

March 20, 2023

Dear Ms. Emily Carlson,

I am writing to you to express my interest in being considered for the Grand Rapids Public Sculpture Request for Artist Qualifications.

I have attached my information that was listed in the RFQ, per your website.

I am very excited about this potential opportunity since I am a professional artist, with numerous public art sculptures throughout northern Minnesota. I currently live in International Falls, on beautiful Rainy Lake, where I receive much of my inspiration and artist energy.

I work primarily with Metal and I often incorporate local rock into my creations, as well. Both of these materials are very well suited for our harsh northern climate and result in sculptures that lend themselves very well to being erected in outdoor settings. If a piece requires painting for additional color, I typically use oil-based enamels that wear well and do not require constant attention and maintenance with normal, year-round exposure.

My previous experiences with publicly-commissioned artworks have been overwhelmingly fulfilling and exciting to me as an artist. I love to work with the person(s) or commissioning board during the concept development. I absolutely love the brainstorming energy that typically abounds during the early phase. I especially appreciate incorporating the custom design (or theme) that a group, or town, or even regional history adds to the core of the piece, resulting in a truly unique creation. But the most satisfying aspect of a commissioned public piece for me is starting with a concept and seeing it through to the dedication and then seeing the public's reaction to a new, special piece of artwork in their community where they live, work, and play.

I have a proven record of creating public art, from start to finish, on-time, and within budget. My "other" skills (developed over decades) such as large project management, engineering design, and extensive experience in construction, allow me a unique blend of skills that I can draw from in order to take a project from concept to installation and completion.

I hope you will find my supporting documentation pertinent and interesting, and I certainly look forward to the potential opportunity to working with you (and your team) on this exciting new project!

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric "Erickson" Kulig

Cell: 218-324-0468

EricksonMetalArt@gmail.com

Professional References for Artist Eric "Erickson" Kulig

1. Mollie Stanford, ALS Regional Librarian (218) 741-3840
2. Mary Ellen Higgins, Library Director, Eveleth Public Library (218) 744-7499
3. Kelli Pelland, Library Head, Baudette Public Library (218) 634-2329



ERIC “ERICKSON” KULIG

ARTIST/OWNER OF ERICKSON METAL ART, LLC | 2005 CO. RD. 133
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN 56649

STATEMENT

I strive to create art that is somewhat simplistic on the surface, yet is still visually interesting to the viewer.

As a full-time artist, I am fully committed to every project I undertake.

SKILLS

SCULPTOR

Specializing in metal creations. May also include reclaimed wood and natural stone.

OIL PAINTER

Schooled in the Impasto Impressionism style. Typically, large paintings on canvas, occasionally on other substrates such as wood or metal.

PROJECT MANAGER

Proven design and project management skills honed for 23 years of working in the engineering field. Proven record of managing multi-million-dollar projects executed on time and within budget.

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Artist • 1990 – Present

Providing artistic creations for private, commercial, and public spaces

Co-Owner • Dressy Moose Emporium – Art Gallery

- Dec 2022 – Present – Ranier, MN
- Nov 2020 – Dec 2022 – Downtown Int’t Falls, MN

Public Art • Mountain Iron Public Library Commission

- Aug 2022 “BOOK DROP” Metal Sculpture

Public Art • Eveleth Public Library Commission

- June 2021 “MINING KNOWLEDGE” Metal Sculpture

Public Art • Baudette Public Library Commission

- July 2018 “TREE OF LIFE” Metal Sculpture

Public Art • Int’l Falls Public Library Commission

- Aug 2018 “SPRING” Metal/Stone Sculpture

Public Art • Int’l Falls Public library commissions

- July 2017 “AUTUMN” and “WINTER” Metal/Stone Sculptures

Public Art • Northland Art Society Commission

- Aug 2016 Johnson “SUMMER” Memorial Sculpture

Gallery Showing • Munster, Ind. - Art Gallery

- Feb – Apr 1990

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science • Purdue University W. Lafayette, Ind.

- Aug 1990

Interned under California Artist Lawrence Kulig

- Aug 1990 – Nov 1993

Interned under artist Shmagrnov

- Aug 1990 – Jun 1994

Learned Welding and Metal Skills as a teenager from my father, Wally

- 1982 - 1986

Image 1 Title: Cathy Johnson "SUMMER" Memorial Sculpture

Description: Commissioned by the Northland Arts Society as a memorial to Cathy Johnson (local artist). Local school kids submitted ideas for the sculpture and I was selected by committee to execute the piece. **Date:** 2016. **Medium:** New and recycled metal, concrete, wood, tile, enamel **Size:** 7' tall. **Budget:** \$5,000. **Location:** Int'l Falls Public Library grounds

Image 2 Title: "AUTUMN" Sculpture

Description: Recycled metal bars configured into the image of a tree losing its leaves. The leaves are brightly colored stained glass and hang so they move in the breeze. Local rocks used for the base. **Date:** 2017. **Medium:** Recycled metal, concrete, stained-glass, Rainy Lake rocks, enamel. **Size:** 12' tall. **Budget:** \$6,000 **Location:** Int'l Falls Public Library grounds

Image 3 Title: "WINTER" Sculpture

Description: Made of metal with blown-glass eyes to depict a fierce, "Old Man Winter" with dangling snowflakes that move in the wind. Mounted atop a custom concrete pole. **Date:** 2017. **Medium:** Recycled metal, concrete, glass, enamel. **Size:** 14' tall. **Budget:** \$12,000 **Location:** Int'l Falls Public Library grounds

Image 4 Title: SPRING

Description: Metal sculpture of the rising sun shining on 5 growing spring flowers. The tallest "flower" is a whimsical pinwheel that rotates in the wind. Piece is permanently set in a mortared rock flowerbed that serves as a bench. **Date:** Aug 2018. **Medium:** Metal & local bedrock. **Size:** 8' tall x 8' wide. **Budget:** \$12,000. **Location:** Int'l Falls Public Library grounds

Image 5 Title: TREE Of LIFE

Description: Metal sculpture depicting various outdoor elements important to the Baudette Community and lifestyle. **Date:** 2018 **Medium:** Metal and enamel paint **Size:** 15' tall x 10' wide **Budget:** \$6,000 **Location:** Outside the Baudette Public Library

Image 6 Title: MINING KNOWLEDGE

Description: Colorful, over-sized books piled up in an antiquated-looking mining cart on tracks. **Date:** 2021. **Medium:** Metal and wood **Size:** 5' tall x 4' wide x 6' wide. **Budget:** \$6,500 **Location:** Eveleth Public Library Grounds

Image 7 Title: BOOK DROP

Description: Colorful, Metal "Books" arranged to appear as if they are falling into the Library's book return box. **Date:** 2022. **Medium:** Metal and enamel paint. **Size:** 10' tall **Budget:** \$3,500 **Location:** Mountain Iron, Public Library Headquarters

Image 8 Title: MIDNITE BLOOM

Description: Metal flowers. **Date:** 2022. **Medium:** Metal. **Size:** 7' tall. **Cost:** \$3200

Image 9 Title: NORDERN PIKE

Description: This piece is a metal, 3-dimensional fish sculpture mounted on a Rainy Lake rock base. **Date:** 2014. **Medium:** Recycled Sheet metal **Size:** 5' long. **Location:** Private collection

Image 10 Title: RAINY LAKE ROCK FISH2

Description: Sculpture made of Rainy Lake rocks that I collected on the shoreline and wrapped with welded metal. **Date:** 2021 **Medium:** Local Lake Rocks and Metal **Size:** 32" long, 15" Tall **Location:** Currently for sale \$625









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