

Dear City of Grand Rapids,

My studio, DiBari & Associates, is an international public art firm that employs site-specific artworks to generate powerful resonances between places and people. I work in partnership with artists, designers, and engineers to create memorable urban installations and impactful large-scale artworks which put public spaces and local communities at their center.

I would be honored to create an original, site-specific sculpture for Legion Park in the Northwest Neighborhood of Grand Rapids. My mission is to transform important neighborhood centers into iconic destinations for visitors and meaningful landmarks of which local communities feel proud. For this project, I would create an artwork that gives expression to the unique spirit of the Legion Park, serving as a powerful visual statement of the local area's specific history and values, and establishing a warm and inclusive atmosphere for residents and visitors.

As a studio, we have produced a range of artworks for parks and public spaces; in each instance, these works are sensitively tailored in style and media to their surrounding areas' specific characteristics. Our previous projects include kinetic sculptures, water-based artworks, plaza interpretations, gateway works, and lighting installations that are ambiently visible at all times of the day and night. Each piece emerges out of a creative process that combines site-specific research with community engagement. The combination allows us to unearth unique symbols and metaphors that are able to engage local viewers and wider audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

My sculpture, *Sun Salutations*, provides an instructive example. In developing the piece – a sculpture for a park in West Palm Beach, Florida - I ran a session with the community in which I asked each participant to visualize themselves in the park. By analyzing and assimilating participants' responses, I arrived at a single word to capture the location: 'sunset'. This concept was central to the final work, reinforcing the park's unique sense of place and ensuring an abiding connection between the park, the artwork, and the community.

My artworks are sensitively integrated into locations with the aim of creating moving, empathetic atmospheres, which contribute to health, well-being, and connection to the local environment. For my recent sculpture, *My Equilibria*, I combined art, nature, and exercise to create an elegant open-air gym, which was accessible to all ages, and encouraged creative and playful engagement with outdoor public space.

I believe that our team's track record sets us apart and testifies to our high standards of professionalism. As a well-organized studio – with dedicated project managers, a legal department, accountants, and in-house designers – we can guarantee a smooth process, even for complex projects with many moving parts. Our wide-ranging experience enables us to select and employ the most appropriate materials, ensuring the final artwork is durable, sustainable, and easy to maintain, while remaining visually engaging in any weather or season. We would consider it a great honor and a privilege to create an engaging, site-responsive, community-focused work for Grand Rapids. Vito Di Bari

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**VITO DI BARI**  
**Innovation Designer, CEO and Founder of DiBari & Associates**  
**Professional Resume.**

In 2007, the city of Milan appointed Vito Di Bari to be the Innovation Designer for The 2015 Universal EXPO. As a result of this, Vito began developing creative and inspiring urban projects. All of Vito's projects are value-driven and based on next-generation technologies and materials. His Digital Expo Project won the competition with a visionary proposal featuring Vito's concepts to design a city of the future using recent discoveries in various fields, such as augmented reality, movement sensors, nanotechnologies, and robotics. Vito created his vision of the Inspirational City, a city of the future releasing positive emotions and improving the overall quality of life driven by hidden next generation technologies.

**NEO-FUTURISM**

Vito is considered the leader of the avant-garde movement called Neo-Futurism, which is a rethinking of the aesthetics and efficient functionality of future cities, concerning architectural design and art in public places. With The Art Reef Project (2017), Vito designed, fabricated, and installed a piece as creative as it is altruistic. In Naples, Florida one can find his one of a kind installation, which takes the form of a sea turtle laying on the ocean floor. It is composed of stone panels that have already grown new coral in an effort to revitalize the dying sea life in the area. Firmly situated within the realm of neo-futurism, it echoes Di Bari's ethos that "beauty will save the world".

**ART, PHILOSOPHY, AND STYLE**

Aesthetically, Vito's work plays off of each site's unique pulse. The clean and sleek design of the multifaceted installation Zero Mile Marker (2019) both fits within its surroundings and makes it stand out as a true landmark, beautifying a previously gray urban underpass in downtown Miami, Florida. It is this balance as well as the balance between traditional and contemporary, representative and abstract, which grants his art such widespread appeal. However, what matters most to Di Bari is that the lives of residents improves with the installation of each of his public artworks. MyEquilibria (2016) is a testament to this, as it encourages open-air exercise and blurs the border between art and wellness.

**DIBARI & ASSOCIATES**

In 2012, Vito expanded the work of his studio in Milan to include the United States, specializing in implementing the newest technologies and materials to provide creative urban solutions for public places. DiBari & Associates' goal is to "Design the Cities of the Future, Today". From Hong Kong to Paris, from Berlin to Rio de Janeiro, from London to Milan, from Amsterdam to Prague, the Partners and Associates of DiBari Innovation Design deliver the best that the world has to offer. All of them share Vito's vision of an Emotional City: creating beautiful, magical, eco-compatible cities implementing new materials and new technologies utilizing out-of-the-box creative new ideas.

