

City of Grand Rapids, MN
Call to Artist
NW Grand Rapids Social Cohesion
Art Opportunity



Qualifications:

CR Gray Sculptor
Key West, Florida USA
craig@crgray.com
All design concepts
Are property of CRGray LLC
Can not be used without consent

C.R. Gray, Sculptor

10 1st Street
Key West, Florida 33040 USA
305-432-6856
craig@crgray.com

March 15, 2023

City of Grand Rapids, MN
RE: Artist Opportunity- Social Cohesion Sculpture
Legion Park
Att: Emily Carlson
Project Manager
MacRostie Art Center
420 N Pokegama Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Greetings Ms. Carlson, and the Selection Committee,

I have taken time to research Grand Rapids and Itasca County, its history, resilience, and continued efforts to diversify into tourism. Events like Tall Timber Days, attractions like the Mesabi Trail, and the art advocates at the MacRostie Art Center, all contribute to making the community a unique place to visit and call home. Its the dedicated residents and efforts of people like yourself that add to the quality of life to a city with a proud heritage. ***This diverse group of stakeholders inspires me and that is why I wish to be a part of this project.***

My work reflects over 30 years as a craftsman mainly carving stone and fabricating steel. If chosen, my suggestion would be to incorporate these very durable materials. Stone sculpture has a lifespan of not decades but hundreds of years into the future. I have placed over 100 temporary and permanent sculptures in 26 states across America working successfully with people of all walks of life.

My artwork is easy to understand and identifiable at first glance. I am a collaborator, meeting and listening to stakeholders, their buy-in will help guide my hands during the creative and fabricating process. Attached on the next page is narrative called "Design Process" which has examples of project concepts and how my sculptures develop.

I believe that this commission is of high standard and carries much prestige. I look forward to the opportunity of sharing my almost three decades of experience as an artist igniting the imagination of Grand Rapids, Minnesota with public art.

Warm Regards from the Island of Key West,


Craig Gray

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Project Approach Narrative Social Cohesion Sculpture Call to Artist

Project Goal: To recognize Grand Rapids for arts, culture, and a regional destination of outdoor recreation. I would suggest to create a central artwork with companion sculptural benches. This would provide a place for families, friends, neighbors and visitors alike to gather and relax.

My aim as an artist would be to act as a conduit and partner, using creativity to transform concepts into reality building an Oasis of Art.

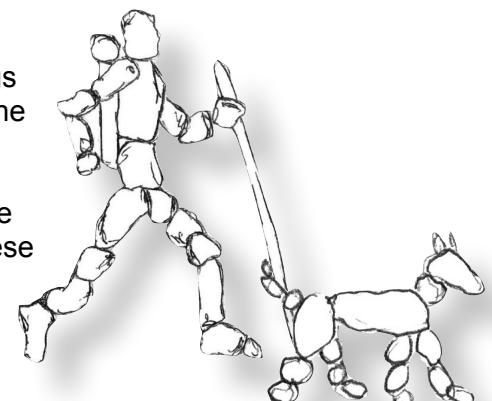


The Idea and Approach: The history of Grand Rapids and Itasca County is as long and tall as the Red and White Pines. I would draw upon the heritage with feedback from all the stakeholders on the project to help guide by hands during the inspiration, design, and carving of the project.

Some sample images are presented here, such as Granite Black Bear and "Rockman Sculpture". A concept could even include a stone dog called "Pebble" - This work is a symbol of a traveler coming to the Northern Woods looking for opportunity and is constructed of river boulders. Other options could be a large granite oak tree, representing community, family and heritage.

Functional pieces could be sculpted from stone as well - large boulders chiseled smooth providing a place to rest, read, and reflect while in the park. These stone works can incorporate carvings of native animals such as the Red Fox, and Cottontail Rabbit. The possibilities are endless.

Sculptures of granite are ideal for public interaction because they are very durable and almost completely vandal proof. I am open to these suggestions and/or partnering with a coalition of community members, civic officials, and design team members creating what is best for the future of Grand Rapids.



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Longevity and Maintenance: Artwork constructed of granite would have an almost unlimited lifespan with very little upkeep. The durability would not be measured in decades, requiring little or no maintenance lasting centuries into the future. Because stone is very rugged, it would be completely unaffected by any major storm or the elements of time. Cleaning can be done with soapy water, and granite will develop a wonderful patina over time. Granite also varies in color and tone contributing to its appeal.



