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Site visit Report and recommendations for Sid Boyum sculptures in the collection of the City of Madison

Preservation Services, Inc. finds the Sid Boyum sculptures to have special and lasting significance to the City of Madison, and thus, should be preserved and maintained as local artistic, cultural, and historical treasures. We commend the City for acquiring the works, and the passionate commitment of the neighbors in the Atwood east side neighborhood, for preserving and promoting the art of Sid Boyum.

This report includes a description of existing conditions of 19 sculptures, based on observation only (no material testing was conducted), with recommendations for conservation. Our approach to such work is as follows:

- Preservation activities will follow highest preservation and conservation standards achievable, considering clients' capacity.
- All work is guided by all available photographic and archival documentation of the works in their original condition as created by Boyum. Preservation treatments strive to conserve elements as closely as possible to their original condition, as created by Boyum.
- Preservation activities will be guided by the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Preservation of Historic Properties](#). While the Standards are directed to buildings and sites, they outline preservation theory and accepted approaches.
- Preservation Services will train local technicians to conduct cleaning, paint stripping, and repainting; local technicians will work on a volunteer basis or be paid by the City.

General observations

- In general all the sculptures are in good condition, structurally stable and very close to their “as built” condition, other than paint colors for all works that have been repainted. All sculptures require some level of cleaning. We have used *ProSoCo* products for cleaning atmospheric and organic build-up with success, on similar painted and unpainted concrete sculptures.
- Most sculptures require repainting, soon or eventually; these can be prioritized according to works receiving public complaints first, followed by works in need. Sculptures can be stripped and painted in phases as the budget allows. We have used *Keim* products with success on similar concrete sculptures. We do not recommend repainting with latex paints. Despite the fact that Boyum may have used latex and past conservation treatments were done with latex, latex paint on concrete causes moisture retention and eventually the bond between concrete and paint surfaces will fail. In some cases there are multiple layers of latex trapping moisture, causing deterioration to the concrete.
- A few sculptures require masonry repair. We have used *Jahn* mortar repair products with success on similar sculptures. All such repairs will entail stainless steel (thin rod, wire, or mesh) reinforcing.
- All repainting will be based on documentation provided and conditions found. We don’t recommend lab testing of paints, which is costly and with regard to this project, may be inconclusive.
- A few sculptures would benefit by being covered in the winter.

A conservation plan can be phased accordingly:

1. Repair of sculptures requiring masonry repair. We recommend a single test of Boyum’s mortar to determine its qualities.
2. Repair and repainting of (2) sculptures receiving complaints from neighbors about their condition.
3. Cleaning and repainting, prioritized as high, medium, and low in the recommendations. While H, M, & L may appear vague, High indicates work that should be done as soon as possible, Medium indicates work that should be done as soon as possible after highly prioritized work, and Low indicates works that we feel will not deteriorate significantly in their current condition for several years.

Sculpture conditions and recommendations

Note: Estimate costs will adjusted based on availability of local technicians to be trained to assist, and may be significantly reduced based on level of assistance. Treatment estimates do not include travel and reporting, which are itemized separately.

1. Polar Bear Chair, medium priority

Condition:

Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Obviously is used and enjoyed. Minor paint wear, especially on seat. When repainted, paint will continue to wear on the seat, but if done with durable, appropriate paint, will last much longer.

Recommendations:

- Requires cleaning and repainting (medium priority).
 - Cleaning, 3 hours (\$225)
 - Stripping 6 hours (\$450)
 - Repainting, 6 hours (\$450)
- Install concrete title plaque, currently at Boyum house.
 - Can be done while cleaning + \$50
- Dead branches above should be removed (City of Madison).

Treatment estimate: \$1175

2. Layered Pyramid, medium priority

Condition:

Good, structurally sound (based on observation). It appears that an element or elements are missing from the top. Need to consult photo-documentation of the piece in its original condition to determine shape and size of missing element(s). Paint is in poor condition, delaminating, especially at the bottom.

Recommendations:

- Requires cleaning, stripping and repainting
 - 4 hours cleaning (\$300)
 - 8 hour stripping (\$600)
 - 8 hours repainting (\$600)
 - Materials: \$200 + water
- Recreate missing element(s) at the top, TBD based on documentation of original.
 - Studio work, can't estimate at this time
- Due to precision of forms and edges, a winter covering would be beneficial.
 - To be discussed

Treatment estimate: \$1800, + recreation and installation of lost element(s), TBD.

