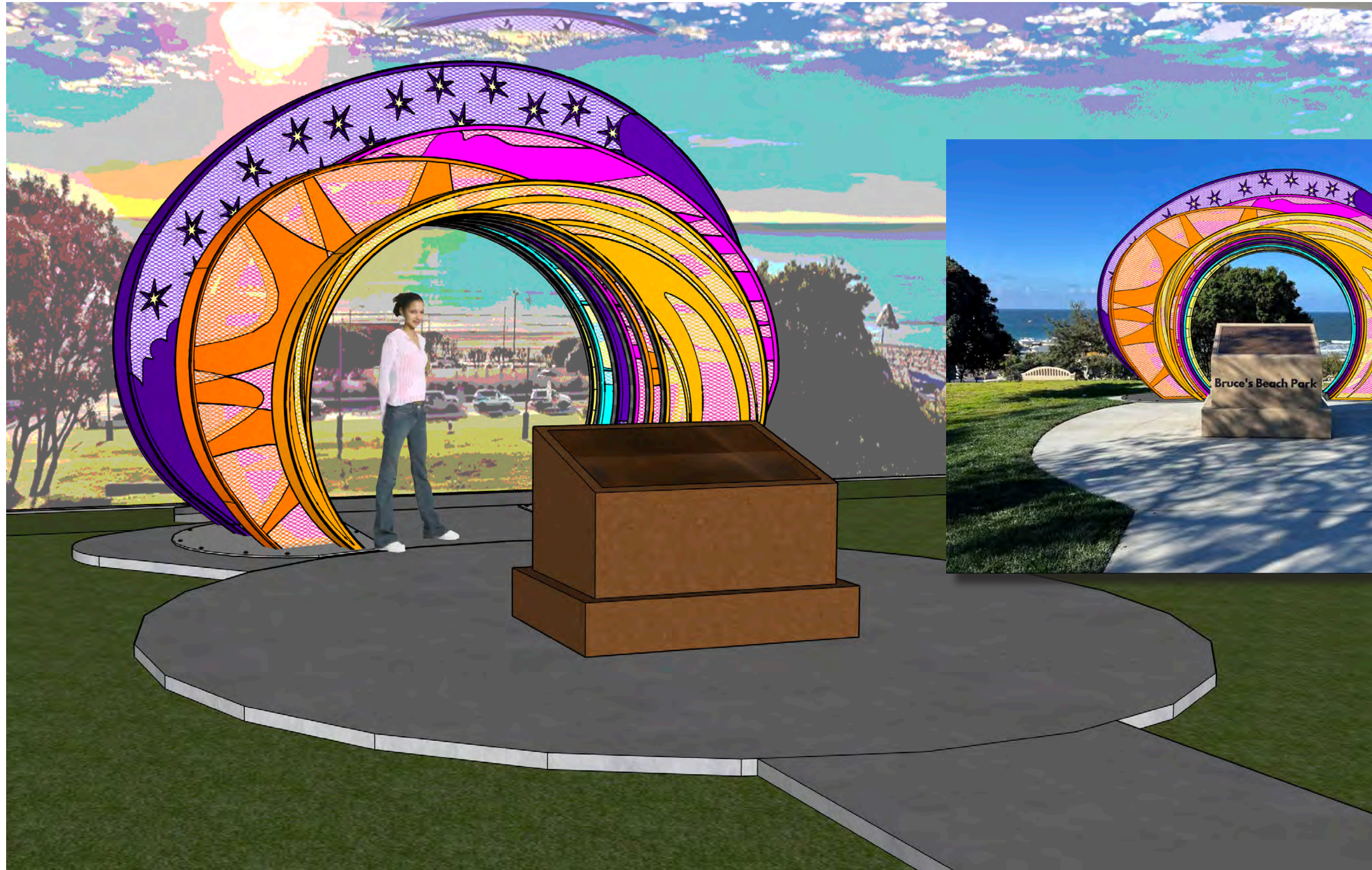


Description: 61ft x 18ft mural with three 6ft tall painted steel wildflower sculptures

