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City of Olympia Arts Commission  
Department of Parks, Arts & Recreation  
222 Columbia St. NW  
Olympia, WA 98510

Dear Arts Commission:

**Re: Art Donation to the City of Olympia**

### **1. Cover Letter: (January 2021)**

I am offering an eight piece bronze tableau titled, *A Story Place*, as a gift to the city of Olympia. The life-size bronze figures are foundry produced from the original ceramic artwork. The sculptures are: *Girl Reading in a Story Place, Pig, Rabbit, Bear, Toad, Fox and Mole* listening to her story with a stack of *storybooks* at her feet.

**(Please note): The city of Olympia owns three (3) of these pieces by their winning People's Choice in the Percival Plinth contests for 2018 and 2020. They are:**

**Pig Listening in A Story Place (2018)**

**Girl Reading in A Story Place (2020)**

**Mole Listening in A Story Place (2020)**

***Bear and Rabbit* were on exhibit in the 2019 Percival landing Plinth Exhibit, but did not win).**

Because the original ceramic tableau is fragile, I found it necessary to reproduce several of the pieces in bronze so as to withstand physical interaction and weather over time.

**Please go to my website: [astoryplace.com](http://astoryplace.com)** Olympia has been my home for many, many years. I see A Story Place fitting in with all the magnificent artworks in the city, already part of the unique attractions for local families and visitors to enjoy the welcoming beauty of Capitol Lake, South Sound and Capitol campus.

*The* eight piece ensemble depicts a diverse gathering of figures from all backgrounds coming together for a common purpose. They listen to a child empowered by her ability

to read and speak to others with confidence. Here is a place where imagination knows no boundaries for accomplishing anything. Together, my bronze characters offer a vision for living in harmony and the potential for giving back to the world. Today's children will be tomorrow's adult residents and I see *A Story Place* becoming part of the heart of Olympia where events for discussing ideas and ideals, storytelling and imaginings, portend a robust future for our community.

## **2. Actual Artwork**

**The five bronze pieces plus the three the city owns, are available.**

**Materials used:** Bronze, welded and bolted to metal plates.

**Dimensions:** dimensions vary per sculpture. Tallest is 45" Largest 35" wide

Collectively, the tableau can be arranged in various ways which will determine overall dimension. Possible 8' X8', 10' X10" or larger if seating is installed for community and storytelling events.

**Colors:** Various colors of patina or variations of bronze. Kids like the colors.

**Textures:** Natural bronze textures of hair, fur, bark on stumps and clothing

**Utility Requirements:** No utility requirements

**Site Plan:** Ideally, the site would be close to a children's play area and at ground level to allow for the best imaginative interactions to flourish.

The ground under all the sculptures would be a durable playground rubber or other soft material meeting the city's approval..

## **3. Fabrication, construction, installation**

- \* The eight bronze pieces are foundry fabricated and constructed ready to install.
- \* Each sculpture will have a built-in solid metal bar or tabs welded underneath for attaching heavy bolts. The bolts will attach to a metal plate that will be reinforced in a cement base. The metal plate and cement base will be underground and covered with a durable rubberized playground material.
- \* The donor will oversee these methods for installation and they will be carried out in accordance with the city's approval.

## **4. Criteria**

- \* **Aesthetic quality:** The Aesthetic quality of this artwork is established having been exhibited and on display at many locations over time. It has shown to be a significant draw for young and folks of all ages. Elders enjoy the memories it brings back to them.
- \* **Proposed Location:** Somewhere in the open gathering area or play area by the Percival Landing boardwalk in downtown Olympia.
- \* **Donor restrictions/requests:** Donor wishes to have in-put into installation design and aesthetic placements of the eight pieces of artwork as a whole. This proposal is made with the expectation that, if accepted, it will not be separated but will be exhibited as a diorama in the greater Olympia area.
- \* **Technical feasibility:** Professionals with expertise in understanding the technical issues for installing and constructing bronze artwork in public places will be involved.
- \* **Technical specifications:** These will be determined when the eight pieces are chosen, analyzed and recommendations are considered.
- \* **Budget:** The artwork is free to the city of Olympia. Costs for solid, safe, aesthetically pleasing installation is to be negotiated and determined later if approved.
- \* **Durability:** Bronze works of art are known for their durability against harsh weather, people's touch or climbing and tests of time.
- \* **Vandalism and safety:** While the bronze sculpture, "*Pig Listening in A Story Place*" was on display in front of Olympia's City Hall, protesters set fire to it. The sculpture was not damaged except having a new patina put on at the foundry. For children's safety, the entire installation will have soft material under and around the artwork.
- \* **Maintenance and preservation:** Bronze sculptures takes minimum maintenance. Light waxing two times a year helps preserve the patinas.
- \* **Relationship to the City art collection:** The word "free to be" comes to mind when I think of my work with relationship to the city's collection. Such as a bronze girl with her arms out-stretched, a bird souring, a metal man inner story, and **A Story Place**, where a child, surrounded by diversity, welcomes others to do the same.
- \* **Community process:** A Story Place will surely add to our sense of "Community."

\* **Time line:** The time line will be determined when a location is determined. It should not take too long as all the pieces are cast and finished.

**5. A current appraisal or donor's estimate of value:**

The current donor estimate for the 5 gift pieces is: \$126,000

A current donor estimate for the entire eight piece ensemble is: \$200,000.

**6. Artwork's origin and history**

Since creating *A Story Place* in ceramic, I have found it to be an instant appeal for people of all ages wherever it is displayed. The entire original ceramic artwork was on exhibit at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art for eight months where games and contests were created for children to find and name the various animals and insects and to write their own stories about them. The ceramic tableau was also exhibited at Olympia's former Matter Gallery.