3. Blue Dragon Urn, high priority

Condition: Structurally sound (based on observation). Delamination of paint and serious buildup of organic growth (moss). We were told that people in the community complain about the condition.

Recommendations:

- Requires cleaning and repainting
 - 3 hours cleaning (\$225)
 - 8 hours stripping (\$600)
 - 12 hours repainting (in different applications/color) (\$900)
 - Materials \$200 + water

Treatment estimate: \$1925

4. Smiling Mushroom, high priority

Condition: Structurally sound (based on observation). Area of loss at front of base. Serious paint delamination. Sculpture pedestal is listing; existence and condition of footing unknown. Piece would be removed and work done in PSI studio

Recommendations:

- Requires cleaning and repainting. We were told that people in the community complain about the condition.
- Re-creation of lost area, based on photo-documentation.
 - Travel to pick up (\$200)
 - 2 hours cleaning (\$150)
 - 2 hours, re-creation and attachment of missing element (\$150)
 - 3 hours stripping (\$225)
 - 3 hours repainting (\$225)
 - Travel to return (\$200)
- Creation of a substantial footing so it remains upright and can't be easily stolen.
 - 2 hours (\$150)
 - Materials, \$250
- Signage noting removal for conservation should be installed. (City of Madison)

Treatment estimate: \$1550

5. Creature abstract, low priority

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Requires cleaning and repainting.

Recommendations:

- Cleaning

- 2 hours (\$150)
- Stripping and repainting, low priority, if/when paint deteriorates further
 - 10 hours (\$750)

Treatment estimate: \$900

6. Blue Tripod, high priority

Condition: Horizontal plane at the top was created by layering mortar (~ 3/8 in. thick) over diamond lath metal mesh (which is corroding. The mortar is failing because moisture has entered causing expansion and contraction and corrosion of the metal mesh, causing sections of the mortar to fail and become detached. Detached sections were found in the hollow of the lantern. The paint surface is subtle and modulated and appears original. It appears mostly intact except at the bottom legs, where paint has worn to concrete.

Recommendations:

- Documentation of the original will determine if the paint surface is original or has been repainted. It requires cleaning, and if original, should be left until paint deteriorates further and requires repainting.
- All cap mortar needs to be removed from the top horizontal plane. Once exposed, the core needs to be cleaned and stabilized. An armature of stainless steel mesh and rods will be created over which Jahn mortar will be covered to replicate the original composition and surface.
- Conserved area to be repainted. Due to the modulated, patterned surface, this will be more elaborate than other sculptures, which are generally a flat color.
 - Four 8 hour days (\$2400)
 - Erect scaffold
 - Materials (\$400)
 - Possible lodging/per diem, TBD

Treatment estimate (without lodging/per diem) \$2800

7. White Lantern (in the Schenk's Corners landscaped area), medium priority

Condition: Good, structurally sound based on observation, cleaning of birds nest may reveal other conditions. Paint on the edges and underside of the top cap is delaminating and peeling off. Paint on the base is worn. A graffiti tag has been painted on one face of the upright shaft.

Recommendations:

- Remove the graffiti immediately (City of Madison)
- Clean, strip, and repaint the top cap and pedestal base only, matching the white paint color closely.
 - 8 hours, cleaning & stripping (\$600)

- 2 hours repainting (\$150)
- Materials (\$200)

Treatment estimate: \$950

8. Geometric abstraction (in the large street island Ken's Continent), **low priority**

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Two areas of rebar armature, which are very close to the surface, are exposed. A few small areas of concrete at the edges are worn off or broken. Sculpture is unpainted.

Recommendations:

- Treat exposed rebar with corrosion converter and repair missing concrete with replacement mortar mixed to match the color as closely as possible.
- The exposed rebar so close to the surface suggests that this condition is endemic to the sculpture. The sculpture can be treated (2 coats) with a migratory corrosion inhibitor to prevent future delamination of mortar around the rebar.
 - 8 hours (\$600)
 - Materials (\$300)

Treatment estimate: \$900

9. Fu Dog Lantern (in Yahara Place Park, next to Orly's memorial bench), **medium priority**

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Some worn paint at the top lantern and on the bottom/base.

Recommendations:

- Will eventually require cleaning and repainting, low priority.
 - 8 hours (\$600)
 - Materials (\$150)

Treatment estimate: \$750

10. Dignified Figure with Tablet, low priority

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Figure is strapped to the brick wall behind and appears very stable. Shrubbery has been allowed to become overgrown around it. Organic buildup on painted surface.

