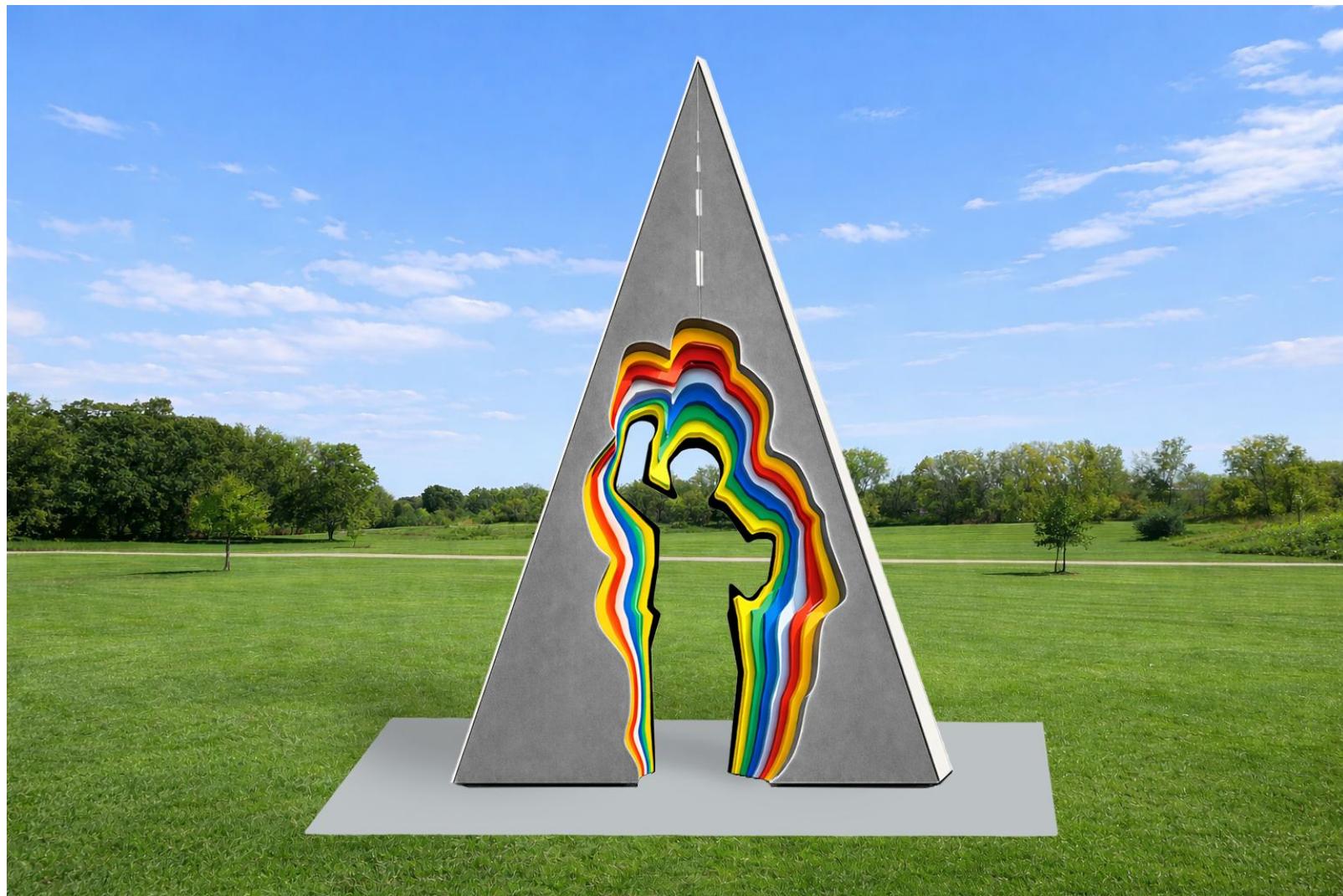


The Passage of Being

Public Art Proposal:
Imagination Center at Reindahl Park, Madison, WI
January 2026

