

## MUELLER STUDIO

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April 15, 2022

Emily Carlson and Grand Rapids RFQ Committee,

With sincere and avid interest, Mueller Studio submits the following qualifications for the Grand Rapids *Northwest Neighborhood – Legion Park Public Art Project*. The RFQ vision for local engagement and neighborhood identity, parallels our studio mission to connect with project stakeholders through interaction, insights and collaboration.

We work to invent thoughtful spaces that connect people to the place they share. Public art can strengthen and connect the physical and cultural identity that defines a theme that will resonate most with its viewers to create a lasting impact. The *Northwest* project is personally compelling to our team, as we have taken on previous public projects intended to celebrate community identity.

As our images indicate we have had a wide range of success bringing meaningful public art projects to fruition-on time and within budget. Sculptural elements, properly supported by strategic landscape architecture, can be a catalyst for gathering and create a sense of place. We are eager to offer our services as a dedicated project partner with the Grand Rapids Arts and Culture Commission.

To further explore the preferred theme, Mueller Studio would visit Grand Rapids to discuss options and respond to feedback for a more inclusive community design. Naturally, our intention is to reflect a civic pride by designing a space that builds upon the Northwest Neighborhood values and history, leveraging our similar past successes to gain deeper insight into community needs to ensure a quality, multi-dimensional deliverable. A deeper investigation into design details and concepts would emerge based on that site visit and dialogue with local partners. The intention is to forge a symbiotic relationship and translate your vision.

While a community may identify with its architecture, it's the spaces in-between the buildings that interest us. Art can generate an atmosphere of a *patio-like* dialogue within the street infrastructure. Concurrently, working shoulder-to-shoulder with other creatives can be crucial to pushing a project beyond the limits of one's ego and toward an investigation of larger initiatives. This balance makes up our artist-citizen spirit. We appreciate the Art Committee considering the enclosed materials.

Respectfully,

*Greg Mueller*

MUELLER STUDIO

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## EDUCATION

MFA – Sculpture, Montana State University School of Art, Bozeman, Montana  
Studio Apprentice, Granlund Studio, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota  
Post-Bacc Year, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, Massachusetts  
BS – Studio Art, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2013-17 Asst. Professor of Sculpture, Converse University School of the Arts, Spartanburg, S Carolina  
2010-13 Sculptor in Residence, Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter, Minnesota  
2009-10 Asst. Professor of Sculpture, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
2002-08 Instructor of Sculpture, Bowling Green State University School of Art, Ohio

## RECENT PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

2023 (forthcoming) *Flying Cloud Commons*, Plaza Sculpture; City of Eden Prairie, Minnesota  
(forthcoming) *Herz- Rose Park Sculpture*, Ryves Neighborhood, City of Terre Haute, Indiana  
2022 *Bike Book*, Old Town Newhall Public Library, Santa Clarita, California  
*Burnsville Fire Station #1 Placemaking Project* Burnsville, Minnesota  
*Street Seat*, Creative Spark- South Loop Public Sculpture; Bloomington, Minnesota  
*Lakeville Arts Center Exterior Plaza Sculpture*, Lakeville, Minnesota  
2021 *Birchbark Bike Canoe*, Grand Rapids Public Library, Minnesota  
2020 *Pathway Parabola*, Roundabout Sculpture, Department of Transportation, Sisseton, South Dakota  
2019 *Bur Oak Park*, City of Eagan Parks and Forestry, Eagan Minnesota  
*Central Lakes Bike Trail*, DNR / Springboard for the Arts, City of Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
*Bike Rack Sculpture*, City of St. Paul, McQuillan Park, St. Paul, Minnesota