Schedule-Logistics: If selected, I am ready to begin with the design team and community members immediately. I am the fabricator, and installer of all my own works. This means I have controls over materials, labor, and placement- on most projects you receive updates on delivery within the same day as requested. Most pieces can be ready to install within 120 days of approved design and receipt of deposit. Because I am based in Key West, Florida fabrication and carving continues year round without weather delays.

Budget-Value: The generous budget of \$50,000 would cover the central artwork and two benches and all costs associated with the project. Because the artist is the designer, project manager, and fabricator -a greater portion of the funds will be used for creation of art and not be allocated to subcontractors.



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Image List

1. "Design Board"

Size: Various

Materials: Granite

Collections: Project Concepts and Ideas recently produced for Public Art Calls

Cost: \$50,000- \$250,000



2. "Black Bear"

Size: 24"x10"x20"

Materials: Black granite

Collections: Private Collection

Cost: \$7500.00



3. "Book Bench" and Novel Idea 2019,2022

Size: 60"x18"x16" - Four Benches

Materials: Grey Granite

Collection: Project ProposalCity of Key West, FL and

Hillsborough County FL,Newport Beach, CA

Cost: \$45,500.00



4. "Everglades Gator and Turtle" 2022

Size: 144"x48"x 18"

Materials: Grey granite

Collections: Homestead, FL

Cost: \$75,000.00



5."Slices of Heaven" 2019,2018,2017,2016

Size: 40"x40"x108"

Materials: Stucco, steel, masonry backerboard

Installations: Hyattsville MD, Ames Iowa, Yountville CA, Peoria IL

Collections: City of South San Francisco CA, Olathe KS, Bonita Springs FL

Cost: \$32,000.00



6." Rock Lobster" 2014

Size: 60"x6"x 84"

Materials: Red Granite

Installations: City of Boston, MA

Collections: Northeast Seafood Inc

Cost: \$20,000.00



7. "Pac-Man" 2015,2014,2013

Size: 48"x30"x84"

Materials: Wood, Steel, Fieldstone

Installations: Deland FL, Jackson WY

Collections: Woodstock VA, Bentonville AR

Cost: \$40,000.00



8." Woodland Bench" 2019

Size: 72"x20x8"

Materials: Grey Granite

Collection- Private Client

Cost: \$15,000.00



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Design Board Concepts

Below are a few designs conceived for recent project applications. My thoughts as an artist is about making concepts into reality using original and innovative use of durable materials for public interaction.

"Love Seat"- Giant stone hearts carved from solid blocks of red granite for a community park space.



"Heavy Reading"- A stack of granite books recognizing the contribution of a State to knowledge, literature, and imagination

"Current - Rising Tides"- A group of blue granite waves symbolic of river current , sea level rise, and issues of global warming.



Tree of Life- A design created for a veterans memorial recognizing members who have received the Medal of Honor which symbol is the oak leaf cluster.





Falling up SILVERSTEIN

Mistaken Identity
HASKINS

Foreign Affairs LURIE

Summer & Union ONG
William ONG

Gumbo Limbo
CORCORAN

ONG



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"Creatures of the Everglades" Losner Park- Homestead, Florida

An American Alligator and Alligator Snapping turtle carved from solid blocks of grey granite, creating creatures which can be climbed upon.