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Project Summary

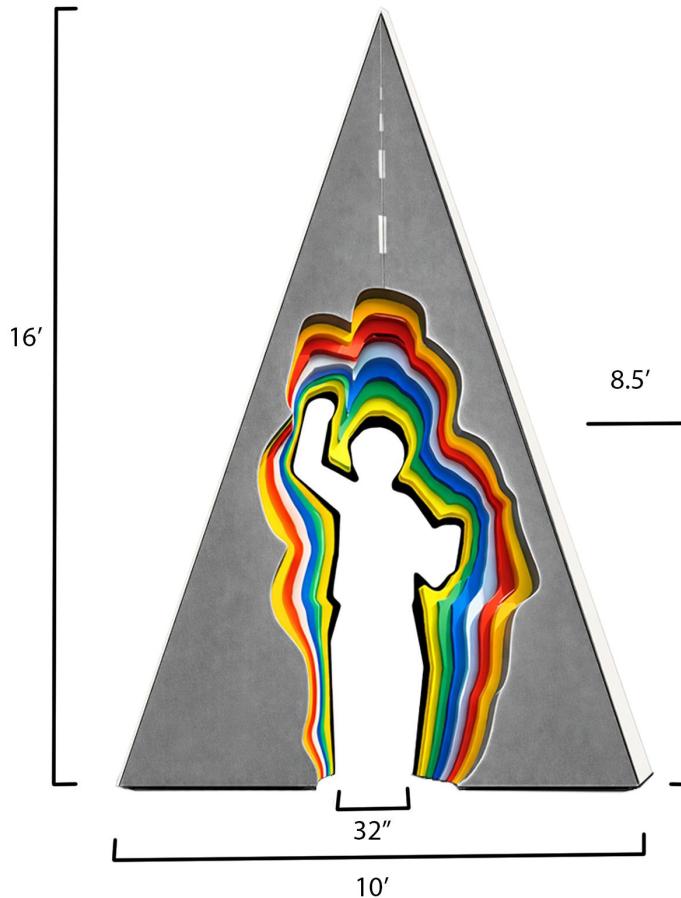
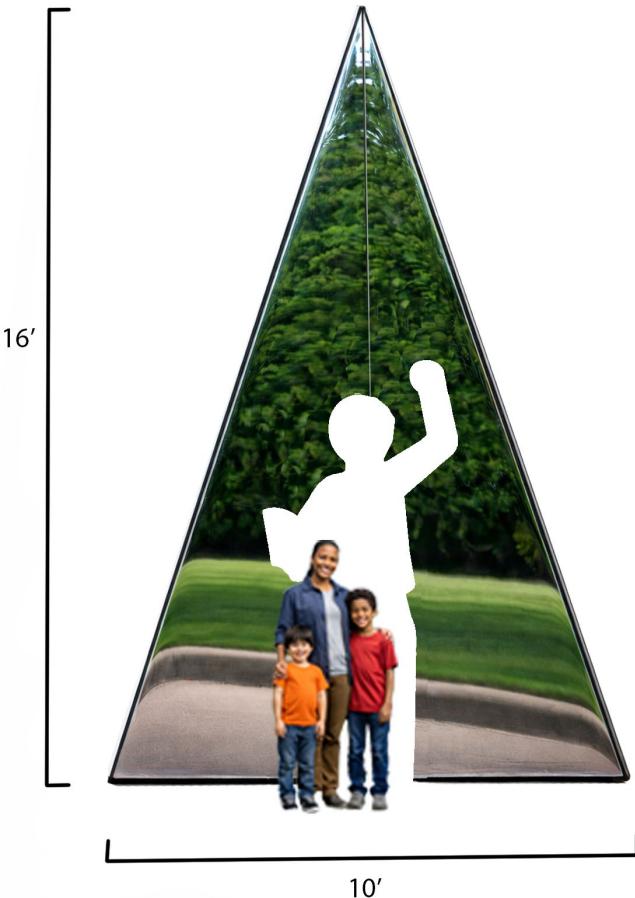
- 16 ft tall triangular prism with large open void cutout
- Front: Triumphant figure silhouette morphing to abstract back shape
- Interactive: Park visible through colorful warped interior
- Modern contrast: Shiny stainless BACK + matte grey sides and FRONT





DIMENSIONS: 16FT H x 10FT W x 30" D

SIDE



Narrative Description

The Passage of Being is a proposed artwork for the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park is envisioned as a site specific, interactive civic landmark, a vertical monument that explores how imagination can reshape the language of infrastructure and community into a physically embodied form of aspiration.

The work is organized around a two-sided presence. On the roadway side, the strength of community opens a pathway toward nature, reshaping civic and urban experience from within. On the reflective side, the sculpture opens outward, reflecting the surrounding park and its activity onto the library's architecture. Together, these two conditions form an interactive, site-specific experience shaped by community, context, and imagination.

