

## MEMORANDUM



**To:** City Council

**From:** Rich LaBombard  
City Manager

**Date:** December 5, 2022

**Subject:** Public Art Donation  
Kirov Pyramid  
Resolution 44-2022

Maryjo Lemanski of the Saugatuck Douglas Fennville Art Initiative (SDFAI) has approached the City of Douglas about a new public art installation using excess funds from SDFAI and donations earmarked for a sculpture in downtown Douglas. Ms. Lemanski was successful in coordinating the acquisition of a Jason Quigno sculpture called “Seven Grandfathers” for the City of Douglas earlier this year.

Ms. Lemanski proposes to acquire a sculpture by artist Rado Kirov called “Pyramid” from the Water Street Gallery for \$2,900. Kirov’s “Pyramid” is a hand forged stainless-steel sculpture that is highly polished to reflect the natural surroundings. In addition to the sculpture, a base and interpretive plaque with QR code will be purchased by SDFAI so the sculpture can be properly displayed at an outdoor location on public property near the Police Department (47 W. Center) at the intersection of Center and Spring Streets. The sculpture will be permanently donated to the City of Douglas’ public art collection.

Ms. Lemanski is requesting the City pay for the installation of the concrete foundation that will need to be poured to support the pedestal and sculpture. The City previously paid for the foundation installation for the Jason Quigno sculpture at the History Center. The cost for this base will be less than \$500.

Artist Rado Kirov is a Bulgarian artist who specializes in metal work. Kirov resides in South Africa and has many notable accomplishments in his career. “Kirov has hand crafted numerous prestigious pieces including a silver Chalice presented to the late Pope John Paul II by former President Nelson Mandela on behalf of the South African government in 1998, a silver rose bowl presented as a wedding gift to the Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife by the South African government, and the Alfred Dunhill Challenge Cup Trophy for golf.” Kirov “received the ultimate recognition by the South African government when he was commissioned to craft the new parliamentary People’s Mace and the Black Rod mace of the South African Parliament using 18 carat gold.” Seeking a new creative outlet, Kirov “developed a unique technique of manipulating a sheet of stainless steel by hand, using the inherent physical properties of the metal to create a striking three-dimensional surface that dynamically mirrors its surroundings and draws the observer into the magic of its reflection.” Kirov coined this technique the “Mercury Effect” and those reflective properties are evident in the “Pyramid.”

Per the Public Art Policy “Selection Criteria for Community Initiated Public Art”, artwork proposals will be reviewed by staff for recommendation to the Douglas City Council. The works of art will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Verification that the artwork will be located on public property and be publicly accessible.
2. Ability of the artist/applicant to complete the project within the proposed timeframe and budget.
3. Commitment of proposed partners involved in the project. Application should include a clear explanation of the responsibilities of each entity involved in the project.
4. Ability/willingness of the artist/applicant to work with the City.
5. Ability of the applicant to provide funding (if proposed).
6. Verification that the completed and installed artwork will become the property of the City of Douglas.
7. Artwork meets design, safety and maintenance criteria, funding availability, appropriateness of the artwork for the site and the ability of the piece to contribute to the identity and viability of the community and promote the image of the City of Douglas.

**I recommend City Council adopt Resolution 44-2022 and accept the proposed donation of a sculpture by artist Rado Kirov titled “Pyramid” to be located at 47 W. Center Street with minimal cost to the City.**

**CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS  
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 44 -2022**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR THE PUBLICLY OWNED  
ARTWORK ENTITLED "PYRAMID" TO BE LOCATED AT 47 W CENTER ST**

At a regular meeting of the City Council for the City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan, held at the City of the Village of Douglas City Hall, Douglas, Michigan, on the 19th day of December 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following Resolution was offered by Councilperson \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Councilperson \_\_\_\_\_.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Saugatuck Douglas Fennville Art Initiative (SDFAI) has approached the City of Douglas regarding a new public art installation using excess funds from SDFAI and donations earmarked for a sculpture, by artist Rado Kirov, in downtown Douglas, and

**WHEREAS**, routine maintenance activities associated with the sculpture, base, and foundation, as well as appropriate liability insurance, will be carried by the City of the Village of Douglas per the direction of City Council, and

**WHEREAS**, any damage caused during the installation and placement of the foundation, base, and sculpture will be paid for by the installer. The City of the Village of Douglas will be responsible for repair payment only after the full installment has been set in place, and

**WHEREAS** the City may repair or replace the sculpture if damaged. The City will provide the City of Douglas with 30 days or greater notice if it intends to repair or replace the sculpture.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:** The City Council does hereby adopt Resolution 44-2022 and accept the proposed donation of a sculpture by Bulgarian artist Rado Kirov titled "Pyramid" to be located at 47 W Center Street with minimal cost to the City.