## RECENT SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Newport Beach Civic Center Sculpture*, National Juried Exhibition, Newport Beach, California  
*Negative*; National Juried Exhibition, Intersect Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri  
*Art from the Heartland*, National Juried Exhibition, Indianapolis Art Center, Indiana  
*March*, National Juried Group Exhibition; Jones Gallery, Kansas City Missouri  
*Putting Pieces Back Together*, National Juried Exhibition, Bristol Art Museum, Rhode Island  
*Rust Belt: REDUX*; National Juried Exhibition, Vestige Concept Gallery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
*True Blue*, International Juried Exhibition, Art Fluent Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts  
2021 *No Vacancy*, *New Assemblages by Greg Mueller*, Studio 17, Grand Marais, Minnesota  
2020 *City Art National Juried Sculpture Exhibition IX*, Mankato, Minnesota  
*Arts Elevated*, Regional Juried Exhibition, Rochester International Airport, Minnesota

## RECENT AWARDS

2023 *Minnesota State Arts Board Community Artist Project Grant*, St. Paul, Minnesota  
*Artistic Excellence*, Colorful Abstraction, International Juried Exhibition, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
2022 *McKnight Foundation Artist Project Grant*, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Duluth, Minnesota  
CERF + Artist Studio Assistance Grant, Montpelier, Vermont  
*Top 25 Public Projects*, "Burnsville Fire" National Juried Award, Codaworx Art Design Magazine  
2021 *Minnesota State Arts Board Legacy Fund Creative Artist Grant*, St Paul, Minnesota  
2020 *Individual Artist Project Grant*, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Duluth, Minnesota  
*Cook County COVID Relief Grant*, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Duluth, Minnesota  
*Individual Artist Grant*, Integrity Arts and Culture Association, Rock Island, Illinois

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES and TESTIONIALS:

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ISG Architects and Engineers  
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## TESTIMONIALS:

*"Working with Greg Mueller was a true delight. He was professional, knowledgeable in his craft and a great communicator. His bike rack design, fabrication and installation was all done within the timeframe required and with expert creative execution. Greg's final artwork exceeded all expectations and we would love to work with him on future projects".*

- Katherine Nestved, Public Art Coordinator, Santa Clarita, California

*"Working with Greg has been an absolute pleasure, his attention to detail and thoughtfulness comes through in the quality of his work. His work is a beautiful addition to our facility."*

- Joe Masiarchin, Lakeville Area Arts Center, Minnesota

*"We were thrilled to work with artist Greg Mueller on Vetter Stone Plaza; the Civic Center space incorporates a topographical river metal artwork, with integrated lighting design to create a unique sense of space and visual appeal for the Mankato City Center."*

- Noelle Lawton ISG Group Architects & Engineers, Mankato, Minnesota

## JPEG IMAGE LIST: Mueller Studio



1. **SPIRIT VESSEL** 2014 Cypress, Kasota Stone, weathering Cor-Ten steel 10' x 10' x 10'
  - Gustavus Adolphus College, Memorial Columbarium, St. Peter, Minnesota
  - Budget: \$20,000 Landscape Architect: Perkins Will, Minneapolis, Minnesota
  - Boats and ships reflect a universal symbol for transporting the soul. The Vessel's positive and negative layering references the transition from physical to spiritual and is suspended and supported by 4 guardians of weathering steel whose form draw influence from the curving hull structure of a ship's architecture and acknowledge the organic line quality Perkins Will Architects implemented into the Columbarium design.



2. **BIKE RACK SCULPTURE** 2017 stainless and weathering steel 30' X 8' X 4'
  - Hennepin County Public Library, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
  - Budget \$30,000 Architect: HGA Minneapolis, MN;
  - The vessel, a symbol of passage and exploration, transports one from the world we know to a world of discovery. Simultaneously, the genesis of Brooklyn Park's historical roots is a geography inhabited by the native Ojibway. The tool of exploration was its signature birch bark canoe. I implemented aspects of their watercraft into the design for a functioning bike rack sculpture.



3. **PRAIRIE 2022** steel, bronze, weathering cor-ten steel 13' x 6' x 4'
  - Lakeville Area Arts Center, Minnesota
  - Budget: \$14,000
  - "Prairie" is a marriage of water and native grasses; inspired by 18th c Scandinavian farmers, comparing the Midwest's wide-open prairie to the vast ocean waters they crossed to immigrate here. Less than 2% of Minnesota's prairie remains. Native prairie's medicinal and filtering qualities are one of nature's engineering phenoms.



