

Brad Rude: City of Olympia Eastside Street Art Crossing Letter of Interest

The City of Olympia Gateways public art is an exciting project that greatly appeals to me as it reflects the most fundamental principles of my work: Connections. For many years I have been sculpting animals and depicting them in ways that show their capabilities and uniqueness as part of a group and as individuals, just as the gateway neighborhoods do. I feel my experience, history with public art, and visual vocabulary of the animal kingdom, both wild and domestic, all provide me with a solid platform to create a new sculpture for the Eastside Street Art Crossing.

I am a storyteller. I spin tales in bronze that require the viewers imagination, curiosity and the ability to ponder. Elements of my work include animals in situations that promote a dialogue of communication and friendship between species and individuals. My work is devoted primarily to expressing the very important relationship we have with other animals as well as all of the natural world. These relationships are explored by bringing a variety of figures and objects together. Whenever various things are combined, a story or an idea emerges that speaks to us as a memory, desire, dream or reality. People often relate to and are drawn to my work as they identify with one or more of the characters. We can view my sculptures as animals on a big adventure, and/or we can see ourselves through them and go along for the ride. I use analogies and metaphors to help viewers identify with the various animal characters and see themselves, perhaps saying, 'I've been there before' or 'I feel the same way'.

During my 36 year career, I have completed 22 public art projects including Elementary, Middle and High schools, Children's Hospitals, Arts & Culture centers, Universities, Public Transit, Parks, Private Healthcare facilities, and Youth Skills Centers. My project experience includes working directly with architects, engineers, construction management teams, landscapers, and project leaders with budgets up to \$450,000.

Since 1995, I have been working with the Olympia headquartered Washington State Arts Commission as a member of the approved, professional artist roster to create 7 new public art via the Art in Public Places program. My work is very engaging, approachable, and welcoming. Art in public spaces must interact with such a diverse group of people, and therefore demands that the artist create the most accessible piece possible. My history with public commissions shows that I reliably deliver the artwork as agreed, on time and within budget. My medium of cast bronze is highly durable and low maintenance. My idea is to create a piece of art that is timeless, positive and can be appreciated by a large and diverse group of people, both in the present and future.

With my skills, love of the animal kingdom, and devotion to creating iconic public art, I believe my work would be a great fit for this project. I would be delighted to be selected to create a large scale bronze sculpture for the City of Olympia Crossings Art Plan to celebrate, highlight and connect the gateway to the Eastside Street neighborhood.

Brad Rude Annotated Image List: City of Olympia Art Crossings

01 TITLE: A World Beyond

COMPLETION DATE: 2004

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze, Vintage wood farm wagon

DIMENSIONS: 150" x 120" x 50"

LOCATION: Washington State University, Pullman Washington

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: Washington State Arts Commission with Washington State University

BUDGET: \$110,000.00

DESCRIPTION: This shows a hard working Mule who has discovered the delight and magic of riding "on" a wagon rather than pulling it. The engraved drawings on her sides represent her personal history.

*Brad designed the sculpture, & sculpted the life size mule and all smaller animals. He welded and assembled all bronze elements, applied paint and patina and installed the sculpture atop the wood farm wagon.

02 TITLE: The Great Beyond

COMPLETION DATE: 2004

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze

DIMENSIONS: 83" x 110" x 60"

LOCATION: IslandWood School, Bainbridge Island Washington

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: Debbie Brainerd, IslandWood Chairperson

BUDGET: \$60,000.00

DESCRIPTION: This sculpture designed as an integral part of a 255 acre island retreat for inner city children who have never experienced nature. This piece is part of the mission of learning and the animals display an inquisitive nature as they lean forward and explore together.

*Brad designed the sculpture, and sculpted all of the animals as well as the boat. He molded an antique wagon wheel and had 4 cast into bronze. He welded and assembled all animals to the boat, applied paint and patina and installed the sculpture on Bainbridge Island.

03 TITLE: A Donkey, Three Rocks and a Bird

COMPLETION DATE: 1992

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze, rocks

DIMENSIONS: 55" x 108" x 20"

LOCATION: Catlin Gabel School, Portland OR

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: Doris Schnitzer and Susan Schnitzer

DESCRIPTION: Life size donkey and bird installed on the school campus between the Lower School Art Barn and the Science Lab. This piece explores the natural world through peaceful and meditative gestures.

*Brad designed the sculpture and sculpted the life-size donkey and bird. He welded and assembled all bronze elements, applied paint and patina and installed in Portland.

04 TITLE: First and Foremost

COMPLETION DATE: 2018

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze, Stainless Steel base

DIMENSIONS: 90" x 84" x 24"

LOCATION: Phoenix Children's Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: American Art Resources, Houston, Texas

BUDGET: \$57,000.00

DESCRIPTION: The cast bronze goat and jackrabbit are communicating via the archway of animals and small objects above them perhaps learning about their similarities, differences, sharing with one another.

*Brad designed the sculpture and sculpted the life-size goat and jackrabbit. He welded and assembled all bronze elements including the entire arch, fabricated the stainless steel base, applied paint and patina to all bronze and installed in Phoenix.