YEAS: Council Members:

NAYS: Council Members:

ABSTAIN: Council Members:

ABSENT: Council Members:

**ADOPTED** this 19th day of December 2022

**CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerome Donovan, Mayor                      Date

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Aalderink, City Clerk              Date

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Pamela Aalderink, the duly appointed Clerk of the City of the Village of Douglas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Douglas City Council at a regular meeting held on Monday, December 19, 2022 in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

**CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Aalderink, City Clerk

## MEMORANDUM

To: Douglas City Council  
From: Maryjo Lemanski/SDFAI  
Re: Acquisition of Pyramid  
Rado Kirov  
43" x 15" x 15"  
Stainless Steel Outdoor Sculpture

Rado Kirov's Pyramid is a perfect addition to the Douglas Outdoor Art Collection. The focus on bringing in artists from other cultures continues with this sculpture. The shape of the piece, the pyramid symbolizes the strength of the Douglas community with the base as the foundation that is strong and stable and the apex is the goal of the City of Douglas to move upward and create a richer, vibrant, art focused community. The hand forged stainless steel is a new material and technique and will enrich the current collection.



Two locations have been evaluated for the possible location of the sculpture. The intersection of Main and Center Street and the Douglas Police Department.

An interactive quality of Pyramid involves the viewer's reflection of the natural surroundings, emphasizing the importance of an ecological awareness, respect and preservation of the natural treasures and resources in Douglas. The sculpture is currently at Water Street Gallery. Jock Aikman has the work on hold until a decision can be made.



The cost of the sculpture and base will be covered by SDAI with remaining funds from donors restricted to purchasing an outdoor sculpture for Douglas.

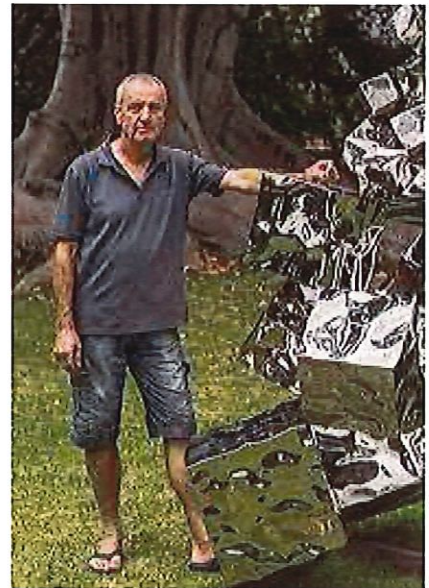
\$2,900	base
300	pedestal
<u>300</u>	<u>plaque</u>
\$3,500.	Total

The cost for the city would be the poured concrete base.

Maintenance for this sculpture will involve cleaning with a mild detergent and soft rag or Windex. Annually, the work will need polishing with a stainless-steel cleaner. It will not rust and maintains a shine better than any other metal.

Rado Kirov was born in Bulgaria in 1955. He developed an interest in metal art at an early age when he was first exposed to the wonder of the Panagyursko Treasure, a hand-crafted collection of golden artifacts dating back to the 3rd century BC.

He began an apprenticeship in copper smithing at the age of 25 in Bulgaria under Alexander Raev, one of the greatest craftsmen in Bulgaria at the time. He honed his artistic skills with copper over the next 10 years until immigrating with his family to South Africa in 1991.



Over the last 20 years, Rado gradually shifted his creative focus to product design and functional art, working extensively with interior designers and architects. Searching for a new creative outlet and complete freedom of expression, Rado recently embarked on

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a new artistic venture at the beginning of 2012 drawing on his extensive knowledge of silver smithing and years of experience in working with various metals. Rado developed a unique technique of manipulating by hand a sheet of stainless steel under extreme temperatures to achieve a rippled surface that is mirror polished to dynamically reflect its surroundings and draws the observer into the magic of its reflection.

Rado's new-found passion for sculpture and his mastery of stainless steel are expressed in this new medium, which he has called the Mercury Effect. His work draws the viewer into the magic of the reflections.







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### **The Cosmic Mountain**

The shape of a pyramid represents the earth's foundation at the bottom, and the pointed top represents the path to higher realms of consciousness.

The two-dimensional view of a pyramid, the triangle, has deep meaning in multiple cultures.