Designed by Amie Jacobsen and completed in collaboration with Will Barker, the mural was designed to highlight the ecosystem, landscape and some of the popular recreational activities in and around Gunnison. The mural features 16 important local plant species, 10 birds and mammal species, and 9 butterfly and bee species common to the Gunnison Valley. Many of the species are depicted in 3D elements, as each of the butterflies and bees are constructed of painted steel and stand off the wall in low relief. In addition to the mural, the project included three fully 3D sculptures of wildflowers, including Silver Lupines, Mules Ear Sunflowers and Paintbrush Flowers sprinkled throughout the park.

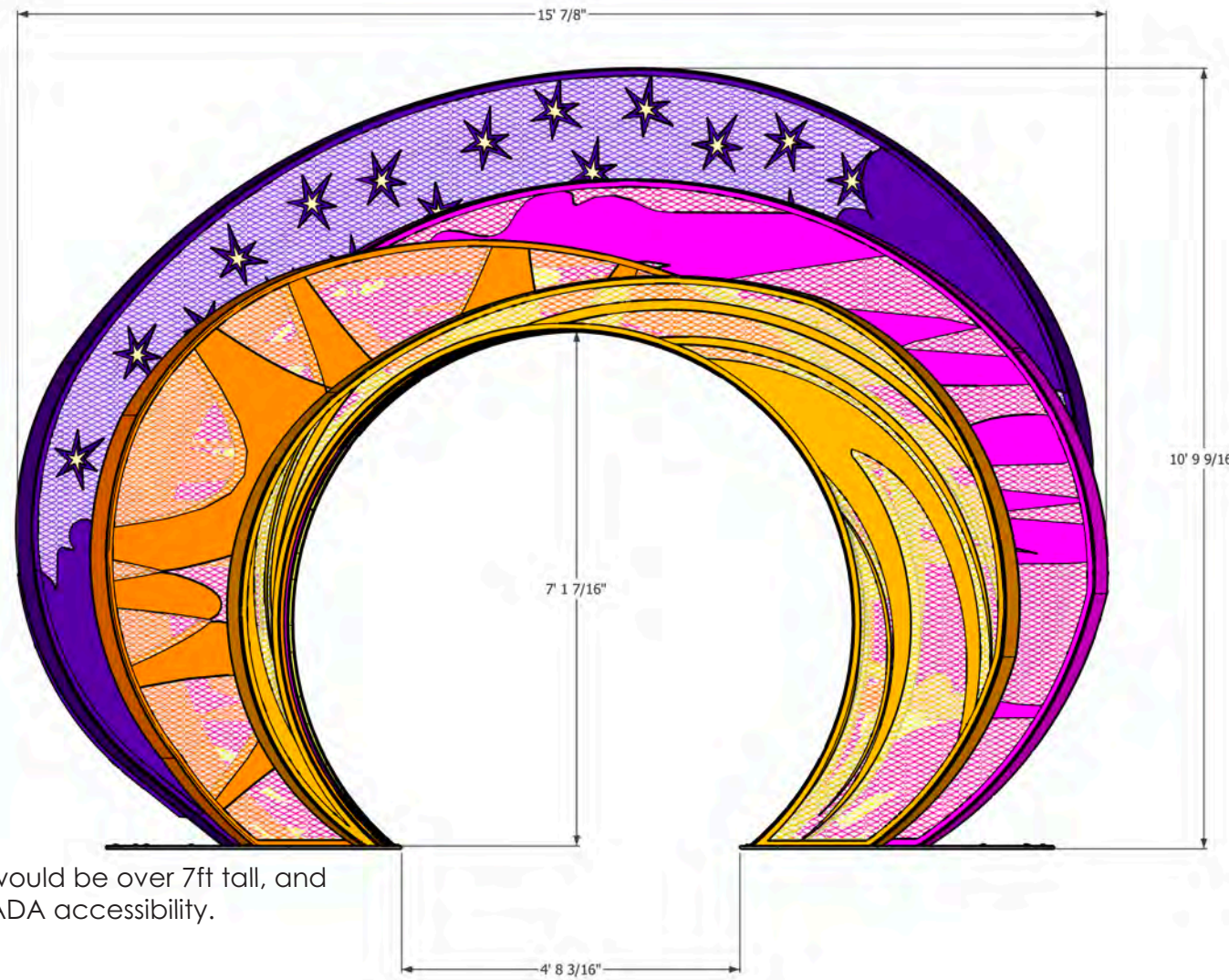
An interactive element includes 4 plaques with QR codes that allow visitors to scan the codes and bring up web-pages that tell about the different species in on the wall, along with activities to do in the Gunnison and Crested Butte areas.