The original ceramic art sits on a 10' X 10' stage and can be viewed at my website at: astoryplace.com It includes three life size trees with 1500 leaves, various birds and small creatures in a forest scene with 22 larger animals. There are 32 figures in all and were designed to be fully focused on the Girl reading a story. A Story Place is presently on display in a window at Olympia's Westside Capital Mall. Many children and parents have come to participate during our live story telling and storybook readings.

**7. Nancy Thorne Chamber's resume:**

**Education:**

**1993-1996**      **Antioch of Seattle, WA:** Masters degree in Family and Art Therapy

**1992**            **Merylhurst University Portland, OR.** Art Therapy studies using clay, paint, paper to help clients formulate, express, and verbalize inner feelings toward solutions for healthier lives.

**1992-1993**      **Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA:** BA. Cultures Entwined, Societies in Crisis, East/West Buddhist Studies, Practicing Psychology

**1989-1991**      **South Puget Sound Community College:** Sociology, Psychology

**1974-1977**      **Clover Park, Tacoma, WA:** Graphic Design & Illustration: Advertising and layout.

**Recent Sculptural Art Focus:**

- 2005-2007**     **Designed and built** My Art Studio to pursue building clay figures. I am self-taught.
- 2007-2019**     **Marketing and Selling** Original sculpture work through Matter Gallery, State of the Arts Gallery, Boom Gallery, Arts Walk, Tacoma Windows Main St., Bainbridge Island Museum of Art.
- 2014-2019**     **Continuing Art website design:** [astoryplace.com](http://astoryplace.com),
- 2012-2019**     **Teaching Classes:** Instructing beginning artists on how to use slab and coiling techniques in hand-building clay. Glazing skills, finishing and kiln work.
- 2016-2019**     **Managing:** Overseeing my life-size ceramic sculptures being duplicated in bronze: Digital scanning, 3-D printing, metal casting, patina work, marketing.

*Life-long Artistic Focus*

- 1950-2007**     **Free-lance Illustrator:** Illustrations for children's stories and potential books. Illustrations for family, friends and individual commissioned work.
- 1960-2007**     **Commercial Illustrator:** Freelance illustrator for businesses, agencies, credit unions, politics. Ads for beverage company, travel, storage and commissioned work.
- 1960-2007**     **Graphic Design:** Freelance graphic designer for advertisements, travel brochures, political posters, brochures, credit unions, yellow pages.
- 1995-2007**     **Private Practice and Program Manager at BHR:** Mental Health Agency and Family Therapist using Art Therapy.
- 1981-1984**     **Quintessence Design Studio:** Freelance Artist: Developed political campaign materials, Olympia Brewery advertising, logos, newsletter layout.
- 1984-1985**     **Children's Book Conference, New York:** Workshops. Illustrating and writing.
- 1974-1980**     **Capitol Marketing:** Freelance graphics for credit unions, Shurgard Storage: yellow page layouts, slide show graphics. Capital Press: layout and graphics
- 1972-1973**     **Olympia School District:** Developed and illustrated 10 educational books to be used for Special Needs Training.

*Art Exhibitions & Publicity:*

- 2021**             **Interview** for OlyArts magazine
- 2020**             **Percival Plinth Project**, Winner of People's Choice: Girl Reading in A Story Place.

- 2019** **Hands-On Children's Art Museum** approached me for purchase of several bronze pieces from *A Story Place*.
- 2018** **Percival Plinth Project, Olympia, WA.** Purchased bronze *Pig Listening in a Story Place*. Winner People's Choice
- 2016-2018** **Boom Gallery, Olympia, WA.** Exhibited and sold ceramic sculptures and framed pastel paintings through this local gallery for a year.
- 2015-2016** **Bainbridge Island Museum of Art: *A Story Place*** Installation, 12ft x 12ft x 10ft was a main exhibit for 8 months. Theme activities given to all ages. I presented a slide show of my life's development as an artist. A small sculpted **rabbit** for the writing contest's winner.
- 2015** **Pacific Northwest Sculptures Newsletter:** March, 2015. A featured article on engineering hurdles I have run across building very large sculptures.
- 2014** **Matter Art Gallery, Olympia, WA:** Featured artist's installation, *A Story Place*. Front page photo and article "**Ceramics speak of love, companionship**" by Molly Gillmore, December 20, 2014
- 2014** "**A Story Place at home in Olympia's Matter Gallery**" A featured article in Tacoma's Weekly Volcano by Alec Clayton. December 10, 2014
- 2013** **Kenneth J. Minnaert Gallery:** Rabbit on exhibit.
- 2012** **Washington Center for the Arts, Olympia, WA:** Exhibition of four major ceramic pieces. "African Princess" was a featured work recognized in a published piece in *The Daily Olympian* by Alec Clayton, a local art critic.
- 2011** **35<sup>th</sup> Juried Art Show, Sequim, WA:** "Her Sea Sang of Dying" won best ceramic sculpture and 4<sup>th</sup> place prize in show.
- 2010** **Tacoma, WA. Downtown window installation:** Solo show for six months featuring sculptures and framed pastel paintings.
- 2009-2014** **Matter Art Gallery, Olympia, WA:** Featured Art with many pieces sold over five years. Sculptures addressed trauma, environment issues and fun work using found objects.
- 2008-2009** **State of the Art Gallery, Olympia, WA:** Pastel Gicle's and Sculpture exhibit and sales.

**8. Examples of artist's work:** Please go to Nancy's website at" [astoryplace.com](http://astoryplace.com)









*These photos taken before record Pig were made in bronze.*





Send





*Girl Reading in a story Place 45" tall*





*Pig Listening in A Story Place*





Sank





Send





*Ingraved storybook*

*Send*





*So Cute - Someone put a small mitten on Girl's bare foot 2021*