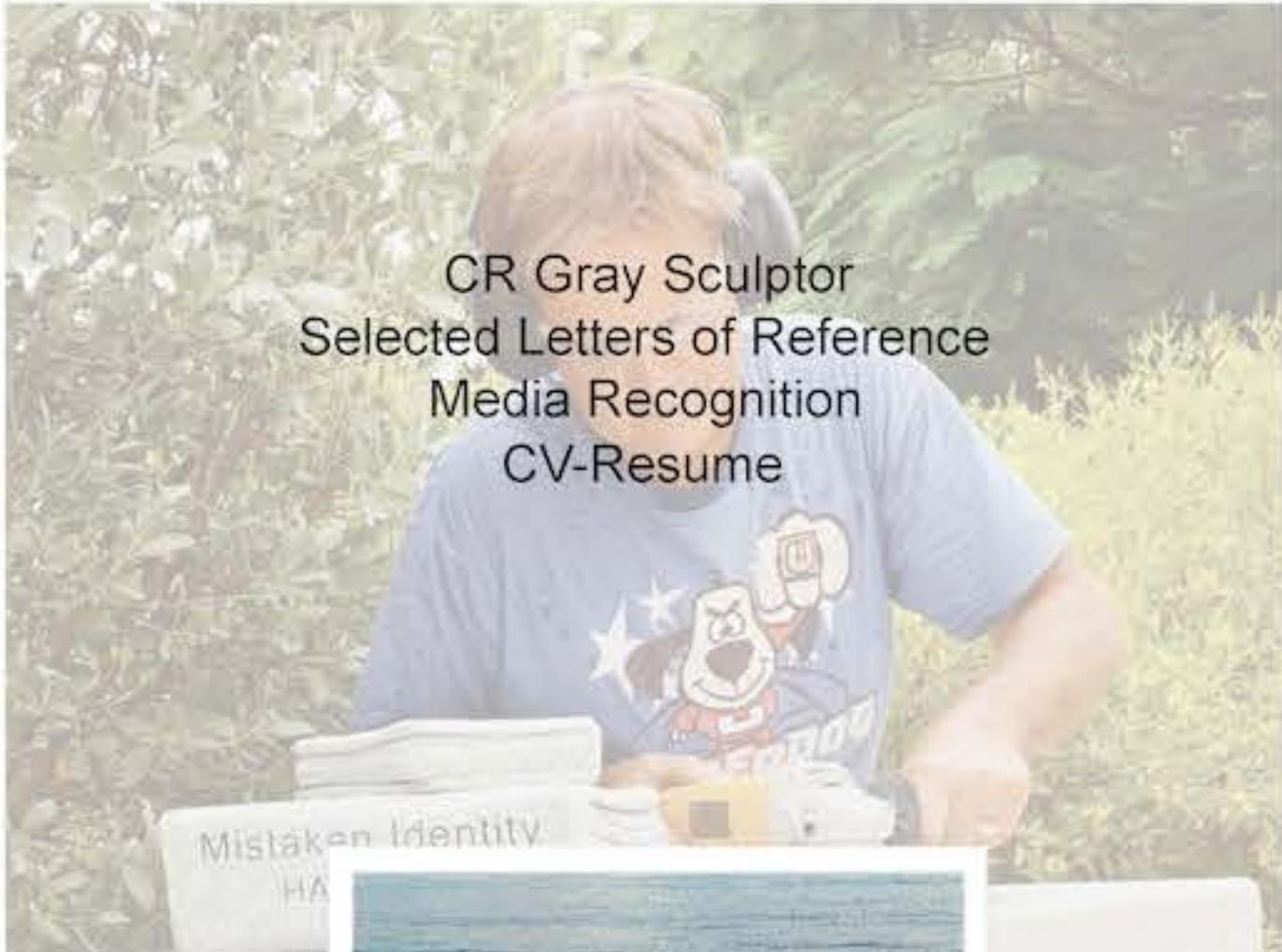












CR Gray Sculptor
Selected Letters of Reference
Media Recognition
CV-Resume



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Gumbo Limbo
CORCORAN

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CV- Resume Summary For 2020- 2023

This guide is to assist the review of the Qualifications for CR Gray. Below I have highlighted accomplishments which qualify sculptor Craig Gray as an artist to create public art for the community.

Artist Statement- Connecting community and building cultural relationships -constructing guideposts of life through art, this is my goal. Weaving a story through sculpture with the objective of warming the creative soul and bring joyfulness to the heart. I use rugged materials, incorporating recognizable symbols, embracing aspects of locality to bridge generations of people from diverse walks of life.

Recent work summary-

1. CR Gray in 2020-22 completed multiple projects that have total cumulative budgets of over \$200,000 - Deerfield Beach Florida (\$55,000), Hillsborough County Florida (\$55,000) and City of Key West Florida "Benches" (\$40,000). In the fall of 2021 CR Gray was Commissioned by the City of Homestead, Florida for a public art project totaling \$75,000. Progress image included of the "Gator"



2. To date in 2023 CR Gray also completed two temporary exterior sculpture installations in Augusta, GA, Wilton Manors FL, and Deland FL. in addition Craig completed a permanent public sculpture for Augusta, GA and is fabricating a public art commission for the City of Marathon, FL titled- "Waves"

3. CR Gray has completed stone projects with budgets of well over \$175,000, this includes the Wentworth Douglas Fountain, and The State of Maine Veterans Cemetery. CR Gray designs, fabricates, and installs all his own artworks.