A Better Tomorrow



Concept: Inspired by the sun setting over water, *A Better Tomorrow* symbolizes the hope of a new day and the idea that while we can not change all the mistake of the past, we can continue to strive to do better in the future.. The archway would beacon visitors to walk into and beneath the piece, like walking into the sunset. Inside the archway, quotes about their hopes for the future from the descendants of the Bruce, Prioleau, Patterson, Sanders, and Johnson families would be laser cut into the steel for visitors to read. **Alternatively, or in addition, quotes from local school children from local under-served communities could also be included. The near rainbow of colors would symbolize inclusive and diversity. The materials would allow transparency so light would penetrate though the layers of the piece.

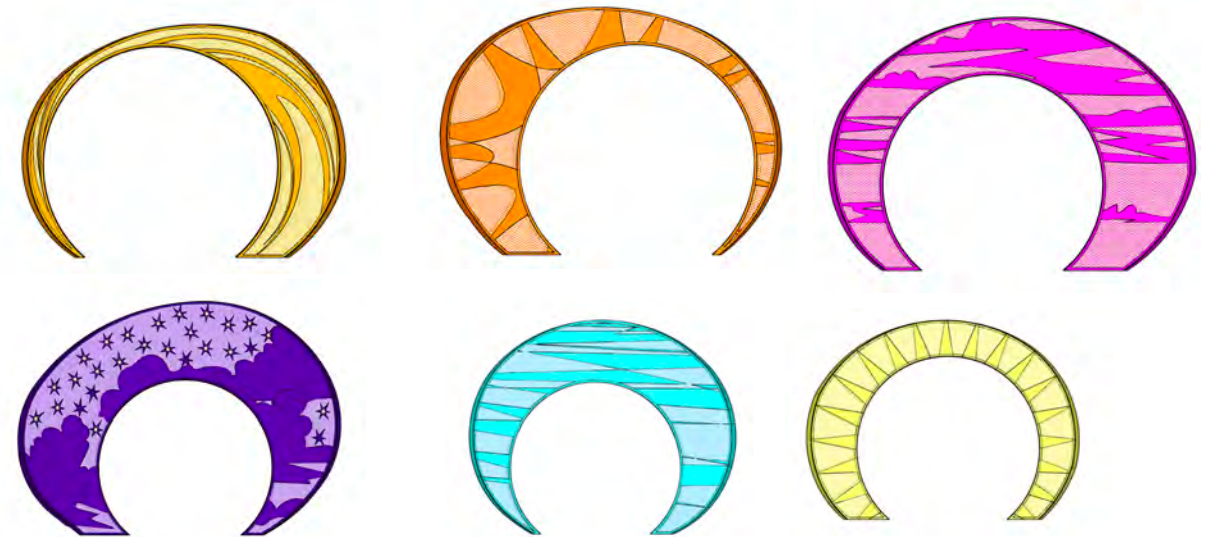
From the front, the piece is inspired by the colors of the setting sun over the water.



The opening would be over 7ft tall, and 56\"/>



From the back side, looking toward the east, the piece is meant to symbolize the rising sun in the east.

