

Myklebust & Sears

The Four Lakes

Proposal for artwork at Frances Plaza • Madison, Wisconsin

The Four Lakes

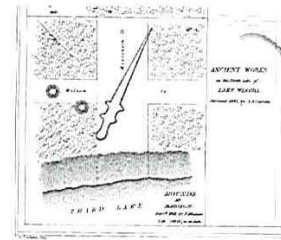
Visual resources • Andrea Myklebust & Stanton Gray Sears
6.5.8



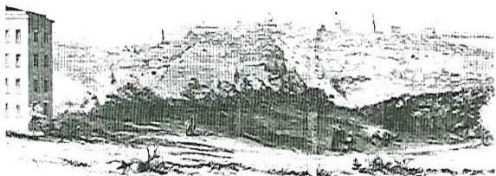
Early spring 2008 site conditions at Frances Plaza, looking south and north



Above: Examples of granite boulders carved with water-related imagery, created by Myklebust & Sears for a site in Ohio.



Above: An illustration of mounds at Wilson and Wisconsin Streets from I. A. Lapham's "The Antiquities of Wisconsin," published in 1855.



West King Street, 1852 - the earliest known representation of State Street, drawn by Adolf Hoeffler. From "Madison: The Illustrated Sesquicentennial History."



A North American badger

"I was president of Madison Village in those days, and street superintendent. It became my duty to destroy two especially conspicuous mounds. One of them was right in the middle of State Street...the material from the mound was entirely used in filling the street...Later, when I came the better to appreciate the archaeology, I felt like a vandal."

- Horace A. Tenney, 1894



Granite elements at "Philosopher's Grove," State Street.

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Introduction:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this proposal for artwork at the Frances Street Plaza. Frances Plaza is a vibrant, lively urban place, filled with people at all times of the day and night. The plaza functions as a symbolic gateway between the communities of the campus and the city. While the site is an important pedestrian thoroughfare, the plaza also presents an opportunity to create an inviting public destination within the richly-textured environment of State Street.

A number of factors at the site have been priorities in our design:

- The large number of people who use the space
- Existing infrastructure within the site
- The intimate scale of the plaza
- A need to retain rights-of-way for pedestrians and emergency vehicles
- Consideration of existing design elements within the site (paving, trees, lighting, adjacent uses)

We have designed artwork for the site with a number of goals in mind:

- Create an easily maintained water feature and sculptural components
- Design for longevity of the water feature and its mechanical components
- Work to minimize the environmental impact of the water feature
- Create a beautiful, high-quality civic space
- Develop art elements which reference site histories and cultures, and also appeal to visitors from outside Madison
- Design elegant artworks which are extremely durable, and invite public interaction.

Project narrative:

Our design for artwork at Frances Street Plaza is comprised of a series of elements in granite, bronze, and water which create a symbolic map of the Madison region, traditionally called *Tay-cho-per-ah* (The Four Lakes), by the Ho-Chunk people. We have chosen to work within the existing design elements of the plaza – the trees modeled in our proposal are the existing ash trees in the plaza. Our design displaces one of the light fixtures specified in the design presently under construction at the site.

Art elements:

Water

Black granite blocks form a structure 30' long, 4' wide, and 22" high into which a shallow trough is carved, 12" wide and with a maximum water depth of one inch. Water emerging from the south end of the trough flows in a smooth ribbon towards State Street, and drops over the edge of the granite channel into a perforated drain. The elongated form of the trough is an abstract variation of a "water spirit" effigy mound of the type which was built in the area by Late Woodland people.

The water feature is not recirculating – it is designed to operate in a manner similar to a drinking fountain. The water can be turned on at the beginning of the warm season and off in the fall. A timer is incorporated into the design to control hours of operation during the day. This fountain is designed to use a comparatively small amount of water (approximately 1 gallon per minute), no chemical additions, and a minimal amount of electricity to power pumps.

Stone

Sculptural stones in the design symbolize the four lakes of the Madison area, and are sited within the plaza in positions which echo their real locations in the larger landscape. Our models and material samples illustrate two alternate approaches to the use of stone in the site. In the first, four natural black granite boulders are sliced apart, and the exposed faces of the stones are carved and polished with a variety of sculptural surfaces inspired by the movement and patterns of water.

In the second variation, the stone boulders are replaced with four black granite cylinders, in which exposed surfaces are similarly carved with water-related surfaces. These 4' diameter granite cylinders, although significantly larger in scale, are similar to the granite elements used elsewhere on State Street (Philosopher's Grove), and their use at Frances Plaza might serve to create a more integrated feel to the stones used elsewhere along State.

Bronze

A larger-than-life bronze badger with young stands at the head of the fountain, looking towards State Street. The sculpture can be read as an allegory of the University and its role in education – it is a literally a figure of *alma mater* (the nurturing mother). The sculpture can also be interpreted as a symbol of the state of Wisconsin. Located at a site where many Wisconsin communities meet (the University, the City, the State), the badger would be a familiar and welcoming image to most of the people passing through the space.

The scale and placement of the bronze sculpture (like all of the art elements in the design) invites human interaction. We expect that people will stroke, sit on, and generally touch the bronze. Like other bronzes in public spaces, a popular sculpture will develop a distinctive "use patina" over

time – areas which receive frequent touch will develop a high, golden shine. Rather than being detrimental to the appearance of the artwork, we see this kind of marking as a demonstration of the degree to which people feel ownership and affection for the work.

Materials & means of fabrication:

The materials used in this design have been selected for their toughness, beauty, and tendency to age gracefully. The granite blocks which comprise the water feature are designed for carving off-site by a fabricator associated with the quarry. The granite boulders or cylinders would be hand-selected by the artists, with some primary saw cuts completed at the quarry. The stones would then be shipped to the artists' studio for hand carving and polishing to a 1500 grit polish. Bronze patternmaking and casting is accomplished by the artists in their studio.

Installation & maintenance:

All artwork elements are fully fabricated off-site and transported to the project site ready for installation. Design work to date has been completed in consultation with both structural engineers and licensed plumbers. Design development work from this point on would proceed in collaboration with Madison city staff and other design professionals working on the site to ensure successful integration of the artwork into existing infrastructure on the plaza. Underground concrete work and plumbing associated with the artwork would be undertaken within the construction schedule of the surrounding plaza. Installation of art elements would follow at a somewhat later date.

Any artwork incorporating water will be subject to more complex maintenance routines than an artwork without. That said, we have attempted to design a water feature which will be as simple as possible to keep running over time. Wherever possible, "off the shelf," plumbing components are specified. Supplies, drains, pumps and controls will be designed to be easy to access, clean, and repair as needed. It is our practice to work in collaboration with city staff and maintenance specialists to create a project which will work well for everyone.

Granite elements of the artwork are largely maintenance-free. Bronze benefits from at least an annual cleaning and waxing. The stone elements of the project each weigh many tons, and are extremely secure and durable. The bronze element is designed for secure long-term installation on its stone base. We recommend that a trained conservator be consulted if any special cleaning is needed for elements of the artwork.

Cost Estimate:

Design, project administration and engineering expense:	\$34,500
Granite fabrication at quarry (30' x 4' x 22" water feature):	\$72,000
Granite carving at artists' studio: (four large natural boulders with carving or four, 4' diameter granite cylinders with carving):	\$55,000
Bronze patternmaking and casting:	\$13,000
Concrete footings/foundations:	\$24,000
Plumbing (pump, vault, valve, backflow prevention, supply and drains, etc.):	\$15,000
Transportation and installation (between quarry, studio & project site):	\$14,500
Project documentation:	\$2,000

Total: **\$230,000**

Bibliography:

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