4. I have direct control over all aspects of creation of the sculpture during the commission process. When questions are asked about schedule, delivery, and review you have the answers immediately

5. CR Gray has been carving stone for over a quarter of a century. Originally working in the commercial stone industry in the Northeast United States he is skilled in working in extreme environments to build rugged stone sculpture. Provided are letters from across the nation. Feel free to contact any of his references.

A full 30 year work and project history can be found at www.CRGRAY.com

C.R. Gray, Sculptor
10 1St Street
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Curriculum Vitae

Profession: Sculptor 1989-Present

Education:

University of Southern Maine Gorham 2006-2008
Diamond Tool Training Tyrol Inc. Vicenzia, Italy 2003
Quarrying Techniques Blue Pearl Quarry, Larvik Norway 2001
Stone Finishing Training Granite Centre, Stanstead, Quebec 2000
Stone Carving Training Republic Granite Elberton, Georgia 1997
United States and NH Department of Labor Recognized as a Master Stone Carver 1996
Apprenticeship Desilets Granite Montpelier, Vermont 1990-1993
Owner/Master Stone Carver of Union Marble and Granite Works LLC- stone fabrication studio 1989-2005
University of New Hampshire 1987-1989

Major Projects/Commissions/Collections:

2023 Marathon, FL Public Art (fabricating)
Augusta, GA Public Art
2022 Homestead, FL Public Art Collection
Fayetteville, NC Public Art Collection
Key West, FL White Street Stone Bench Project
2020 Hillsborough County FL, Public Art Collection
Deerfield Beach, FL Public Art Collection
2019 Key West, FL Public Art Collection
2018 South San Francisco, CA Public Art Collection
2017 Olathe, KS Public Art Collection
Woodstock, VA Public Art Collection
2016 University of Mississippi Oxford, Museum of Art
North Charleston, SC Public Art Collection
Lakeland, FL Private Collection Mrs. Dena Webber
Wellington, FL Public Art Collection
Coral Springs, FL Museum of Art Collection
2015 Key West, FL Public Art Collection
Key West, FL Private Collection of Ms. Fran Decker
Portsmouth, NH Pease Tradeport Collection
Bentonville, AR and Crystal Bridges Museum of Art Collection
Bonita Springs, FL Public Art Collection
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, FL Art Collection
2014 Key West, FL Conch Republic Public Sculpture
Safety Harbor, FL Public Art Collection
2013 South Hiram, ME Public School exterior sculpture
Topsfield, MA Northeast Seafoods Corporate Collection
Coral Springs, FL Public Art Collection
2012 Key West, FL Studios of Key West Art Collection
2011 Portsmouth, VA Public Art Collection
Portland, ME University of New England Museum of Art Collection
2003 Dover, NH Wentworth Douglas Hospital Corporate Sculpture
2001 Augusta, ME Maine Veterans Cemetery Commission

Temporary Public Art Installations/ Exhibitions:

2023 Wilton Manors, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Augusta, GA Temporary exterior sculpture
Deland, FL Temporary exterior sculpture

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2022 Newport Beach, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Lee's Summit, MO Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Maryland Heights, MO Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Olathe, KS Temporary exterior sculpture
Urbana, IL Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**

2021 Wilton Manors, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Augusta, GA Temporary exterior sculpture
Springfield, MO Temporary exterior sculpture
Oskalossa, Iowa Temporary exterior sculpture
University of New York Oswego Two Temporary exterior sculpture
Kingsport, TN Temporary exterior sculpture

2020 Coral Springs, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Manchester, MO Temporary exterior sculpture
Lee's Summit, MO Temporary exterior sculpture
Wilton Manors, FL Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Fayetteville, NC Temporary exterior sculpture

2019 Peoria, IL Temporary exterior sculpture
Howard County, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Springfield, MO Temporary exterior sculpture
Wauwatosa, WI Temporary exterior sculpture
Salina, KS Temporary exterior sculpture
Ames, Iowa Temporary exterior sculpture
Newport Beach, CA Temporary exterior sculpture
Kingsport, TN Temporary exterior sculpture