## IMAGES LIST

### **1. TITLE: MyEquilibria by Vito Di Bari**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2018

LOCATION: Miami, Florida

MEDIA: Interactive sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 23 x 30 x 23 ft.

BUDGET: \$90,000

DESCRIPTION: A high-design, functional, and innovative urban outdoor installation that encourages open-air exercise. MyEquilibria breaks down the barriers between art, wellness, and recreation.

### **2. TITLE: Sun Salutations by Vito Di Bari**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2021

LOCATION: West Palm Beach, FL

MEDIA: Kinetic Sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 7.5 x 6.5 ft.

CLIENT: City of West Palm Beach

BUDGET: \$65,000

DESCRIPTION: Consisting of three concentric rings and a central circle representing the sun, this interactive sculpture is a conceptual composite inspired by a fusion of the West Palm Beach seal and logo. Kinetic elements bring the shimmering, metaphoric artwork to life.

### **3. TITLE: Metalmorphosis by David Cerny**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2007

LOCATION: Charlotte, NC

MEDIA: Kinetic Sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 25 ft.

CLIENT: Whitehall Corporate Center

BUDGET: \$1,800,000

DESCRIPTION: a 14-ton, stainless steel human head divided into horizontal plates that rotate in a constant rhythm, constantly deconstructing and reconstructing the human profile. The mouth of the head is a fountain which ejects water and which also spins 360 degrees, landing in the surrounding reservoir.

### **4. TITLE: Krychloids by David Cerny**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2009

LOCATION: Celadna, Czech Republic

MEDIA: Sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 27 ft

CLIENT: Miura Hotel

BUDGET: \$800,000

DESCRIPTION: Various gigantic figures interact with the existing architecture of the Miura Hotel. The blocky characters create a fantasy world of contemporary sculpture.

**5. TITLE: Speederman by David Cerny**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2013

LOCATION: Amsterdam, Netherlands

MEDIA: Sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 12 ft.

BUDGET: \$800,000

DESCRIPTION: This installation comprises a silver figure whose rapid movement is conveyed behind a sleek male form in a permanent tailwind of color and steel. The hero, frozen in motion, depicts the accelerated rate of human evolution and speed of life caused by new technologies.

**6. TITLE: The Rocking Horse by Gabor Szoke**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2010

LOCATION: Vienna, Austria

MEDIA: Hardwood sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 19 x 36 x 9 ft.

BUDGET: \$150,000

DESCRIPTION: This giant sculpture is also an interactive public attraction which can accommodate up to 70 riders. Visitors can rock the wooden horse by swaying side to side, a movement meant to demonstrate of the power of working together.

**7. TITLE: The Builders by Gabor Szoke**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2018

LOCATION: Budapest, Hungary

MEDIA: Stainless steel, granite, and marble sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 26' x 12' x 12'

CLIENT: Hill Side Offices

BUDGET: \$500,000

DESCRIPTION: This sleek installation with integrated lighting is a metaphor for creation. It produces a striking contrast to the surrounding monochrome buildings, meant to inspire all who pass by.

**8. TITLE: The Chinese Dragon by Gabor Szoke**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2014

LOCATION: Kazincbarcika, Hungary

MEDIA: Hardwood Sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 12 x 32 x 5 ft.

BUDGET: \$250,000

CLIENT: City of Kazincbarcika

DESCRIPTION: This outdoor installation was a collaboration between the city of Kazincbarcika and Borsodchem, the largest chemical raw material manufacturing company in Hungary. The dragon is such a beloved local symbol that a festival was organized by the locals to celebrate the sculpture's inauguration.

**9. TITLE: The Flying Puli by Gabor Szoke**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2013

LOCATION: Washington, District of Columbia

MEDIA: Hardwood sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 12 x 9.5 x 5 ft.

CLIENT: Smithsonian Folklife Festival

BUDGET: \$150,000

DESCRIPTION: This massive sculpture is a symbolic rendering of a Hungarian shepherding dog breed, the Hungarian Puli. The form is made of recycled wood slats, painted black and nailed together to shape the Puli's corded coat.

**10. TITLE: Giant Dandelions by Robin Wight**

YEAR INSTALLED: 2015

LOCATION: Staffordshire, United Kingdom

MEDIA: Stainless steel sculpture

DIMENSIONS: 20 x 3 x 3 ft.

CLIENT: Trentham Estate

BUDGET: \$25,000

DESCRIPTION: This whimsical installation is made up of larger-than-life dandelions that seem to dance with the wind. The result is an enchanting and dynamic ode to the natural world.







































