COLIN LAMBERT
MARIPOSA STUDIO

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SE Pioneer Way Improvement Project
Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island, WA

LETTER OF INTEREST

I am very interested in this project, as an opportunity to express my love for Whidbey Island. My proposal is directly inspired by many visits to Whidbey and a deep empathy and longing for her beautiful coasts.

In the course of a long career, I have experienced that every public art project, defines a point where multiple professional concerns and visions converge. I view these layers of interests, along with the physical site, its history and context as an equation, which eventually defines my response. I am always thinking "signature landmark", when I visit a prospective site.

For each project, I intend that my contribution be beautiful, have meaning and embody enduring relevance through time. I possess a natural understanding of civic dignity, as I aim for a simplicity and access that inclusively serves the site and its user populations. It is obvious that the success of complex projects require excellent communication between contributors. I make clear, comprehensive communication a professional priority. I bring a long professional track record to my projects, consistently delivering beautiful quality pieces impeccably crafted.

I would love to collaborate with your community on this project.

Colin Lambertz

395 Johnson Street  •  Sebastopol, CA  •  95472  •  (530) 300-4774  •  colin@mariposastudio.net
www.mariposastudio.net
SE PIONEER WAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island, WA

CONCEPT
It has been a pleasure to "dream" of Oak Harbor while creating this collection of sculptures. The concept presented here is a unifying approach, whereby all four sculptures are thematically and visually related. The group is named "Gifts from the Sea", and is profoundly inspired by the collected reflections of Ann Morrow Lindbergh, of the same title. If shortlisted, I will scour Oak Harbor's beaches and tide pools, in order to find the most beautiful specimens of local tidal life for inspiration and models.

My vision is to mark the entrance and the exit of the redeveloped Pioneer Way Downtown district with monumental naturalistic sculptures of typical North West coastal seashells. These magnificent specimens will faithfully portray the elegance and delicacy of natural shells with delicate markings, subtle tonalities and variety of lusters. I intend to capture every graceful nuance and textural detail in my initial full size clay model and have devised a plan for casting the complex forms in progressive stages, which will cause the finished casting to grow from the inner spiral out into its "flowering" edges. Although it is an artistic and technical challenge, I feel certain that the terrazzo veneered cement public art works completed in the past 5 years have been preparation for this challenge. The seashells will be of two different specimens each will be approximately 5.5' long and 3.5' tall. They will be mounted on simple rectangular black granite plinths, 12" tall. Because the casting method will produce a partly hollow interior, it will be possible to place solid-state LED lighting within the shell, producing a beautiful inner-glow day and night.

The material used in such work is state of the art Ferro-cement technology wed to classic terrazzo skills. Durable colorful glass flake impregnated cement is ground, polished or sandblasted providing all the permanent colors and textures needed for a complex project. This terrazzo skin is applied over a steel rod and stainless mesh reinforced grid with special concrete
formulations and additives, which insure longevity and durability. Also, I have found several beautiful quotes from Ann Morrow Lindbergh's, "Gifts From The Sea", which could be inscribed along the outside edge of the plinths to add another dimension of interest. An example: "Patience and faith, is what the sea teaches. One should lay empty, open, choice less as a beach... waiting for a gift from the sea".

The elegant and monumental shell sculptures at either end of the district will be complemented, and the theme of "Gifts From The Sea" continued, by two smaller compositions placed within the redevelopment. In contrast, these two smaller pieces will be vertical, playfully colorful and whimsical. The same black granite again provides a pedestal and context, this time for brightly colored sea creatures and sea plants. The pedestals will erupt abrupt and vertical from the pavement, each capped by some charmingly colorful sea character; crab or mollusk. The polished black side planes invite bright starfish, kelp, urchins, clams etc. These forms will all be fully dimensional and brightly colored with glass mosaic or terrazzo. It is also possible to interlace a beautiful thought from Ann Morrow Lindbergh into each composition.

All of the materials proposed for this project are completely stable and durable. I am current with industrial graffiti mitigation technology and will protect all surfaces with a top quality "sacrificial layer" sealer. I will acquaint your maintenance department with the information needed to erase any attack and renew the sacrificial barrier. There are, virtually no maintenance issue associated with this group of four public sculptures.

**COSTS**

I view this commission as a single body of work, that is, the underlying architecture of the concept requires all four elements to exist together. There fore, I would like to be considered for all four locations as an interdependent group. I believe that I can create, deliver and install all four components for $80,000.00.