Proposal
SE Pioneer Way Improvement Project

Georgia Gerber
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Statement of Interest

Thank you for allowing me to submit this proposal for your project. I apologize if the effort feels rushed in any way, but I just today learned of this opportunity. Because of the time constraint I was not able to tour the specific sites, though I am familiar with the area from many visits in the past, and I am excited about ideas for creating one or more quality bronze sculptures that would fulfill the artistic guidelines and vision you have set forth. I feel that any of the concepts I present here have an appeal that could make them a treasured landmark for your Improvement Project.

I have been a professional sculptor for nearly 30 years, and have created and installed over fifty permanent public sculptures throughout the Northwest and beyond. I operate my own studio and foundry on Whidbey Island, and produce all of my own public work utilizing a unique casting method that is more efficient and cost effective than traditional art foundries. Because I control the entire production, I am often able to offer larger scale castings for any given budget. I am experienced in working with all aspects of outdoor public sculpture, from design and budgeting to installation and maintenance. I have always enjoyed good working relationships with Art Committees, and I would be happy to offer references for any of the projects I have completed.

As a part of my resume, I have attached a number of photos of some past installations. As you can see, the hallmark of my style is to present a sculpture that engages viewers both physically and emotionally. They often have a narrative feeling – presenting the outline of a story that the viewer needs to fill in. They are all meant to invite direct interaction.

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Preliminary Concepts

I have found throughout my career that public sculpture which stands the test of time is that which is able to elicit an emotional connection with the viewer and at the same time reflect a connection to the site where it is placed. I also notice that people are continuously fascinated by sculptural depictions of wildlife. There seems to be a natural interest in getting close to a species that is otherwise normally out of reach.

The Pioneer Way Improvement Project is a wonderful opportunity to combine these attributes in sculptures that pay tribute to local Northwest wildlife that are of the water – above or below.

I outline three specific proposed artworks below, which could fit any of the sites described in the prospectus. I submit these as examples of how I would approach the project in its entirety. Any one of these sculptures could stand alone in any of the sites appropriate to their budget. If the selection committee likes this direction I could continue with this theme to provide additional or similarly themed sculptures for every site to provide an overall continuity to the project as a whole.

Budget quotes include all aspects of producing the sculpture, transportation to site, installation, and sales tax.

River Otter Trio
Bronze
30” H x 39”D x 8’L
$30,000

Seal Twist
Bronze
26”H x 32”W x 33”D
$9,000

Seal Family
Bronze
23”H x 55”W x 38”D
$14,000

Salmon Window
Bronze and Stainless Steel
6’H x 6’W x 2’D
$30,000

This sculpture would be similar to a piece recently installed at the Port of Everett in an existing wall opening. The compelling image of the salmon held within the structure needed to support it during fabrication has inspired the idea to create a similar grouping of salmon held within a stainless steel framework. There is an interesting tension between the movement of the salmon and the ridged confines of the structure. The Framework on the finished version would be much more refined.