Recommendations:

- Clear away a small margin of shrub growth so figure can be seen.
- Requires cleaning, low priority.
 - 2 hours (\$150)
- Observe to determine if/when repainting is necessary.

Treatment estimate: \$150

10 a, b, and c, Mushrooms (inside Lowell Elementary School's mini-forest courtyard, not on original list), **low priority**

Condition: Two mushroom sculptures were found tipped over and a third was found upright, almost completely surrounded by foliage. All are intact, with varying degrees of worn paint.

Recommendations:

- Since they are in an enclosed, locked area and not vulnerable to theft we do not recommend that they be given footings. Rather, it is recommended that they be brought indoors and stored during winter months.
- All three require cleaning and repainting, low priority. These can be brought to PSI studio where treatments can be done, offsite.
 - Travel + mileage to pick up (\$200)
 - 24 hours (all three), cleaning, stripping, painting (\$4600)
 - Materials for multiple colors (\$200)
 - Travel + mileage to reinstall (200)

Treatment estimate: \$5200 (\$1733 @)

11. Easter Island Head (outside the gate of the Lowell Elementary School's mini-forest courtyard) **low priority**

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Some paint has worn off, primarily on the top of the head and at the base; minor cracking of concrete at the horizontal seam at the base.

Recommendations:

- The sculpture location is not ideal, facing the parking lot and not in any particular context. It would be good to consider relocating it to the inside of the mini-forest courtyard, in proximity to the mushrooms.
- The Sculpture requires eventual cleaning and repainting, minor repair to the crack at the base, low priority.
 - 4 hours cleaning (\$300)
 - 8 hours stripping and repainting (\$600)
 - Materials for multiple colors (\$200)
 - Move, 1 hour (\$75)

Treatment estimate: \$1175

12. Tree Limb Faces (in the street island near Division Street) **high priority**

Condition: Good, primarily structurally sound (based on observation); there are several hairline surface cracks around limbs suggesting that moisture entry is corroding metal

armature material. Other than the exposed vertical center rebar and an area of exposed wire, the nature of the armature is unknown. From Boyum's other works it's likely he used diamond mesh and/or wire. Much of the paint has worn off and there are extensive areas of moss and lichen throughout the surface. The paint on the butterfly is faded and there are areas of corrosion on the surface.

Recommendations:

- Excavate around the base to determine if there's a footing, and the size. The sculpture appears to be stable but a footing is not visible. Due to the weight of the sculpture, a footing may need to be installed or enlarged.
- Complete cleaning of lichen and moss; this may reveal other surface cracking and/or other conditions.
- Treat all exposed metal with corrosion converter. Close work with the sculpture will reveal if further testing of areas of cracking is necessary.
- Seal all cracks. Treat entire piece with migratory corrosion inhibitor.
- Repaint. Paint will hinder growth of moss and lichen and will protect the surface from moisture entry, and further deterioration of interior armature materials.
- Strip butterfly, treat with corrosion converter, repaint. While de-installed, make a pattern so it can be replaced if ever destroyed or stolen.
 - 2 hours footing excavation \$150
 - If new footing is necessary (\$300)
 - 4 hours cleaning, with low pressure washer and water source (\$300)
 - 2 hours, application of corrosion converter (\$150)
 - 2 hours, treat w/ migratory corrosion inhibitor (\$150)
 - 4-8 hour crack consolidation, TBD pending conditions revealed (~\$450)
 - 6 hours, repainting (\$450)
 - Materials, \$200

Treatment estimate: \$2150

13. Hippopotamus (at the edge of the Wirth Court Park playground), **low priority**
Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Paint is overall in good condition. There's a horizontal hairline crack ~ 6 inches up from the base, around the sculpture. This most likely indicates an interruption in the layers of concrete during construction. It doesn't appear to be moving or threatening the sculpture's integrity.

Recommendations:

- Observe the crack to determine if it's worsening.
- Clean and repaint when necessary, low priority.
 - No estimate at this time

14. Fantasy Seahorse, medium priority

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Much of the paint is worn off and there's considerable growth of moss and lichen over the surface. There may be a small area of lost concrete at the left front hoof.

Recommendations:

- Requires cleaning and repainting.
 - 4 hours, cleaning (\$300)
 - 2 hours, stripping (\$150)
 - 4 hours, repainting (\$300)
- Repair loss at hoof based on further examination and/or documentation of the original.
 - TBD
- Determine ownership and create an agreement document.