Physically, the sculpture is a freestanding vertical form measuring approximately 16 feet high, 10 feet wide, and 30 inches deep. It is built with a steel frame clad in stainless steel panels, including one face finished in No. 6 polished mirrored stainless steel. The interior layers are made from specialized thermal wood, painted and protected with a graffiti resistant coating. The sculpture is mounted on and bolted to a concrete pad, designed for long term durability in the Wisconsin climate.

The overall form grows out of the geometry of a roadway lifted upright, turning a familiar symbol of movement and division into an upward presence.

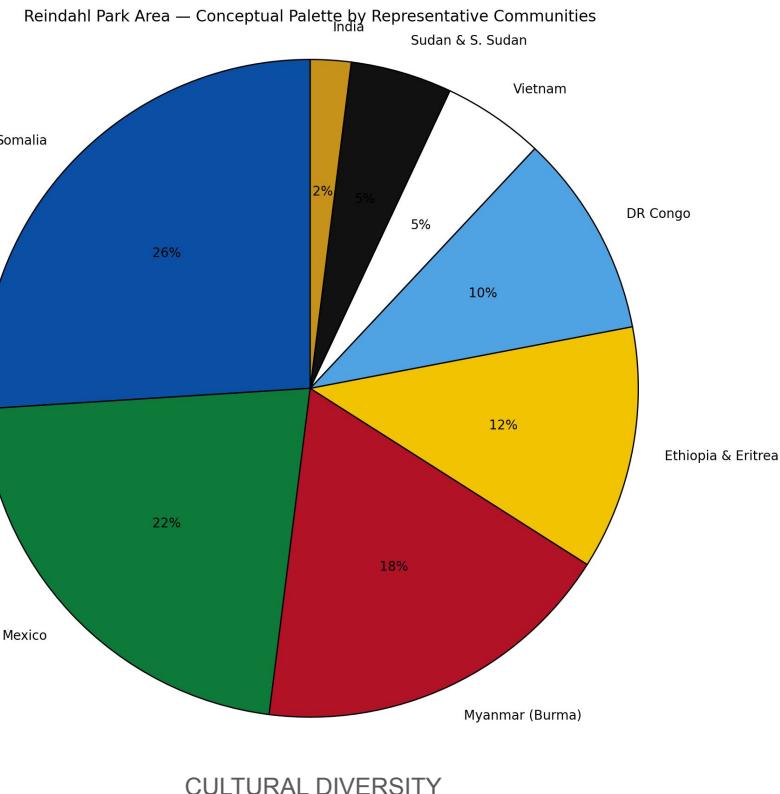
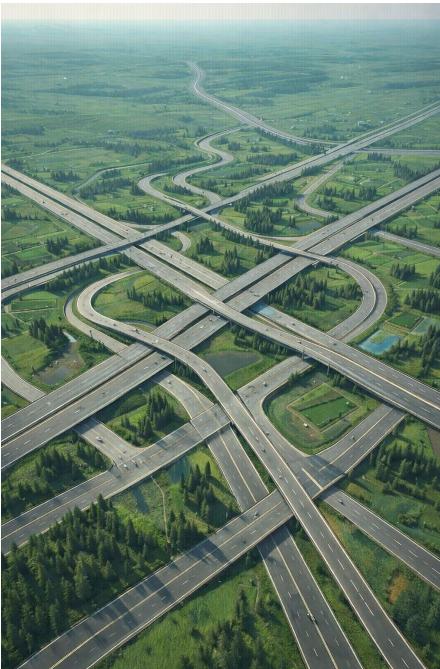
Continued

On the roadway side, the sculpture carries the weight and solidity of infrastructure, echoing the highways that shape this part of Madison. From the reflective side, that same mass softens as trees, sky, and recreation are reflected back into the form. What once read as a boundary begins to dissolve into an ethereal natural space.

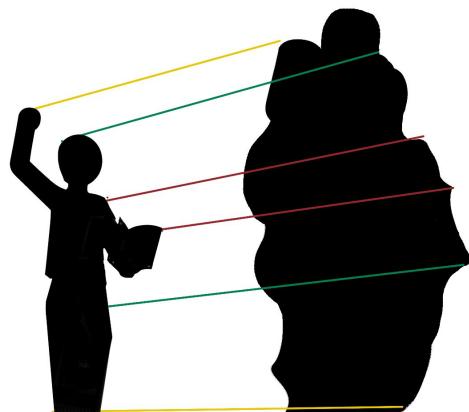
At the center of the sculpture is a void in the shape of a figure holding a book in one hand and raising the other in a gesture of triumph. From the roadway side, the figure appears to push forward, supported by layered planes of color drawn from the national flags of the dominant immigrant communities in Northeast Madison. From the reflective side, the figure is surrounded by sky, trees, and play, with the park itself now supporting the figure. Together, these two readings suggest a journey of possibility shaped by community support and imagination opening outward to the wider world.