05 TITLE: Mountaintop

COMPLETION DATE: 2002

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze

DIMENSIONS: 72" x 63" x 24"

LOCATION: The McKinley Arts and Culture Center, Reno, Nevada.

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: City of Reno, Nevada: Part of the Reno "Counting Sheep" art exhibition.

BUDGET: \$40,000.00

DESCRIPTION: This sheep has flutings and engravings & is located at the entrance of the McKinley Arts & Culture Center in Reno, Nevada. The balanced stones are like his 'core'. They suggest the need for balance with help from other sources represented by the helper sticks.

*Brad designed the sculpture and sculpted the life-size bighorn sheep. He welded and assembled all bronze elements including the rocks and sticks, applied paint and patina and installed in Reno.

06 TITLE: Strong And Able

COMPLETION DATE: 2019

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze, Granite

DIMENSIONS: 120" x 65" x 36"

LOCATION: Walla Walla, Washington

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: Private Commission

BUDGET: \$105,000.00

DESCRIPTION: Life size cast bronze black bear, mule deer buck, coyote and big horned owl showcase the animals of the Pacific Northwest all working together. Each of the animals has unique drawings inscribed onto their bodies.

*Brad designed the sculpture and sculpted the life-size black bear, mule deer buck, coyote and great horned owl. He welded and assembled all bronze elements, applied paint and patina to all bronze and installed on a 12" high custom cut granite base.

07 TITLE: Side By Side

COMPLETION DATE: 2019

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze

DIMENSIONS: 44" x 210" x 90"

LOCATION: Olympic Hills Elementary School, Seattle Washington

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: Washington State Arts Commission with Olympic Hills Elementary School

BUDGET: \$58,000.00

DESCRIPTION: This group is exploring ideas about sameness and differences. We all have similarities that make us strong together, and we all have unique qualities that make us shine as individuals.

*Brad designed the sculpture and sculpted the life-size river otter, coyote and jackrabbit. He welded and assembled all bronze elements, applied paint and patina to all bronze and installed in Seattle.

08 TITLE/PROJECT NAME: Circle of Life

COMPLETION DATE: 2018

MEDIUM: Cast Bronze

DIMENSIONS: 109" x 72" x 56"

LOCATION: Boulder Creek Healthcare, Salem, Oregon

COMMISSIONING AGENCY: Capital Management Partners

BUDGET: \$75,000.00

DESCRIPTION: This wheel shaped sculpture suggests a sense of community, well-being and cooperation with one another. The animals are all connected as they travel around moving harmoniously within the 'Circle of Life'.

*Brad designed the sculpture and sculpted each of the animals in the circle. He molded a ponderosa pine stump which was cast into bronze. He welded and assembled all bronze elements including the sticks that form the spokes and central vessel, applied paint and patina to all bronze and installed in Salem.

Brad Rude –Resume

PUBLIC WORKS & SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Art Museum of Missoula, MT
Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID
Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY
Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA
City of Auburn, WA
City of Beaverton, Beaverton, OR (Tri-Met)
City of Kirkland, WA
City of Reno, NV
City of Tigard, Tigard, OR (Tri-Met)
City of Tuallatin, Tuallatin, OR (Tri-Met)
City of Vancouver, WA
City of Walla Walla, WA
City of Wilsonville, Wilsonville, OR (Tri-Met)
Catlin Gabel School, Portland, OR
Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Portland, OR
Intracorp, Seattle, WA
Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA
National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, WY
Nordstrom, Seattle, WA
Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA
Packard Children's Hospital, Palo Alto, CA
Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
Skagit Valley Community College, Oak Harbor, WA
Tacoma Community College, Tacoma, WA
Texaco, White Plains, New York
Tri-Met, Portland, OR
WRQ Inc., Seattle, WA
Walla Walla Foundry, Walla Walla, WA
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
West One Bank, Boise, ID
Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, WA
Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, MT

PUBLIC WORKS & AWARDS

2019 Washington State Arts Commission, Olympic Hills Elementary School, Seattle WA
2018 Phoenix Children's Hospital, Phoenix, AZ
2016 Western Visions, Trustees Purchase Award, National Museum of Wildlife Art
2015-2016 Washington State Arts Commission, Cascadia Technical Academy, Vancouver WA
2015 Artist Trust GAP Grant
2004-2008 Washington State University, purchase award, Pullman, WA Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Commission of 5 stops on rail line. District of Oregon, Portland, OR
2002-2003 Washington State Arts Commission Art in Public Places Program in partnership with Skagit Valley Community College, Oak Harbor, WA
1998-1999 Washington State Arts Commission Art in Public Places Program in partnership with Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA
1997-1998 Seattle Arts Commission Special Project/Residency: Artwork at Woodland Park Zoo
1996-1998 Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Portland, Oregon, lobby commission
1995 Washington State Arts Commission, Art in Public Places Program in partnership with Chinook Primary/Alki Middle School, Vancouver School District, Vancouver, WA
1992 Washington State Arts Commission/National Endowment for the Arts, \$5,000 Two Dimensional Artist Fellowship Award
1992 Commission of life sized deer and a log City of Auburn, WA
1992 Commission of life sized donkey, rocks, and a bird, Catlin Gabel School, Portland, OR

REFERENCES

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