2018 Goldsboro, NC Temporary exterior sculpture
Urbana, IL Temporary exterior sculpture
Fayetteville, NC Temporary exterior sculpture
Decatur, GA Temporary exterior installation
Columbia, MD Johns Hopkins Medical Center Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Sioux City, Iowa Temporary exterior sculpture
Roswell, GA Temporary exterior sculpture
Springfield, MO Temporary exterior sculpture
Greeley, CO Temporary exterior sculpture
Hutchinson, MN Temporary exterior sculpture
Lawrence, KS Temporary exterior sculpture
Ellicott City, MD Temporary exterior sculpture

2017 Kalamazoo, MI Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Deland, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Fredericksburg, VA Temporary exterior sculture
Mankato, MN Temporary exterior sculpture
Clive, Iowa Temporary exterior sculpture
Winter Haven, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Rosemary Beach, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Oak Park, IL Temporary exterior sculpture
Howard County, MD Temporary exterior sculpture
Wake Forest, NC Temporary exterior sculpture
Clayton, NC Temporary exterior sculpture
Newport Beach, CA Temporary exterior sculpture
Jacksonville, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Oathe, KS Temporary exterior sculpture

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2016 Boynton Beach, FL International Kinetic Sculpture Exhibit
Hyattsville, MD Temporary exterior sculpture
Kissimmee, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Jackson, WY Center for the Arts Exterior sculpture **Solo**
Chicago, IL Chicago Sculpture Exhibit
Yountville, CA Temporary exterior sculpture
Johnson City, TN Temporary exterior sculpture
Ellicot City, MD Temporary exterior sculpture

2015 Woodstock, VA Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Kissimmee, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Clearwater, FL Sculpture 360 exterior sculpture
Boynton Beach, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Oxford, MS University of Mississippi Museum of Art Exterior Sculpture **Solo**
Lakeland, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Wellington, FL Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Bonita Springs, FL Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Coral Springs, FL Coral Springs Museum of Art Exterior Sculpture **Solo**

2014 Key West, FL Custom House and Museum of Art Exterior Sculpture **Solo**
Sebring, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
West Palm Beach, FL Armory Cultural Center Exterior Sculpture **Solo**
Kissimmee, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Bentonville, AR Temporary exterior sculpture
Boynton Beach, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Johnson City, TN Temporary exterior sculpture
North Charleston, SC Temporary exterior sculpture
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, FL Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Key West, FL Botanical Garden Temporary exterior sculpture
Niceville, FL Mattie Kelly Arts Center College of Northwest Florida Exhibit **Solo**

2013 Key West, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Kissimmee, FL Two temporary exterior sculpture
Deland, FL DeLand Museum of Art Temporary exterior sculpture
Scarborough Beach, ME Maine State Parks Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Safety Harbor, FL Temporary exterior sculpture **Solo**
Boynton Beach, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Winter Haven, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Coral Springs, FL Temporary exterior sculpture

2012 Boston, MA Temporary exterior sculpture
Winter Haven, FL Temporary exterior sculpture
Pittsfield, MA Artscape temporary exterior sculpture program

2011 Portsmouth, VA Portsmouth Museum of Art Exterior Sculpture
North Charleston, SC Temporary exterior sculpture
Key West, FL Studios of Key West Galleries Exterior sculpture **Solo**
Portland, ME University of New England Art Museum Exterior sculpture

2010 Portsmouth, NH Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery Invitational
Cambridge, MA Cambridge Art Association Gallery New Member Show
Provincetown, MA Provincetown Museum of Art Spring Show
Boston, MA Copley Place Sculpture Show Invitational

2009 Portsmouth, NH Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery Fall Invitational
Portland, ME Constellation Gallery Fall New Members Show

Professional Associations Memberships

Key West, FL Chamber of Commerce Since 2020
Key West, FL AIDS Help Auction Committee 2014-2015
The Studios of Key West- Artist Center member since 2012
Anne McKee Artist Fund Board member 2014-2015

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Recognition/Award/Residencies

