



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

DATE: January 20, 2022

STAFF

Melanie Alexander, Staff Liaison to the Muscatine Public Art Advisory Commission

SUBJECT

Muscatine Public Art Advisory Commission Recommendation for Public Art in the Mulberry Avenue and Second Street Roundabout

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Muscatine Public Art Advisory Commission has concluded a public vote with the work of three artists being considered for the Mulberry Avenue and Second Street roundabout. Members of the Advisory Commission met on January 11, 2022 to review feedback from the survey and recommends selection of the public art piece, *Zenith* by Nathan Pierce, as it garnered the largest percentage of votes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks the support of Council in proceeding with *Zenith* by Nathan Pierce as the public art piece recommended by the Muscatine Public Art Advisory Commission and favored by participants in the online and in person survey.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Public Art Advisory Commission officially began in July 2019 and has researched ways in which other communities develop public art projects and involve the broader community in making decisions or setting direction pertaining to public art. In fall 2019, the Public Art Advisory Commission applied for and received grant funds to facilitate conversations about public art. The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine (CFGM) awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,750. However, COVID-19 led to a delay in hosting the session and the funds, with the approval of CFGM, were instead used to provide a stipend to three artists for completing concepts for the roundabout.

In December 2020, the Public Art Advisory Commission released a Request for Qualifications targeted at artists with public art experience from Iowa and neighboring states. Seventeen artists expressed an interest in the project, and fifteen submitted applications. The Public Art Advisory Commission evaluated the applications and also consulted with City department heads. They selected three artists: Daniel Miller of Iowa City; Nathan Pierce of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; and Greg Mueller of Lutsen Mountain, Minnesota. All three artists participated in an online information session with members of the Advisory Commission, the City Engineer, and a few City department heads. Each artist submitted a concept proposal over summer 2021. The concept proposals were reviewed by the City Engineer, the Advisory Commission, and City departments before being presented during the public voting period.

Voting kicked off on November 16, 2021 during the IDEAdash to discuss the arts in Muscatine. An online survey, using Survey Monkey, allowed the public to learn about each concept and artist and to vote for their favorites. In-person voting was set up at the Muscatine Art Center, Sunrise Galleries, and Musser Public Library. Public voting was available between December 1, 2021 and January 10, 2022, and a press release discussing the project as well as how to vote was distributed in late November 2021.

913 people participated – 796 used Survey Monkey; 117 cast a paper ballot at one of the in-person locations. Among online participants, 52.22% selected *Zenith* as their first choice. *Old Man River* by Daniel Miller was the next most preferred piece with 27.34% selecting it as their first choice. The results were similar among the 117 people who submitted a paper ballot. 50% selected *Zenith* while 32% chose *Old Man River*.

Based on the survey results, the Public Art Advisory Commission voted at its January 11, 2022 meeting to recommend *Zenith*.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACT

At this time, the bulk of the cost associated with the creation and installation of the piece will need to be covered through grants and donations. The project may be folded in with other community cultural and recreational priorities when the Muscatine community applies for larger grants. Some expenses associated with physical installation may be partially covered using City labor, equipment, and minor purchases.

