

Dear Art Selection Members,

I am applying as a team with my husband and art partner Dave Frei. Our passion is to create art that lifts spirits and adds levity to a weighty world. In our partnership I provide artistic vision and design while Dave delivers the craftsmanship by bringing my concepts to life in his metal shop.

WHAT WE DO

Our primary medium is metal. I design with simplicity of line and form and use curves thoughtfully to add grace, flow, and playful sophistication. We often finish our pieces with bold colors to enhance their uplifting nature. We're excited to be incorporating light into many of our recent pieces as we learn more about the art and craft of LED lighting.

WHY THIS OPPORTUNITY INTERESTS US

The entire Olympia Art Crossing project is very enticing because of the unifying ways it uses art at important junctures across the city where transitions occur, whether it's between neighborhoods, landscapes, land use, or transportation patterns. We're drawn to the way these Art Crossings are very site specific yet fit together as a cohesive collection of Art Markers and Wayfinding Elements just on the outskirts of downtown.

Another big reason this project appeals to us is that the artists get to work directly with the community to learn what is most important to them. This is my favorite part of the process! I'll be eager to meet with residents of the ENA and ONNA neighborhoods to hear what is most important to them, and what they wish for this artwork to convey aesthetically, emotionally, environmentally, historically, etc.

The Martin Way/Pacific Avenue project is interesting to us specifically because of the complex nature of the intersection. We love the challenge of designing artworks that will be amongst moving traffic patterns where the viewers' experiences vary depending on whether they are pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists. Three of our largest public projects are sculptures on traffic roundabouts/couplets, so we understand the level of detail required to create art near traffic flow, and the need for safety, durability, and visibility.

We recently completed a gateway project in Moscow, Idaho for a traffic couplet at a complex intersection where busy state highway traffic funnels into the downtown. Design requirements were stringent so as not to block visibility for drivers and pedestrians. We worked in unison with both Idaho Department of Transportation and the City of Moscow on all the various requirements. See photos.

GENERAL APPROACH TO CONCEPTS/DESIGNS

To inspire my concepts, I delve into the public process by learning all I can about the community where the art will be placed. That's why I love that an important aspect of this project is meeting with the neighborhoods as well as doing a site walk-through with various City parties. From there I cull from all the various inputs and insights to create powerful designs that artistically represent the community, foster joy, and help tell a story, while also meeting all the site requirements in creative ways.

With the complex nature of this bowtie, I'd work to find visual ways to add continuity between the triangles and islands, making for safer, more obvious ways for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers to cross through this area.

RELEVANT SKILLS

Dave and I have been creating public art together for fourteen years. We've installed several iconic pieces for Pacific Northwest communities that evoke a sense of a place and have become distinctive landmarks for these cities. These projects include design, fabrication, engineering, and installation. We've worked collaboratively with art commissioners, architects, engineers, developers, and contractors, and have a stellar record of being on-time and on-budget. High craftsmanship is a guiding principle. Dave has 37 years' experience in engineering and fabrication. We're proud of the compliments we receive on the uplifting nature of our sculptures, their quality, robustness, ease of installation, and our professionalism.

CONNECTION TO OLYMPIA

We've spent a lot of time in Olympia over the years. Dave's mother lived in Shelton, WA for decades. Every time we visited her, we made it a ritual to go to Olympia for grocery shopping, dining out, and to visit his mother's friend who is a longtime Olympia resident. Dave and I have spent lovely weekends in Olympia to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays, where we enjoy exploring your parks, restaurants, and local entertainment. We've had the honor of visiting the capitol multiple times to talk to politicians about our concerns and ideas around public education. It's been fun watching Olympia evolve in community, arts, and culture.

We'd love the opportunity to work with the City of Olympia and the local residents to design a pair of artworks that help stitch together the Martin Way/Pacific Ave SE bowtie in an artful, memorable, and meaningful way.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jennifer Corio, Lead Artist