Placed alongside the Imagination Center Library and within the open landscape of Reindahl Park, the sculpture brings together mind and body, imagination and community, civic structure and nature. Community interaction is not something added onto the work, but something that naturally unfolds through movement, reflection, and shared presence, as well as through the layered colors that represent the cultures of the surrounding neighborhood. In this way, the sculpture offers an integrated and bold, lasting reminder that while communities inherit systems and boundaries, imagination and collective participation can change how those limits are experienced.

Community and Cultural Research



Formal Concepts



Embodied Imagination



Cultural Collective



Aspirational Perseverance





Materials Summary — Imagination Center at Reindahl Park

Stainless Steel Sheets

1/8 inch stainless steel panels used for exterior cladding; includes one face finished as No. 6 mirror-polished stainless steel and one non-mirrored face

Mild Steel Sheet

1/4 inch mild steel sheet used for structural surfaces and backing elements

Steel Base Plate

1/2 inch steel base plate providing structural stability and anchoring interface

Interior Steel Structure

Welded interior angle iron and steel supports forming the internal frame and reinforcing the cut-out figure

Thermal Wood (Interior Layers)

Specialized thermal wood used for layered interior elements; selected for dimensional stability and exterior durability

Painted & Patinated Finishes

Industrial-grade metal enamel paint and/or stainless steel patina applied to steel surfaces for durability, corrosion resistance, and aesthetic finish

Graffiti-Resistant Coating

Clear protective coating applied to painted interior surfaces to allow for easy cleaning and long-term maintenance

Anchoring Hardware

Stainless steel bolts and hardware for secure attachment to concrete foundation

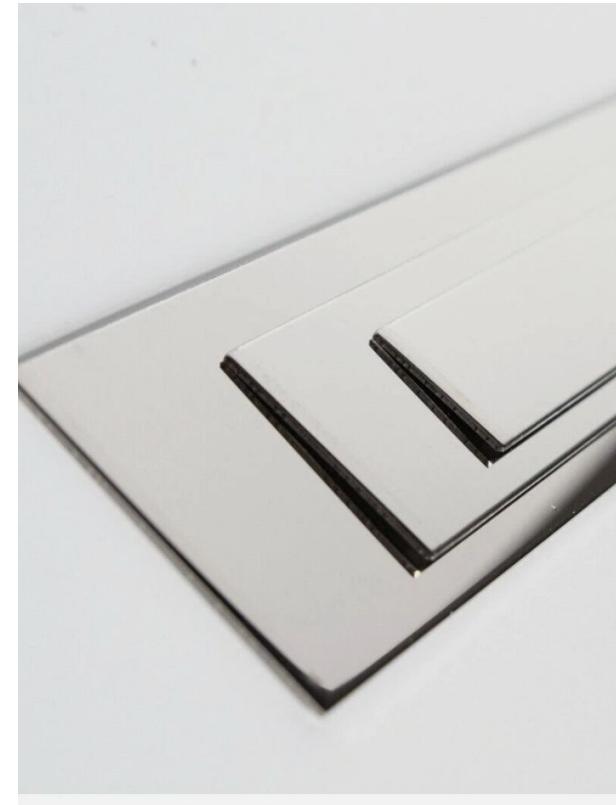
Concrete Pad (City-coordinated)

Reinforced concrete foundation for anchoring and long-term structural performance

Materials & Finishes

- Front frame: 304 stainless, #7 high-reflection
- Interior tunnel: multi-color concentric stripes Thermowood +Sayerlack AZ97 [Ultrimax Coatings](#)

Hot-rolled steel, matte asphalt-grey patina + clear sealant
Sides 1/4" steel painted stainless steel brushed mat white



Fabrication & Installation Process

Final Design & Engineering

Final dimensions and shop drawings completed; structural review of steel frame, base plate, and anchoring

Steel Fabrication

Cutting, welding, and assembly of 1/4 inch mild steel sheets, 1/2 inch steel base, and interior angle iron framework

Stainless Steel Fabrication

Cutting and forming of 1/8 inch stainless steel panels; mirror polishing of reflective face

Interior Layer Fabrication

Thermal wood layers cut, shaped, painted, and sealed with graffiti-resistant coating

Surface Finishing

Application of industrial metal enamel and/or stainless steel patina; quality control of finishes

Pre-Assembly

Dry-fit assembly at fabrication shop to verify alignment, finishes, and structural integrity

Transportation

Secure transport of completed sculpture to site

Site Preparation

Verification or preparation of concrete pad in coordination with City and Parks staff

Installation

Crane placement, anchoring to concrete pad, final leveling and inspection

Final Review

Artist walkthrough, finish inspection, and project closeout

Notes on Fabrication and Materials

All materials and fabrication methods are selected to balance durability, safety, cost efficiency, and long-term performance while supporting the conceptual goals of the artwork. See attached PD on Gallas Metalworks Sculpture Services

All metal fabrication, material and installation is quoted by Gallas Metalworks in Milwaukee, WI.