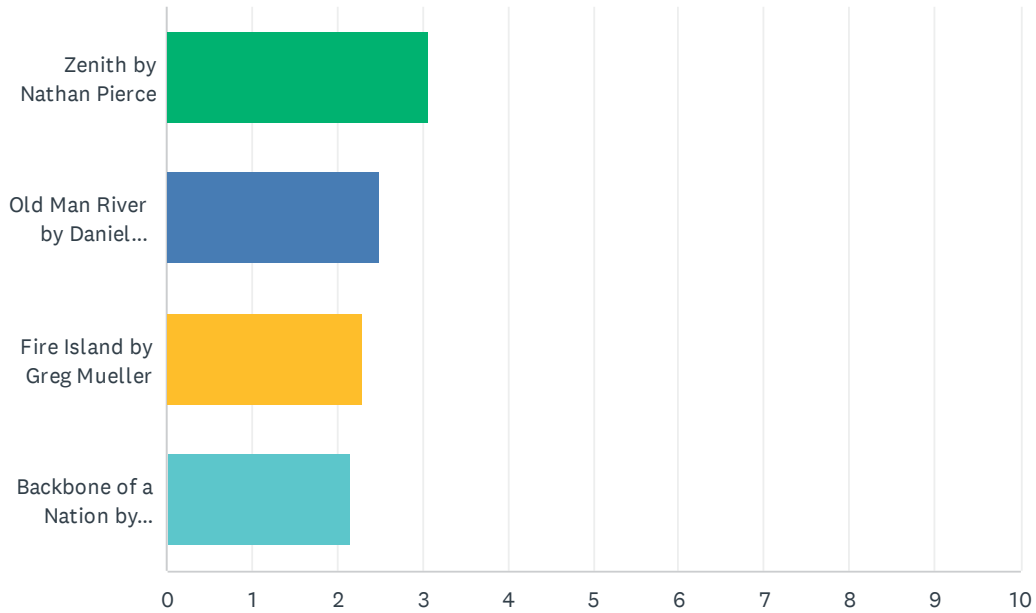
ATTACHMENTS

Zenith concept proposal by Nathan Pierce

Survey Monkey Data illustrating break down of public voting

Q6 Which public art concept is your favorite? Rank your favorite #1, your second favorite #2, your third favorite #3, and your least favorite #4.

Answered: 788 Skipped: 24



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Zenith by Nathan Pierce	52.22% 400	17.89% 137	15.40% 118	14.49% 111	766	3.08
Old Man River by Daniel Miller	27.34% 207	22.32% 169	22.19% 168	28.14% 213	757	2.49
Fire Island by Greg Mueller	13.98% 104	30.11% 224	28.09% 209	27.82% 207	744	2.30
Backbone of a Nation by Daniel Miller	7.97% 59	29.32% 217	33.24% 246	29.46% 218	740	2.16



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City of Muscatine Public Art Advisory Commission/ Community Development
1314 Mulberry Ave., Muscatine, IA 52761
8/24/2021



“ZENITH”

Transforming Space through the lens of public art

That moment in time when something is at its most successful point. The Zenith of Muscatine is an abstract representation of place. By mirroring the fundamental layout of the traffic circle we create a three-dimensional abstraction of your community and the river it is built on. The relationship that this piece has with the environment communicates to the viewer and helps activate our imagination to see a brighter future!

Sculpture Description



Title- "ZENITH"

Dimensions- 11.5'Hx 9'Wx 7'D.

Material- Stainless Steel, Acrylic

Weight- 1000lbs approx.

Footing Requirements- TBD based on specs

Project Narrative

Muscantine Iowa is a beautiful community rich with history and a great promise for tomorrow. The Mississippi river has been the backdrop for your community since the beginning and it can easily be one of the things that gets taken for granted. I too was born and raised on the banks of the Mississippi and I know what it has meant in my life. It becomes an invaluable part of our heritage.

