



Contact information:

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## **Proposal Ideas: Social Cohesion Sculpture**

Your call for art is very evocative! I would like to create a usable space incorporating seating as well as sculpture in imaginative, colorful ways. Grand Rapids has some amazing public artworks, and it would be an honor for me to work to match them in interest, wonder, and relevance.

I believe I meet your eligibility requirements, as I have created a number of public sculptures and have a long track record of completing the promised work on time and within budget.

Public involvement will be possible in all phases of this project: I generally design work after meeting with stakeholders to determine the issues and material qualities that matter to them. In this case, a community meeting to discuss this would be a privilege.

I certainly can design aspects of the work that will invite participation in their making. I have created cast-stone benches that incorporate mosaic panels, and these could be great projects for kids: you are absolutely right that kids' ownership of artwork in their towns is important. Mosaic is a medium that can be done offsite and then installed, so this would lend itself to participation. I haven't included images of this work in my image set, but I certainly can show you examples of it if needed: I wanted to show you a wide range of work.

I hesitate to describe the kind of work I would do for you, because it's important to me to do site visits, stakeholders' meetings, and other research before any such design is made. However, I work in a number of media, from painted steel to bronze to stone to laser-cut aluminum to concrete and mosaic. So there is a wide palette to choose from, in designing work for your site. I use mainly themes of human beings as part of the natural world: something that seems well suited to your site and your concerns.

I am often in Grand Rapids for one reason or another, and I have such respect for the community. Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this work.

All best,

Ann Klefstad

## **Resume, Ann Klefstad, from 2017 on**

### Selected Commissions

- 2022 *Otter* bench and 3-part online instructional video, MSAB grant-funded commission, Cross-City Trail, Bent Paddle, Duluth MN. \$6,000
- 2021 Commission, Art Force, *Healing Tree*, for Regions Hospital, St. Paul (completed in 2022). \$20,000
- 2021 Commission, Two Harbors Public Library, *Monarchs*. \$3,500.
- 2021 Commission, Hallock Public Library, *Prairie Weather*. \$10,000.
- 2020 Commission, *Dragonflies on High*, Midway Peace Park, St. Paul, MN. \$3,500.
- 2019 Finalist, commission, St Louis Park bridge art (with Jonathan Thunder).
- 2019 Commission, Stevens Point Sculpture Park, *Small Herd* \$3,000
- 2019 Commission, City of Eagan, *Turtle Bench* \$3,000
- 2018 Commission, St. Louis County Government Services Center Plaza, Virginia MN, *Microcosmos*. \$44,000
- 2018 Commission, *Lekamoia*, Skogfjorden Language Village, Bemidji, MN. \$22,000
- 2018 Commission, *Nesting Mallard*, Marydale Park, City of St. Paul. \$6,000
- 2017 Commission, *Fox Path*, May Park, City of St. Paul. \$5,000
- 2017 Commission, streetcorner park enhancements, Lincoln Park Business Group, Duluth, MN \$10,000

### Solo shows

- 2018 “Carbon,” Zeitgeist Arts, Duluth MN (April 2018).
- 2016 Landmark Center SUP program, selected artist.
- 2015 “Flight,” Zeitgeist Arts, Duluth MN

### Group shows

- 2017 Exhibition, 4North, at Norway House, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 Exhibition at Duluth Art Institute, 4North (Animals of the Anthropocene).

### Grants

- 2021 Minnesota State Arts Board, Creative Support for Individuals, Project Grant.
- 2020 Minnesota State Arts Board, Individual Artist Grant, “Carbon”
- 2019 Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Project Grant
- 2018 Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Project Grant
- 2017 Forecast Public Artworks, Midcareer Grant

### Education

- 1982-84 Graduate school at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. I took courses in critical theory and aesthetics, and held a graduate assistantship, helping to start a new course in critical theory for undergraduates.
- 1974-78 BA, St. Olaf College, Paracollege. fine arts (sculpture), English, philosophy.

## References

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## Image List

*Ann Klefstad*

01-04. *Estuary Plaza: Waters Bench, Terns, Fox*. 2015. Bronze, stone, concrete. Plaza overall 30' x 80'. \$64,000. A plaza around the idea of an estuary—a place of transition, growth, and shelter that is located between environments. The Duluth estuary can be seen from the site, and Estuary Plaza (at the St. Louis County Government Services Center in Duluth) contains bronze, stone, and wood seating that is made from water imagery, and benches shared with bronze terns, an otter, a beaver, a fox, and frogs and turtles. This has become a beloved site for its users. The "wayfinding beaver" in its stone pond is also part of this larger installation.

05. *Turtle Bench* (detail view), 2019, Kettle Park, Eagan, MN. 24" x 72" x 48". Bronze, shou sugi ban white cedar, native stone. \$5,000

06. *Healing Tree*. 2021, Regions Hospital, St. Paul. 14' x 6' x 6'. Welded aluminum and enamel paint, stone. Sited in a "no foot traffic" courtyard visible from several stories of hospital rooms. \$20,000.

07. *Monarch Tondo*. 2021. Brushed welded aluminum, 9' x 4'. This work was designed for the new pollinator garden at the Two Harbors Public Library. \$3,000. The traditional architecture of the library called out for harmony. After working through several pollinator designs, we settled on the monarch butterfly—in part because many local citizens were raising monarchs. The choice of buffed aluminum laser-cut with the design means that the plants of the garden can be seen through the apertures of the circle: the piece literally becomes a visual part of the plantings: very much how the elements of a living ecosystem work.

08. *Freedom (Bird Tower)*. 2016. Welded enameled mild steel, stainless steel. 24' x 4' x 4'. Fergus Falls (roundabout at the entrance to the town). \$42,000. This work addresses the nature of Fergus Falls as a place where the waters of one ecosystem meet the farmland of another. It evokes the seagulls that follow the tractors through the fields around town.

09. *Lekamoia* (7 Sisters Legend). 2020. Concordia College Language Villages, Bemidji. Virginia slate, stainless steel. 14' x 4' x 2'. \$30,000. The piece is emblematic of a Norwegian legend of seven sisters, the oldest of whom saved the others, flying through the air over a mountain.

10. *Iron Deer in the Steel Forest*, steel in concrete footings. 2015. \$12,000. Arrowhead Library Association headquarters, Mountain Iron. A take on the dual nature of this community, both wilderness and industrial.



































THE SCULPTURE WAS COMMISSIONED  
BY THE CITY OF SALT LAKE CITY  
AND WAS CREATED BY THE ARTIST  
JAMES EARL RAY