The artist will purchase and fabricate the interior layers from Thermowood and high quality exterior enamel.

Project Schedule: February – Early September 2026

Phase	Dates	Scope of Work
Design Updates & Coordination	February 2026	Final design refinements (if required); coordination with City staff, Parks, and Library; preparation of final fabrication drawings
Engineering Review	February–March 2026	Structural engineering review of steel frame, base plate, and anchoring; stamped calculations as required
Approvals & Contracting	March 2026	Common Council approval; execution of contracts; fabrication scheduling
Fabrication	April–July 2026	Steel frame fabrication; stainless steel panel fabrication including mirror-polished face; interior thermal wood layers; surface finishing and protective coatings. <i>Active fabrication period estimated at 2–3 weeks within this window, with additional time allocated for material procurement, finishing, and quality control.</i>
Pre-Assembly & Quality Control	July 2026	Shop pre-assembly; verification of alignment, finishes, and structural integrity
Site Preparation	Late July–August 2026	Concrete pad preparation or verification, coordinated with City and Parks staff
Installation	August–Early September 2026	Transportation to site; crane placement; anchoring to concrete pad. <i>Estimated on-site installation time: 2 days.</i>
Unveiling & Project Closeout	Early September 2026	Final inspection; documentation; public unveiling
Community Engagement	February–September 2026 (overlapping)	Artist conversation during fabrication phase and public discussion at the site following installation

Maintenance Plan — Summary

Designed for long-term durability and low maintenance using exterior-grade materials suitable for Wisconsin's climate.

Routine Maintenance

- Annual visual inspection of structure, anchoring, and finishes
- Stainless steel surfaces cleaned **as needed** with non-abrasive cleaners
- Interior painted surfaces spot-cleaned as needed
- Graffiti removed as needed using graffiti-resistant coating
- Anchors and fasteners checked every 2–3 years

Long-Term Maintenance

- Reapply graffiti-resistant coating every 3–5 years
- Touch-up paint or patina as needed (typically 5–10 years)
- Optional structural review at 10+ years

Notes

- No moving parts or electrical systems
- All steel is welded, sealed, and corrosion resistant
- Maintenance comparable to other permanent park sculptures

Project Budget Summary — Imagination Center at Reindahl Park

Fabrication, Materials & Installation (all purchases fabrication, shipment and instal by Gallas Metalworks)

Steel frame fabrication and welding; stainless steel cladding including mirror-polished #6 face; interior thermal wood layers with paint and anti-graffiti coating; transportation, equipment, labor, and anchoring

\$56,000

Engineering

Structural engineering review, footing and anchoring verification, stamped calculations as required

\$2,000

Artist Fees

Concept development; design drawings; coordination with fabricator and City; fabrication oversight; installation supervision; community engagement planning and facilitation

\$10,200

Contingency (10%)