2019 Honored Sculptor Award Exhibit Ames, Iowa
2018 People's Choice Sculpture Exhibit Award Hutchinson, MN
2017 Project Grant Florida Keys Council for the Arts, Monroe County, FL
2016 Special Project Grant, Florida Keys Council for the Arts, Monroe County, FL
2015 Anne McKee Artist Grant, Key West, FL
2014 Honored Sculpture Award Exhibit North Charleston, SC
 Art Reach Grant Florida Keys Council for the Arts, Monroe County, FL
2013 The Studios of Key West Residency Award, Key West, FL
2010 Honored Sculpture Award ,City of Rockland, ME
2006 Cumberland County Sheriff's Award, Portland, ME
2004 United States Department of Defense Leadership Award
1987 Virginia Paul Dee Scholarship University of New Hampshire

Lectures/ Instructional Classes/ Interviews

2019 South Florida Public TV WPBT "Artloft Feature"
2018 Artist Presentation City of Urbana, IL
2016 Artist Presentation Center for the Arts, Jackson, WY
 Artist Presentation Yountville, CA
2015 Artist Presentation Woodstock, VA
 Artist Presentation Oxford Museum of Art, University of Mississippi
2014 Artist Interview Northwest Florida State College Niceville, FL
2013 The Studios of Key West instruction of Stone Carving Feb
 Artist Lecture Children's Museum of Boynton Beach, FL
 Artist Lecture and Demonstration Safety Harbor, FL
 The Studios of Key West instruction of Stone Carving Nov
 Marc House Key West, FL Adults with Disabilities Sculpture Class
 Artist Interview Deland, FL
2012 Artist Lecture Hiram, ME Historical Society
2011 Artist Lecture University of Southern Maine Sculpture Class
 Artist Lecture Demonstration The Studios of Key West

C.R. Gray, LLC

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USA 305-432-6856
craig@crgray.com

Reference List:

Zackery Good
Assistant City Manager
Homestead, Florida
email: ZGood@cityofhomestead.com
Ph: 305-224-4401
2022 Public Art Project- Everglade animals and tracks
Budget \$75,000

Elizabeth Young
Director
Florida Keys Council of the Arts
Monroe County, Florida
email: director@keysarts.com
Ph: 305-295-4369
2020 Public Art Project- #2 Palm Restoration \$5000
2019 Public Art Project- Novel Idea Book Benches \$20,000
2015 Public Art Project- Sidewalk Poetry \$10,000
Multiple Grants including Special Project Grant and Artreach Grant

Richard Stein
President & CEO
Arts Orange County
Orange County, California
Email: rstein@artsoc.org
Ph: 714-556-5160
2022 Temporary Public Installation- Novel Idea \$5000
2019 Temporary Public Installation- Oranges \$5000
2017 Temporary Public Installation- Popsicles \$5000



January 10, 2019

To Whom it may Concern,

At the end of 2017 we put out our call for artists in order to gather submissions for sculptures to be considered for replacements for our sculpture stroll in 2018. Craig Gray from Key West, Florida was one of seven artists selected. His sculpture, "Slices of Heaven", was installed in our Farmers Market location in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Considering the distance he traveled on his journey to deliver several sculptures across the country, we were highly impressed with the communications and timeliness he provided in order to coordinate a very trouble free installation. He arrived in the morning at the specified time with all the tools and equipment needed to properly install the piece of art.

The artwork is a stack of orange slices approximately nine feet tall. It fits in well with the location as produce is sold there and is a great conversation piece for our community. Although it is not metal or bronze, it is still a very robust structure and Craig has standardized the colors which are easy to obtain and provided simple instructions in case damage should occur. Considering the extreme weather we have in Minnesota, the sculpture has easily shed off the elements and held up to children closely examining this curiosity.

Craig is a very talented and self-reliant artist who understands the complexities of large installations and comes prepared with the equipment needed to secure his artwork. We are honored to be his northern most host of one of his installations in the U.S.

Respectfully,


Jon Ivan Otteson
Member Public Art Committee

info@hutchinsonpublicarts.com
(320)587-5151
111 Hansen ST SE,
Hutchinson, MN 55350

September 30, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Mr. Craig Gray as an outstanding Artist working in the Public Art field. On behalf of the Florida Keys Council of the Arts Board of Directors, I lend support to our many artists, writers and performers in Monroe County. The opportunity to share with you my ongoing positive experiences with Craig is gratifying.

