

Freeland Art Studios

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Sue Taves, Lloyd Whannell & Woody Morris

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Letter of Interest
SE Pioneer Way Improvement Project

January 12, 2011

Dear Oak Harbor Arts Commission and City Council members;

Enclosed is our proposal for the SE Pioneer Way Improvement Project. We feel the imagery and materials we work with are ideal for this project. Our proposal of four individual stone sculptures using the same material of sculpted basalt columns provides a cohesive link of compelling sculpture along Pioneer Way. Each sculpture represents one of the themes of "Water – Above, Below, On and Of". The scale of the sculptures is large with stones weighing two to three plus tons, a large enough scale to be appreciated while passing by in a car but still a human scale that allows for greater interaction at a personal level.

We work collectively and individually at the Freeland Art Studios, which is a shared studio space of multiple working artists. We have been creating stone sculpture for many years and are proficient with the techniques and the tools to work in hard stone such as basalt. Between the three of us we have forty years of experience and have worked with water themed sculpture as well as functioning ponds, fountains, and waterfalls. Our designs indicate the presence of water without requiring any moving water thereby eliminating that potential maintenance issue.

We all have experience coordinating sculpture installations. Additionally, Lloyd and Woody are both licensed and bonded general contractors with fifteen and twenty years, respectively, of experience in the home building profession and have strong skills in construction and management of large-scale projects. For the past few years, Sue has been exploring water imagery in her sculpture and has progressively been increasing scale in her work. Woody also brings a long history of experience creating and installing water features with using safe engineering principles of handling and precision placement of large stone. All three of us have experience with managing people and working with groups.

Our proposed sculptures will offer Oak Harbor a beautiful interpretation of the Water theme and imagery that celebrates Oak Harbor, enhancing the natural beauty in a way that both residents and visitors will enjoy.

Thank you for your work supporting artists and the arts.

Respectfully submitted,

Woody Morris, Sue Taves, Lloyd Whannell

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SE Pioneer Way Improvement Project Proposal 2011

Project Title

Water – Above, Below, On and Of

Design

Our concept is to create a flow of sculptures along Pioneer Way, using the chosen “Water” theme and a common material that creates a link between four individual sculptures. Each is a stand-alone sculpture and each represents one of the four water components of “Above, Below, On and Of.” Imagery of boats sailing mid-regatta, rain, a serene pool, and marine life are represented on the sculptures. They each tell a story that will celebrate Oak Harbor and its relationship to the water. The scale among the sculptures varies from a Zen-like pool two feet high to a seven-foot tall column. The largest pieces are four feet in diameter and have dynamic imagery sculpted in high relief that will lead a viewer around the sculpture. The large diameter basalt columns are distinctive in their size as smaller diameter columns are more commonly seen. Each of the sculptures has imagery that provides dynamic visual interest from all sides.

All of the sculptures will take advantage of the natural characteristics of columnar basalt. These stones are naturally formed in columnar shapes and are available in multiple heights and circumferences; we will be using three different sized columns for this project. The outer surface of the basalt is a tan/brown color that contrasts with the rich, polished black that lies under the surface. The use of this contrast creates drama in the sculpture between the carved, polished images and the background surfaces that are raw stone. Three of the four sculptures have an additional contrasting component of the background surface, which is textured and then sandblasted, leaving the natural surface and fine, light gray color.

The sculptures can be selected together or individually as each has been designed to represent one of the aspects of the chosen theme.

Water - Of

Title: "Sea Life" \$30,000 Category

This is a large-scale sculpture depicting the marine life that is "Of" our local waters. Gray and orca whales, and salmon are carved in high relief so they are physically visible *and* tactile and stand out from the surface of the stone. Each image is placed to create a dynamic vortex of movement, leading viewers around the sculpture to discover new images. The few inches at the base of the stone are left with the outer skin to contrast the surface of the fish, which are polished black, and the background of the water, which is sandblasted to a fine light gray color. This creates maximal contrast so the image will be clear up close and also when viewed from farther away. The dynamic swirling motion will be apparent from a distance and, as people approach, they will be able to pick out the individual shapes of the whales and fish as they swim in their circular basalt "aquarium." This is a large, circular column of stone that stands five-six feet in height, three to four feet in diameter and weighs approximately three tons.