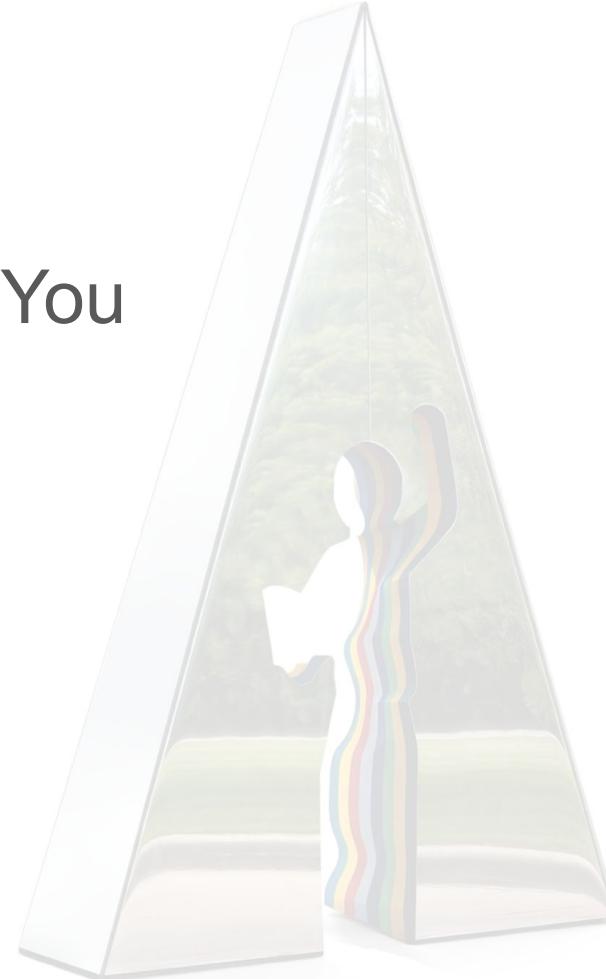
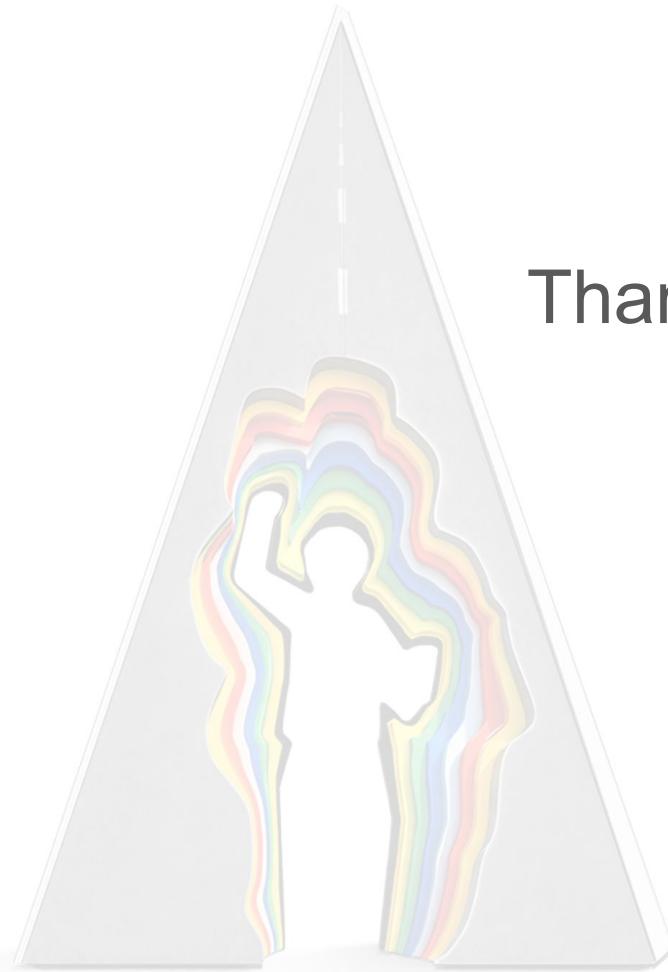
Reserved for unforeseen fabrication, material, or installation adjustments