I have known Mr. Gray since he first arrived on the island as an artist in residence at our prestigious Studios of Key West. He quickly discovered what a special place Key West is and knew that this was the perfect spot to nurture and develop his artistic skill set. His passion and persistence for not only his craft, stone carving, but of the storytelling of our history in his work is admirable. Craig is dedicated to his work, and strives to complete his work on time and on budget. His proposals are thoughtful and with each new one his ideas are evolving. I find his work ethic and time management skills to be respectful of the process and very reasonable.

Most recently, as the Public Art Administrator for the City of Key West's Public Art program, I had the opportunity to commission Craig as one of four artists to place site specific work at our renovated and restored Key West City Hall. The AIPP Board unanimously recommended Craig's proposal for two granite carved benches in the butterfly park that celebrated the literary legacies of the Island. Craig's Book Benches which he aptly titled, *Speaking Volumes I and II* are absolutely fabulous. They will weather any storm, are creative and inspiring and the public is immediately engaged as they discover the various titles and authors' names carved into the benches.

Mr. Gray is devoted to his craft and is continuing to impress us with his proposals and enthusiasm for the Keys' arts community and public art program. Each piece that Craig creates shares his passion, humor and carving skills with the community. He is enthusiastic, professional and dedicated.

I, without reservation recommend Craig Gray, for your public art project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth S. Young
Executive Director



17620 Fitch Avenue, Suite 255, Irvine, CA 92614-6081
714.556.5160 | FAX 714.556.5099
www.ArtsOC.org | www.SparkOC.com

August 27, 2019

To whom it may concern:

Re: Craig Gray

Arts Orange County (ArtsOC) is the officially designated nonprofit local arts agency for the County of Orange, California. Its mission is to build appreciation of, participation in, and support for the arts and arts education in our community. ArtsOC regularly works with organizations and cities to manage the selection and installation of temporary and permanent art exhibitions.

We became acquainted with the work of Craig Gray through the City of Newport Beach's rotating Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park, which ArtsOC has managed since 2015.

Craig's sculptures add an immediate burst of color, humor, and delight to outdoor environments, so it is little wonder that his work has twice found a home in this exhibition.

Our selection process includes an empaneled jury of outside art experts, members of the City Arts Commission, and an online public poll, followed by review and approval by the elected City Council.

Although he is based on the opposite end of the country, Craig's work has had an uncanny resonance with Orange County, topping the public polling for works under consideration not just once, but both times he has submitted works. Our community has had the good fortune to provide temporary homes to his sculptures "Popsicles" and "Slices of Heaven," the latter of which stands in Civic Center Park at this very moment.

Craig's works possess the power to create a direct, immediate, and positive connection with viewers of all ages due to their imaginative, whimsical and popular themes. Because of their durable construction they are also well-suited for long-term outdoor installation.

We wholeheartedly recommend that you consider include Craig Gray's works for public display.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Stein".

Richard Stein
President & CEO



DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN
College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY *of*
NORTH FLORIDA.

THE POWER OF
TRANSFORMATION
Campaign for the
UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH FLORIDA

July 25, 2018

University of North Florida
Department of Art and Design
1 UNF Drive
Jacksonville FL 32224

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Craig Berube-Gray. I am the Director of Sculpture Walk Springfield in Jacksonville, FL and Craig was part of the inaugural exhibition that opened November of 2017 during Porchfest. His large-scale outdoor sculpture "Slices of Heaven" was unanimously selected for the exhibition and is very popular with the Springfield community. I personally have an affinity, because it relates so well to Florida iconography and culture. Oranges are one of the best parts of living here.

The sculpture is currently exhibited for two years in Klutho Park in Jacksonville, FL. The sculpture is well created and has been holding up well to the harsh weather and interaction from visitors in the park.

I recommend Craig Berube-Gray without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Jenny K. Hager-Vickery
Professor, Sculpture
MFA, Art Studio – Sculpture & Digital Media
BFA, Art Studio
BA, Art Education

904.620.4687 (office)
904.588.2187 (cell)

j.hager@unf.edu

www.havic.org/classes/

Los Angeles Times

Newport Beach approves sculptures for summer exhibition after residents weigh in

Feb. 16, 2022 6:27 PM PT

Lilly Nguyen | staff writer



Pictured is "A Novel Idea" by Florida Artist Craig Gray. It received 85 votes from Newport Beach residents to be included in a new wave of sculptures to be installed this summer in Civic Center Park. (Courtesy of the city of Newport Beach)

The Newport Beach City Council recently approved a new wave of sculptures to be installed this summer in Civic Center Park. It's the seventh phase of the city's sculpture exhibition, which began in 2013 after the completion of Civic Center Park's development. Pieces are loaned for two-year periods and sculptors are granted a small honorarium to loan their work.