Water - On

Title: "Regatta" \$30,000 Category

This is the second large-scale sculpture of this series and depicts the "On" component. We have chosen the iconic image of the sailboat racing across the surface of the water. Two-three sailboats will be carved in high relief on the surface of the stone so as to appear to be moving on the surface of the massive circular column as it rises from the ground. The dynamic motion of the carved images creates a story as viewers move around the circular column. The smooth, flowing lines of the sail and the hull and the finely sandblasted background texture will create a tactile experience for both adults and children. This is a large, circular column of stone that stands five-six feet in height, three to four feet in diameter and weighs approximately three tons.

Water - Above

Title: "Rainshower" \$10,000 category

To signify "Water - Above," the imagery of rain running down a surface will be carved on alternating faces of a tall basalt column. A natural basalt column is typically five to seven-sided; some sides will be carved and polished or sandblasted to create the design, with other sides being left with the raw stone to provide color contrast and interest as viewers circle around the piece. On the carved surfaces, the contrast between the polished rain rivulet and the sandblasted background texture is dramatic when the column is dry. When it rains, that contrast lessens and then, in the process of drying, the design will emerge again. This column will be five-seven feet in height and approximately two feet in diameter, weighing approximately two tons. See the submitted image of a completed sculpture of similar scale and design.

Water - Below

Title: "Zen Basin" \$10,000 Category

This polished stone basin gives the appearance of a pool of water quietly resting in a large stone bowl. This is a quiet and elegant sculpture that signifies the importance of the water

that comes from below and also serves as a metaphor for the nourishment that arises from within. The appearance of water results from highly polishing the black basalt, which creates a reflective surface that appears to be the surface of water. This column is short but wide, about two feet high and four feet in diameter.

As this is not a working water fountain, there is no plumbing or maintenance. (See the submitted image of a completed sculpture of similar scale and design.)

Materials

The material chosen for this project is ideal for outdoors. Columnar Basalt is a dense and durable material that is well established as an outdoor sculpture material. Basalt is a very hard, durable stone, resistant to weather and erosion. Its density and hardness (which is much greater than marble) makes it an ideal choice for outdoor sculpture. It takes an exquisite high polish and its close granular structure allows for clean edges for design purposes. Once installed, its surfaces will maintain the contrast and surface color without degrading over time.

Safety

The stone columns will be firmly attached to the ground through an engineered concrete pad; this stabilizes the columns so they will not move.

Carving in relief in the stone and using contrasting color allows the images to be a firm part of the stone while appearing to float on the surface. This eliminates a concern about breakage or material protruding out from a sculpture in a way that could be potentially injurious. The sculptures will invite touch and do not have any sharp edges.