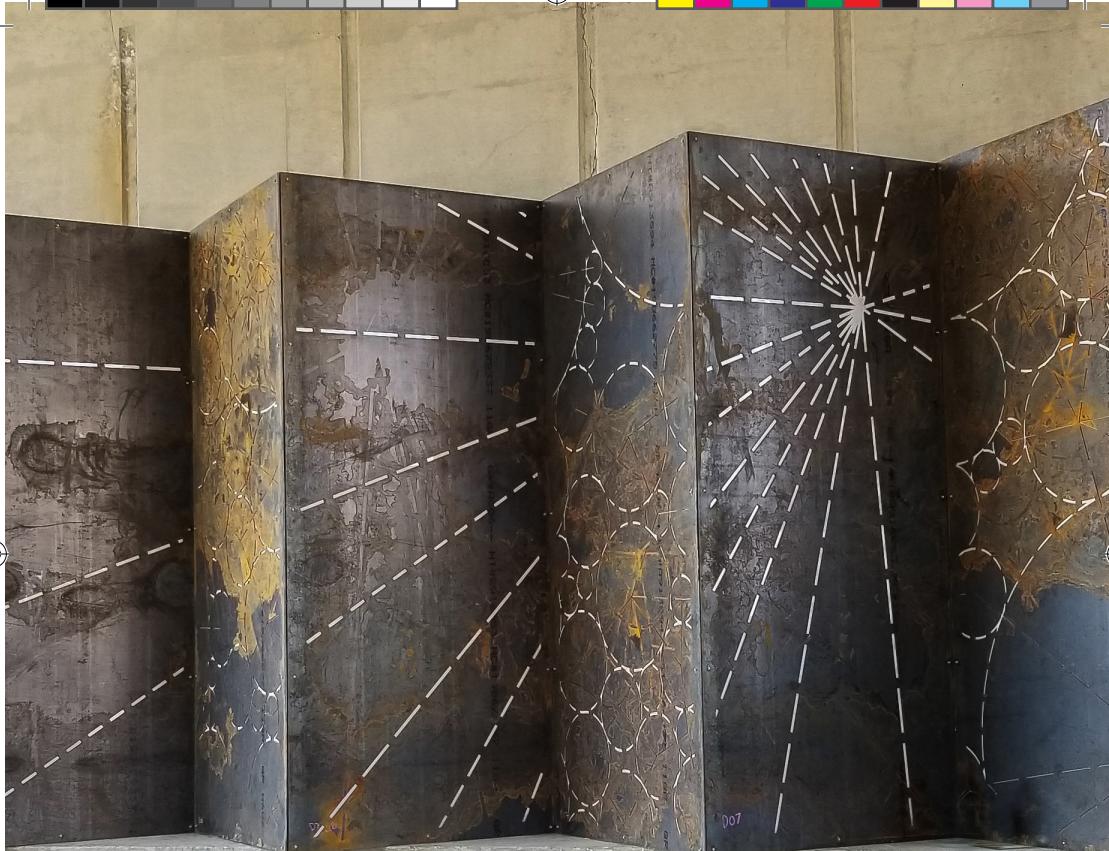
\$6,800

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

\$70,000

Thank You





GALLAS METALWORKS
Sculptural Services



In collaboration with artists and designers, Gallas Metalworks has designed, detailed, manufactured and installed public art across Wisconsin. This selected portfolio contains some of our favorite installations. All design is by Gallas Metalworks, Inc. unless otherwise noted.





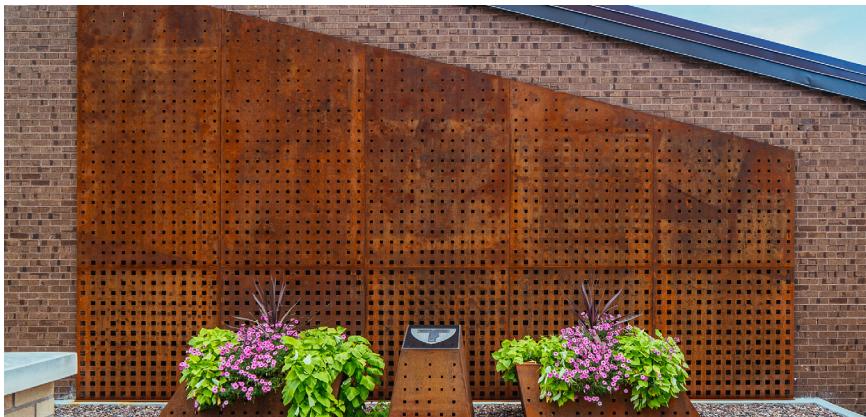
Design by Julia Shilling. Gallas Metalworks detailed, manufactured, and installed 150' of lenticular wall.



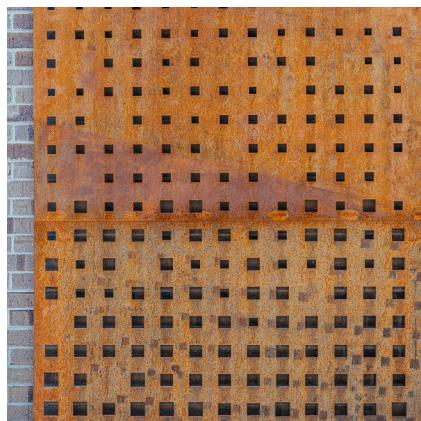
"Shift" • Madison, WI • 2021
COR-TEN • polycarbonate







School Sisters of St. Francis - Milwaukee, WI - 2020
COR-TEN



Design by Design Fugitives. Manufacture
and installation by Dallas Metalworks.



Design by James Wasley. Gallas Metalworks detailed, manufactured, and installed five sculptural fountain components.



Freshwater Plaza COR-TEN • Milwaukee, WI • 2017
COR-TEN • steel stainless



"River Prairie Nexus" - Altona, WI - 2018
COR-TEN



Design by Design Fugitives. Manufacture
and installation by Gallas Metalworks.