- The Great Pyramids in Egypt
- The Mayan pyramid in Chichén Itzá

Triangles are one of the strongest geometrical shapes that we know of. It is a symbol of positive energy base being the ground and the apex is the top or the goal. Solid, stable, and moving upward.

The symbolism of this shape is associated with its three sides, signifying a variety of triads such as:

- birth, life and death;
- heaven, earth and human;
- mind, body and soul;
- body, soul and spirit;
- father, mother and child.

## **Rado Kirov**

Rado Kirov was born in Bulgaria in 1955. He developed an interest in metal art at an early age when he was first exposed to the wonder of the Panagyursko Treasure, an exquisitely hand-crafted collection of golden artefacts dating back to the 3rd century BC. Rado began an extensive apprenticeship in copper smithing at the age of 25 in the town of Dobrich Bulgaria under the tutelage of Alexander Raev, one of the greatest craftsmen in Bulgaria at the time. He honed his artistic skills with copper over the next 10 years until immigrating with his family to South Africa in 1991. Rado continues to be a member of the Bulgarian Association of Craftsmen – Section: Copper Smithing. Rado's passion and skill in copper, shifted to silver and gold during his years of employment with the Pagliari Group in Cape Town. During this time, Rado had the privilege of hand crafting numerous prestigious pieces, including a silver Chalice presented to the late Pope John Paul II by former President Nelson Mandela on behalf of the South African Government in 1998, a silver Rose Bowl presented as a wedding gift to the Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife by the SA Government, and the Alfred Dunhill Challenge Cup Trophy for golf. Rado was also responsible for the creative design and fabrication of unique collectors' coins in 1000g pure silver and 1000g 24 carat gold. Rado's talent received the ultimate recognition by the SA Government when he was commissioned to craft the new parliamentary People's Mace and the Black Rod mace of the South African Parliament using 18 carat gold. In 2006, drawing on the inspiration of the Panagyursko Treasure, Rado created the Rhino Rhyton, a traditional wine vessel in the shape of a rhinoceros, hand crafted using 1250 g of 22 carat gold. This was a tremendous personal achievement for Rado and an absolute validation of his craftsmanship. Over the last 20 years, Rado gradually shifted his creative focus to product design and functional art working extensively with interior designers and architects. Searching for a new creative outlet and complete freedom of expression, Rado embarked on a new artistic venture at the beginning of 2012 drawing on his

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extensive knowledge of silver smithing and years of experience in working with various metals. Rado developed a unique technique of manipulating a sheet of stainless steel by hand, using the inherent physical properties of the metal to create a striking three-dimensional surface that dynamically mirrors its surroundings and draws the observer into the magic of its reflection. Rado's new-found passion for sculpture and his mastery of stainless steel are expressed in this new medium, which he has called the Mercury Effect.



## RADO KIROV

Born in Bulgaria, 1955

### Education

- 1991 Head Coppersmith at the Old Dobrich Ethnographic Complex, Bulgaria
- 1980 Coppersmithing apprenticeship under the tutelage of Alexander Raev, Bulgaria

### Selected Exhibitions and Art Fairs

- 2018 The Mercury Effect, Pontone Gallery, London
- 2016 The Brothers Kirov, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2016 Art 16 London, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2015 Art 15 London, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2015 Liquid Steel, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2015 Guild Design Fair, Cape Town
- 2014 Rado Kirov, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2014 Art 14 London, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2014 Reflections, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 Albemarle Collective, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 Spring Collective, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 Solo Exhibition, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 London Art Fair, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2012 Rado, Galerie de l'Exil, Paris

### Significant Commissions

- 2018 Gibbs Farm, New Zealand:  
Organised Chaos, 5 columns, 11 m
- 2016 Christian Dior, Cannes: River Wild, 34 x 150 x 105 cm
- 2016 Christian Dior Boutique Store, London:  
Mercury Landscape, 1.5 x 3.2 m
- 1991~ Pagliari Group, South Africa: A silver chalice presented
- 1995 to Pope John Paul II by former President Nelson Mandela on behalf of the South African Government in 1998; a silver Rose Bowl presented as a wedding gift to the Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako by the SA Government; the Alfred Dunhill Challenge Cup Trophy for golf; the parliamentary People's Mace and the Black Rod Mace of the South African Parliament in 18 carat gold



**Monumental Melt** | Mirrored Stainless Steel | 150 x 350 cm (59 x 138 in) | 2016



**Expansion** | Mirrored Stainless Steel | 100 x 82 cm (39.5 x 32.5 in) | 2016