Budget

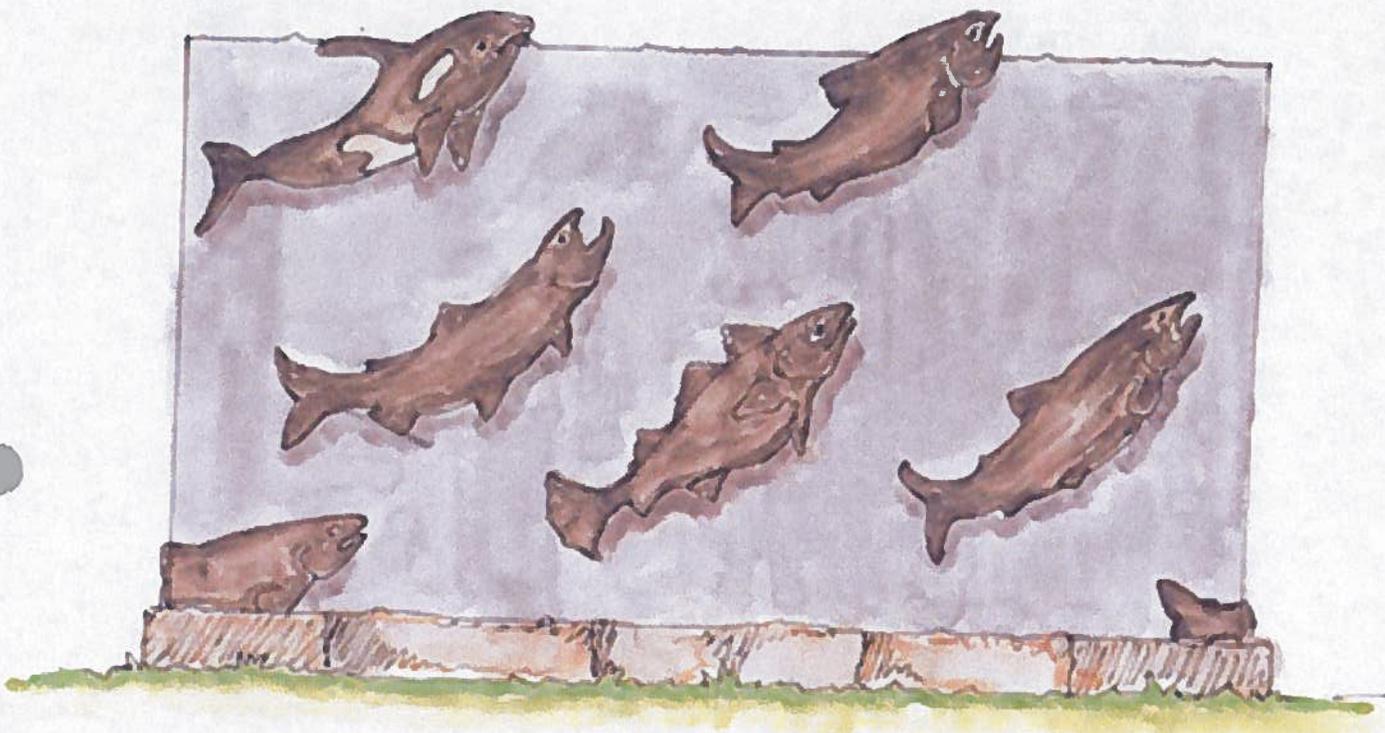
The large-scale basalt columns (On and Of) are \$30,000. The two smaller scale sculptures (Above, Below) are each \$10,000. This is the maximum cost of the project, costs may be less depending on availability and location of the raw stone material. This includes all costs including: materials, engineering, sculpting, transportation of the finished sculptures and installation.

Maintenance Schedule

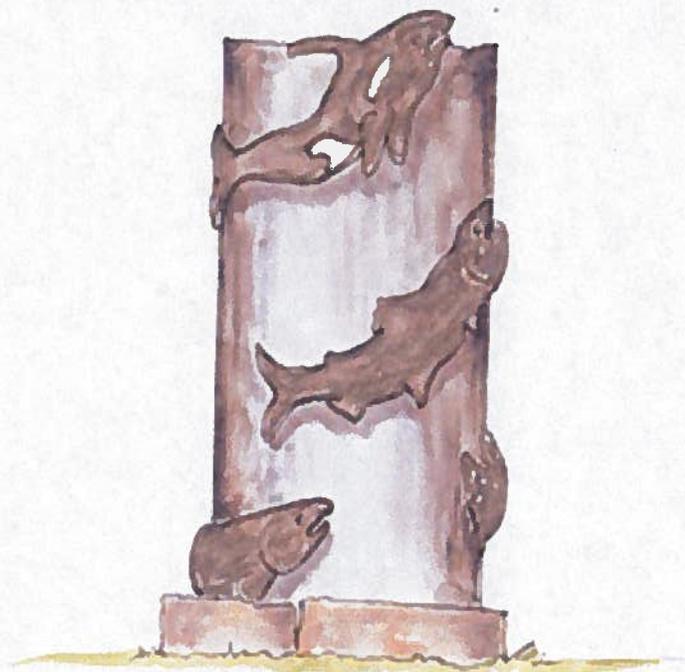
Standard maintenance only is required, regular cleaning with water to remove dust and debris. It may require occasional resealing of the stone (every 2-3 years), which can be done with readily available materials and without special training.

Respectively submitted;

Woody Morris, Sue Taves, Lloyd Whannell



ROLL OUT VIEW
BASALT COLUMN
SE PIONEER WAY IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT
OAK HARBOR WA



COLUMN VIEW
OF THE COLUMN
ON PIONEER WAY IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT