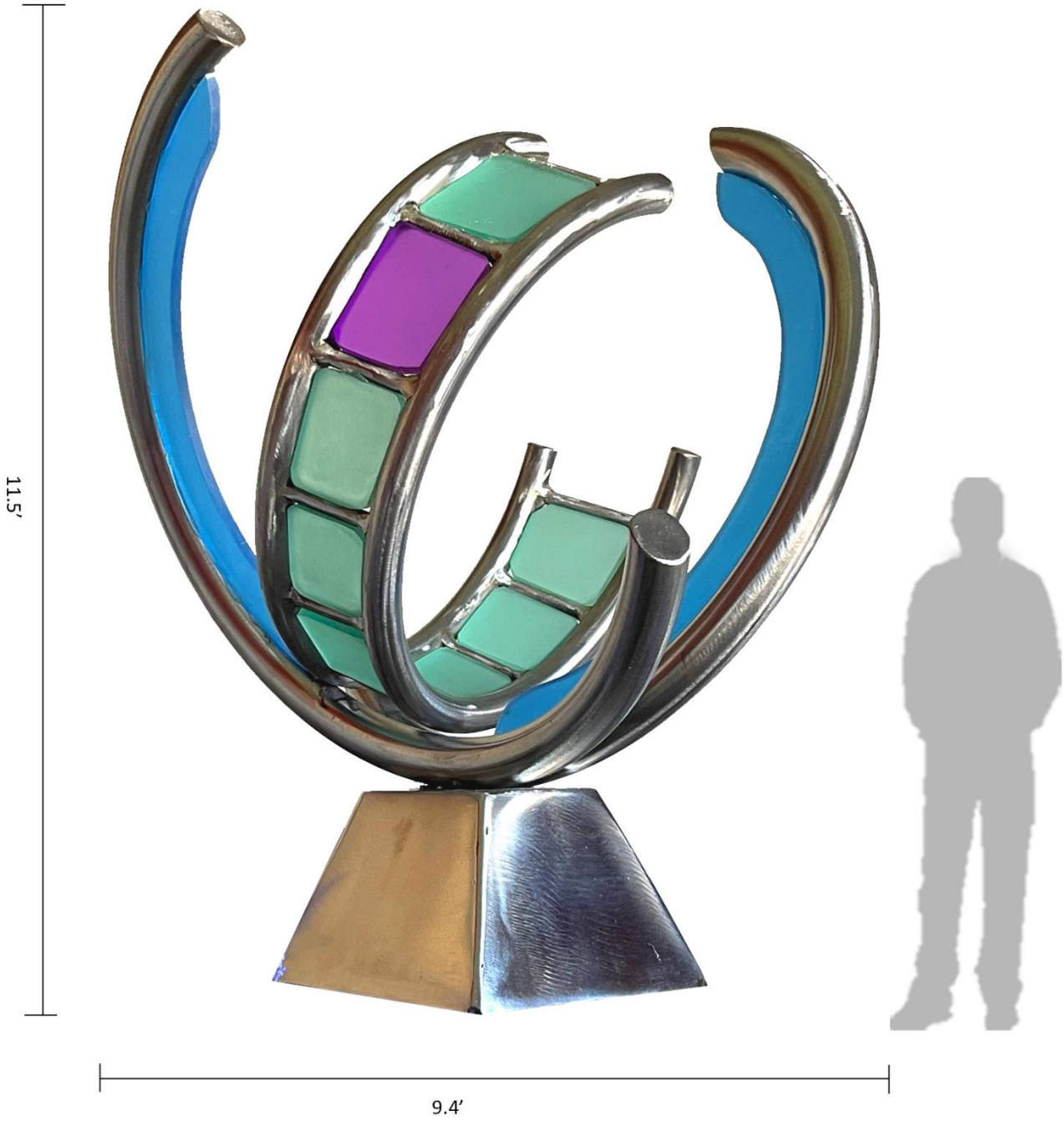
Since you're beginning, as a trading post in the early 1800s, you have relied on the Mississippi river for commerce, growth, and change. I think this is a great opportunity to pay homage to this natural resource and its contribution.

Through its abstract form this monumental sculpture takes a contemporary view of the relationship between your community and the river. I hope that "Zenith" will become a landmark that not only honors the Mississippi River as part of your history but becomes a catalyst for your success as you continue to discover the entrepreneurial spirit of tomorrow.

Zenith
Sculpture Dimensions-view 1



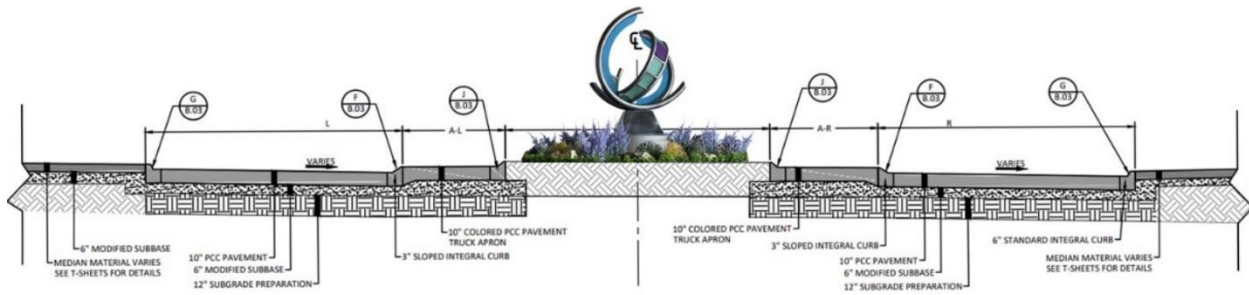
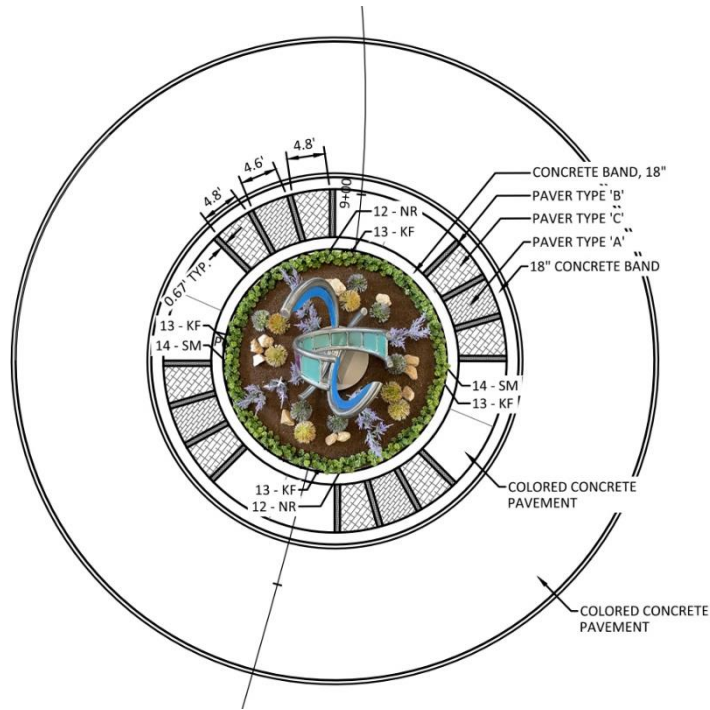
Zenith
Sculpture Dimensions-view 2