City staff are responsible for the installation of the artwork and sculptors are accountable for repair and maintenance.

"In essence, the exhibition has become a 'museum without walls' that offers the temporary display of public art in a unique, naturalistic setting," stated a staff report prepared for the City Council.

Richard Stein, president and chief executive officer of Arts Orange County, said this was the first time that the selection process for the final sculpture choices and rankings were put out to the residents of Newport Beach to be voted on.

The 10 sculptures and four alternates were selected by the public. Submissions were initially reviewed by a curatorial panel along with professionals May Sun and Brian Peterson in December at the city's Arts Commission meeting and evaluated on the basis of their artistic merit, durability, practicality and site appropriateness.

The 10 sculptures selected by residents were: "A Novel Idea," by Craig Gray; "Got Juice" by Stephen Landis; "The Archaeology of the Everyday" by Tyler Burton; "David" by Miggy Buck; "Eve" by Joe Forrest Sackett; "Where Have All the Birds Gone?" by Marguerite Elliot; "Cross-Section" by Tim DeShong; "Prey" by Lisa and Robert Ferguson; "Pluma Sculptura, aka 'The Feather'" by Kirk Seese; and "Pathway Parabola" by Greg Mueller. The four alternates were "To the Moon" by Alex G; "Integration" by Jaydon Sterling-Randall; "Calling the Four Winds" by Dennis-Redmoon Darkeem; and "Hoodooos" by Joan Benefiel.

No new sites for display needed to be created for this phase, Stein said. "When you have all 20 on display, you'll see it's a very robust group of sculptures and I think it's proven to be very popular with the public," said Stein. "There isn't a day that I come to the park that I don't see families with children who are really intrigued by and engaging with the works. Some, they don't understand. Some are very obvious and delightful ... it's a very successful program."

The Augusta Chronicle

Jazz, art to be part of the Saturday Augusta Sculpture Trail reveal

By Miguel Legoa

Feb. 1, 2021



Pieces of Augusta's Sculpture Trail entitled, left to right, "Maestro", "Unstoppable", "Orion", and "Popsicles". Staff photo

The Augusta Sculpture Trail has been a four-month project by the Greater Augusta Arts Council and consists of 11 sculptures, two of which are part of a set, spread out across the downtown Augusta area.

Spokeswoman Rhian Swain said the ceremony is Saturday, Feb. 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Augusta Common on Reynolds Street. Speakers include Mayor Hardie Davis, Bennish Brown of the Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau, Commissioner Sean Frampton, Greater Augusta Arts Council Executive Director Brenda Durant, Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Margaret Woodard and Emcee Jay Markwalter of the Georgia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Live music will be provided by Karen Gordon, director of Garden City Jazz. Live painting will be done by local artist Billy S.

Several sculptures are located along Broad Street, four are on the Augusta Common, and two have been placed at the Riverwalk 8th Street Bulkhead.

A digital walking tour is available on an app that gives details on each sculpture. The app is free to download on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

For more information about the sculpture trail visit AugustaSculptureTrail.com.

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Jan Peterson, Special to the Springfield News-Leader

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COVID-19 has forced the closure of galleries and museums, but the opportunity to explore art remains, thanks to Sculpture Walk Springfield.

A total of 32 sculptures by artists from all over the United States are scattered at points throughout central Springfield. They provide an opportunity to explore art while taking in some in the form of a nice walk from one sculpture to another.

Tery O'Shell, executive director of the nonprofit group, says sculptures typically are switched out this time of year. But plans for that have been put on hold.

SweetHearts-CR Gray Sculptor

Photo: Andrew Jansen/News-Leader)

"We have selected sculptures for the 2020-2021 rotation, but I don't know if we're going to use them," she says. "... We may keep the old ones. It's hard for us. Our sculptures come from all over the country. One artist is from Key West and he can't get out."

But, O'Shell says, that just leaves time for more people to explore what's already installed.

"Especially now, when it makes a perfect field trip for a parent, too," she says, adding that sculptures are great for learning. "Each sculpture has some kind of statement from the artist, so there are all kinds of ways you could teach your child."

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