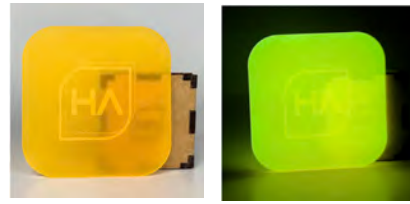


The piece would be made up of 6 separate forms made from stainless steel and expanded sheet metal that would be painted with a near rainbow of colors inspired by the sunset and sunrise and symbolize diversity and inclusion.

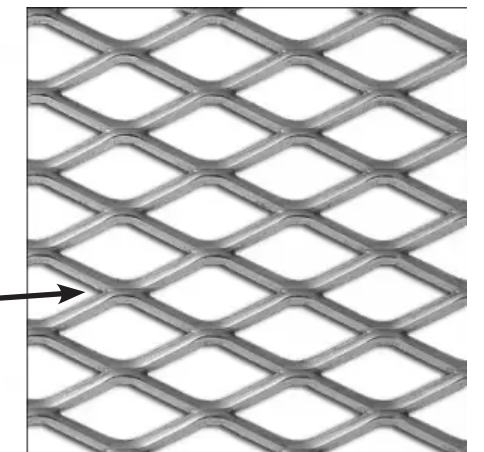
*each piece estimated to weigh between 300-400lbs.

Quotes about their hopes for the future from the descendants of the families (or local school children from under-served communities) would be laser cut into stainless steel strips lining the inside of each archway.

The stars on the night layer would include inset acrylic sheet that glows at night, creating a touch of color for a few hours once the sun goes down. Will recharge in the sun thousands of times and be built to be removable so they can be replaced if needed.

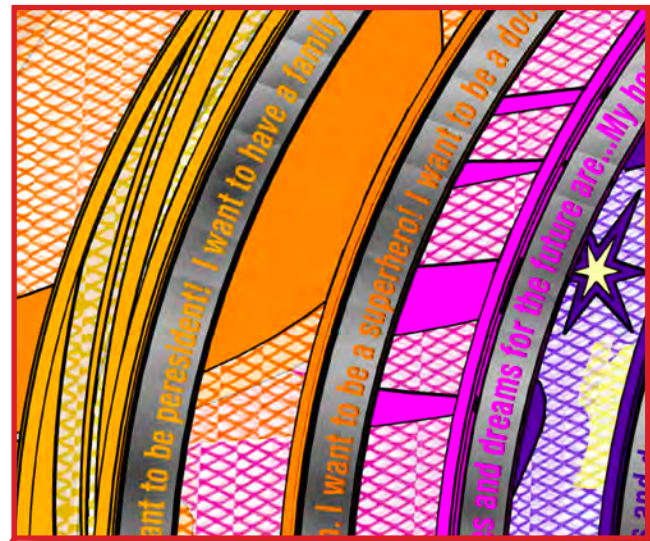


Example below of forms made from laser cut steel shapes and expanded sheet metal in my piece "Gateway", showing how the material allows light to pass through creating a transparent quality.



stainless steel expanded sheet metal

Structure would be made from stainless steel, so no rust could develop under the paint.



Maintenance; I suggest that the piece be painted with Sherwin Williams brand of Industrials Direct to Metal acrylic exterior paints because it would make future maintenance much easier than other paints. While it may not be quite as hard shelled as acrylic polyurethane paints such as those used in the automotive industry, it would be far easier to repaint when needed. All paints fade eventually, and many of the urethane coatings must be completely sanded to refinish. The advantages of Sherwin Williams DTM acrylic are the following:

- Easy to find and readily accessible all over the US.
- Comes in almost any mixable color
- Regular cleaning would include simply spraying with water and wiping down. Mild soap if needed.
- Scratches easily touched up with a bush
- At some point (estimated 7-10 years), the color may need to be refreshed. The piece could be power-washed and repainted on site.