Treatment estimate: \$750

15. Diana (in the rear yard of the Riley House, privately owned), **low priority**

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Has been repainted recently by resident. It's harmonizing within its garden setting; vines and ground cover are controlled at the front, growing onto the verso.

Recommendations:

- Determine ownership and create an agreement document.
- Trim vines annually and allow ground cover and vines to grow up to, but not grow over or into sculpture.
- Observe to determine when repainting is necessary, no estimate at this time.

16. Biomorphic Form (in the rear yard of a Dunning Street home, privately owned) DID NOT SEE

- Determine ownership and create an agreement document.
- Examine for condition assessment and treatment recommendations.

17. African-influenced Sculpture (in the rear yard of a Talmadge Street home, privately owned) DID NOT SEE

- Determine ownership and create an agreement document.
- Examine for condition assessment and treatment recommendations.

18. Six-Sided Red Lantern, medium priority

Condition: Good, structurally sound (based on observation). Appears to be in original condition other than the base and brass plaque. Patrons are depositing garbage in the interior.

Recommendations:

- Clean lightly and coat with a siloxane coating to protect the original surface and help resist oils and dirt from patron use. (\$150)
- Consider relocating within the library where it has a more dignified setting.
- Presuming that the pedestal and brass plaque are not original, make sure these additions are recorded.

Treatment estimate: \$150

Cost estimate breakdown per priority

sculpture	High priority \$	Medium priority \$	Low priority \$
1.Polar Bear Chair		\$1175	
2.Layered Pyramid		\$1800	
3.Blue Dragon Urn	\$1925		
4. Smiling Mushroom	\$1550		
5.Creature abstract			\$900
6.Blue Tripod	\$2800		
7.White Lantern		\$950	
8. Geometric Abstraction			\$900
9. Fu Dog Lantern			\$750
10. Dignified Figure			\$150
10. a, b, & c, mushrooms			\$5200
11.Easter Island Head			\$1175
12. Tree Limb Faces	\$2150		
14. Fantasy Seahorse		\$750	
18. Six-Sided Lantern		\$150	
TOTAL	\$8425	\$4825	\$9075

Additional recommendations

- Determine ownership for sculptures located on private properties. Outline ownership and the responsibilities of private residents (especially what not to do, i.e., move or alter the works) and the City, in agreement documents.
- Determine if the titles used in the concrete plaques and the map with locations are Boyum’s originals or assigned by others. Archive this information and when referring to them in print or elsewhere, use *Boyum’s title* or Title unknown (or Untitled) with the description in parentheses.
- The logistics of the design and construction of covering systems and the availability of City of Madison staff to install, de-install, and store, annually, may exceed the desired scope of this project. We recommend covers for a few sculptures and will discuss the possibilities upon request.

Cost estimates are approximate and “not to exceed,” unless additional conditions are discovered.

Fees:

Don Howlett and PSI staff conservation	\$75/hour
Reports	\$50/hour
Mileage @ .56/mile + \$100 per trip driving time (1.5hours)	\$200
Mortar testing (optional, recommended, approximate)	\$1800

- Cost estimates do not include round trip travel to Madison; the number of trips required will be based on how many sculptures are treated at a time. Estimates for treatment costs, including travel and/or lodging and per diem to be submitted as work is contracted.
- It may be expedient to stay over in Madison for work extending over 2 – 3 days. Cost per night for lodging (TBD) and per diem (\$50).
- Treatment estimates are based on PSI conducting all the work. Costs will be adjusted based on availability of local technicians to be trained to assist, and may be significantly reduced based on level of assistance. Only hours worked, materials used (+ 15%) and travel, lodging, and per diem will be charged.
- Reports will be submitted for all treatments. Reports will include a description of treatment, photo documentation, and recommended maintenance.

Proposed work is contingent upon:

- Ability to transport water to various locations. Low-pressure washing will be necessary at some locations. We need to determine if a hose can be used to bring water from a nearby source at some locations.
- Ability to use a small generator at some locations; noise will be kept to a minimum, used during the day.
- Access to all photo documentation, especially photos showing original colors will be essential.
- Costs of materials will depend on how many works are treated at a given time. If several works are treated, material costs will be less. If works are treated one or a few at a time, over a long period, materials will be purchased separately and cost more. We charge cost plus 15% contractor burden.

This proposal is subject to acceptance within 6 months. This proposal is subject to revision for work contracted after 6 months.