**4. PLAY SCULPTURE** 2018 powder-coated steel, bronze, swing elements 12' x 3'- x 20'

- Central Lakes Bike Trail, Fergus Falls, Minnesota
- Budget: \$80,000
- Springboard for the Arts and Super Bowl Legacy Fund; The Bike Trail Sculpture is a playful, visual anchor marking the start of a 10 City, *Rail to Trail* Bike Path in West Central Minnesota. The exaggerated scale bike tires act as trees to suspend swings for play. A pedestrian bridge connects the 2 trees in the form of a rail road track to honor the pre-existing rail way that once connected the cities. Each of the 10 city names are included on the cast bronze rail ties.



**5. STREET SEAT** 2022, steel, White Oak, de-commissioned D.O.T. signage 13' x 9' x 9'

- Bloomington Central Metro Blue Line Stop, South Loop, Bloomington, Minnesota
- Budget: \$10,000
- In response to Bloomington's recent walkable urban space initiatives, I chose to focus on the pedestrian-vehicle dichotomy by creating a place for pedestrians as they navigate their way through the South Loop arteries. This sculptural nuance re-purposes street motifs associated with vehicular traffic to construct a place of respite, gathering and play. The de-commissioned yellow DOT signage communicates "slowing down," consistent with the a welcoming "porch swing"



#### 6. FIRE STATION PLAZA 2022, Site: 50' x 25' x 16'

- Fire Station #1, Burnsville, Minnesota
  - Budget: \$120,000
- Elements: *Ladder of Trust* - steel, polycarbonate, LEDs  
*Interactive Tetrahedron of Fire* – Cor-Ten steel, acrylic, stainless, fire nozzles, LEDs  
*Timeline Bench*- Ashwood with Text engraved Timeline history of the Department  
*Hydrant Mister - Fire Hose*: Fiberglass, aluminum, industrial hose, LEDs  
*Mural Painting* – Paul LaJeunesse; Depicts the Department's service to community



#### 7. BIKE BOOK (Bike Rack) 2022, de-commissioned bikes and weathering steel, Site: 30' x 10' x 4'

- Old Town Newhall Library, Santa Clarita California
- Budget: \$10,000
- Per Santa Clarita's requirement that public art must be made of 60% recycled materials, Bike Book was selected as a sculptural bike rack for the entrance sidewalk to the Old Town Newhall Library. The sculpture weaves together the concept of a library book with the functionality of a bike rack for the active biking community of Santa Clarita. The books hold several monochromatic compositions of reclaimed bike frames destined to the dumpster. Each bike frame has a history, and the book pages provide a place for their individual stories to unfold.



**8. BIRCH BARK BIKE RACK;** 2021, powder-coated and stainless steel, 15' x 6' x 7'

- Mississippi River Trail, Grand Rapids Public Library, Minnesota.
- Budget: \$10,000
- The request was for a bike rack sculpture between the public library and river trail. The solution was inspired by local native birch trees and the hulls of the water vessels crafted from this species of tree.



**9. INSPIRATION EXCHANGE** 2018, powder coated steel; 8' x4' x 6"

- Art Colony, Grand Marais Minnesota,
- Budget \$5000.00
- In collaboration with artist Amy Demmer, the artwork is an interactive exchange center, much like a "little free library". Pedestrians can take or leave a note or object of inspiration for another. Funded by Great Places Grant, Chamber of Commerce, Grand Marais, Minnesota.



**10. PATHWAY PARABOLA** 2020, powder-coated steel, LEDs 15' x 9' x 5'

- South Dakota State Highway 10 Round-About. Sisseton, South Dakota
- Budget: \$30,000
- Inspired by the local tribal college and nomadic dwelling structures, this sculpture celebrates their native identity; Sissetonwan (Dwellers of the Fish Ground) and Wahpetonwan (Dwellers Among the Leaves).















Burnsville



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