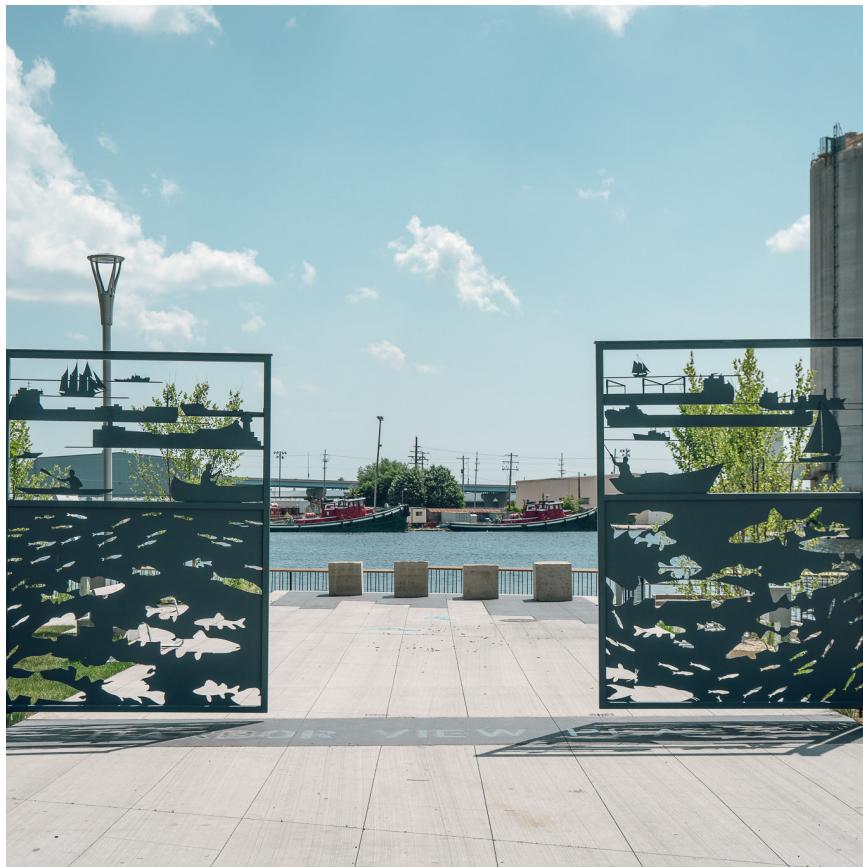




Gallas Metalworks manufactured and installed three steel bases for wildlife sculptor, Don Rambadt.



"Homecoming" - Baraboo, WI - 2024
Steel • silicone bronze • patina



Harbor View Plaza Gates • Milwaukee, WI • 2020
Steel • paint





Harbor View Plaza Donor Wall - Milwaukee - 2020
COR-TEN • stainless steel • copper • patina



"Nuovo Inizio" ("New Beginning") - Milwaukee, WI - 2018

Stainless steel

Design by Prof. J.F. Mangiameli





Gallas Metalworks helped Prof. J. F. Mangiamele turn a small cardboard maquette into a 23' tall gift for the Italian Community Center. Services included structural engineering, plan review, permitting, and subcontractor coordination.

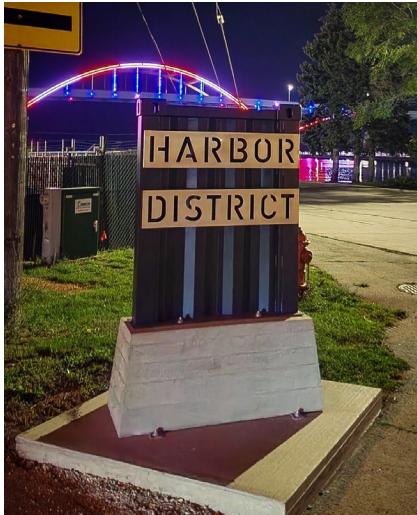






"Insight" - Milwaukee, WI - 1971
COR-TEN
Kenneth Lamers (1938 - 2023)

Installed at Mill Road Library in 1972, and relocated to Good Hope Library in 2024. Gallas Metalworks provided foundation design, transport, and reinstallation.



As part of a larger branding campaign, Gallas Metalworks was selected to design, manufacture, and install four signs at key locations in the district. Services included plan review, permitting, and subcontractor coordination.

Harbor District Signage • Milwaukee, WI • 2023
Steel • stainless steel • concrete • paint



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GALLAS METALWORKS

Sculptural Services