Model views



Site renderings



Similar Sculpture Details/Construction techniques



The 1/2" acrylic is mounted into a channel on the interior side of the larger pipe curve and attached with fasteners



Tab mounted shaped acrylic panels

Materials

304L Stainless-steel

The structure of the sculpture is fabricated from 1/8" and 3/16" 304L grade Stainless Steel and is considered a permanent material with minimal maintenance cost. Finished surface achieved with medium grit 3M surfacing disc in a uniform direction

Properties of stainless steel-

- Corrosion resistant.
- Temperature resistant.
- Low-maintenance (long lasting)
- Attractive appearance.

Cell Cast Acrylic

The transparent colored panels are constructed from 1/4" and 1/2" cast acrylic sheet and offer balance to the metallic quality of the stainless-steel. The transparent quality makes use of natural light from the outdoor setting and creates colorful reflections/shadows on the space around the sculpture. Finished surface achieved with #120 burnishing tool, gives the acrylic a "brushed" look.

Properties of cast Acrylic:

- UV resistant
- Low-maintenance
- Environmentally friendly (recyclable)
- Impact resistant

Maintenance

Annual maintenance- recommended to seasonally wash Sculpture with a mild solution of soap and water rinse and wipe dry. Inspect all material, seams, and fasteners.

Timeline

Project estimated timeline- 5 months

- 3 weeks development and documentation
- 6-8 weeks materials and service
- 6-8 weeks fabrication
- 2 weeks finishing and installation plan

Note: All materials and services have been verified to be available for delivery with extended lead times due to market volatility and current availability of raw materials! This may be subject to change at time of contract /order

Budget

This budget proposal provides the necessary cost associated with the creation and delivery of "Zenith".

	units	unit cost	total
Materials			
All Stainless-steel tubing bends (pre-order)	1	\$9000	\$9,000.00
Stainless-steel straight pipe section per ft.	20	\$15.00	\$300.00
Stainless steel fasteners	60	\$2.85	\$171.00
¼" acrylic sheet per sq. ft.	32	\$16.00	\$512.00
½" acrylic sheet per sq. ft.	64	\$47.00	3,008.00
1/4" Stainless steel plate 4'x8'	1	\$2200.00	\$2200.00
1/8" stainless steel sheet 5x10	2	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00
Documentation			
Development and engineering	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
CAD design	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Construction			
Acrylic shaping	1	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Stainless steel tube bending	1	\$500	\$500.00
fabrication @ \$85 per hr.	180	\$85	\$15,300.00
CNC cutting services	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Delivery			
Travel and Installation assistance	1	\$2,500	\$2,500.00
Artist Fee			
@25% of overall budget	43,091	.25	\$10,773.00
Contingency			
@8% (less artist fee)	1	.08	\$3,447.00

Project total **\$57,311.00**

costs and responsibilities not included

- Site prep
- On site equipment