

SCORING COMMENTS
FRANCES PLAZA PUBLIC ART SELECTION COMMITTEE
June 5, 2008

Artist: Tom Askman

- The most interactive. Fits the site well. This was the most interesting to me. I really liked the brass scrolls around the trees.
- Concept and shape fits space well. Enough whimsy to go around. A bit too amorphous to be timely. Too generic for Frances Plaza. Can easily be mocked as ice cream cones by some.
- Scale is appropriate. Color and bronze. Very interactive, ear hole/eye hole!
_____ and interaction good. Lighting and color changes great!
- Size is good, fits space. Technical aspect is good.
- The best aspects if “Fountain of You.” Best water elements. Most interactive!
- May need to rework bases – 3” to _____ and center more dominant.
- Textural elements – aesthetics interesting, surface utilizes water. Safety element high.
_____ work environment – color bands in ground. Water exchanges up – dialogue/color lights-water. Sound quality uncertain. Not as exciting aesthetically as some of the other projects.
- Talked about a collective unconscious in his choice of form; implied tension. Thought carefully about user interaction, investigation of passersby with narrative elements. Dialogue and interaction as core concepts. Sensitive integration of trees surrounding the sculpture.
- Case bronze. Feel the surfaces and ear hole to hear the water inside. Landscape elements in tall elements binary code? Water will run in rivulets around the side of the cones, strings of water on top leaping from one to the other: sight. Sound of the water inside hollow bronze. Will have quotes about his love of the piece. Bronze straps go out into and around the trees set on 3” yellow concrete. Worry about the personal ideas – not of the actual space.
- Like combo of thought and whimsy. Interactive – no place to put trash. Scale-fits. How loud would it be? Safe, durable. Liked use of water – in and out. Base-a bit too busy, liked bronze linear inlays. Interpretation part-will content, items work well without community? Liked textural elements. How does water flow outside? Will it reflect his understanding of our place?

Artist: Howard Ben Tre

- Love the materials. Not sure it will be hugely successful except at night.
- Also could become an iconic image in Madison. Very minimal but very effective as a beacon calling one to the area.

- Too small. Lacks local context.
- Not specific to Madison. Fits the space better than some. Not enough energy for the space.
- Too small. Loses visual effect during daytime? Easy to maintain. Doesn't relate?
- Was expecting much more from artist. Not so great during the day-better at night. Not exciting enough for space-would be great elsewhere.
- Too simplistic. "Lighthouse" not really representative of Madison's lakes. Probably beautiful at night!
- My favorite. I like the elongated, simplicity. Variation in stone-aesthetically. However, when considering relevance of work and place, in comparison to other works, loses first place. Idea of beacon is great. How specific to Madison's community/not specific. Low maintenance.
- Elegant, minimal form, beacon. No connection with sense of place.
- Church steeple and lighthouse, meeting place. 20' tall, 7' water. Red and black stone to tie into the Cityscape. Fiber optics at 7' and at the top. Lose 2 trees, 2 ped lights. A place to meet.
- Didn't make statement of place for Madison – sailing mast isn't Madison. Does become a beacon. Water/safety – fits the criteria. Great at night, but during day, appeal? Very minimalist.

Artist: Myklebust & Sears

- Followed the plan closest on fountain. Will likely become a urinal at times. Love the piece, but not sure about the site.
- Well thought out project with many Madison specific features but not iconic enough an image for the space. Too linear and detailed sculpture.
- Loved the badgers. Trough a problem for vandals, etc. Like the design. Somewhat too serene. Location down center of State (Mall).
- Not big enough to see from Kohl Center. Beautiful design.
- Better in another location. Doesn't draw you to space. Beautiful otherwise. A badger sculpture works here – not total artwork.
- Beautiful! But problem – trough and drain, maintenance issues for trash.
- Aesthetically beautiful. Much thought put into this work. Thought about Madison, four lakes, idea of Wisconsin geography, natural boulder, elongation of form. Low maintenance. Relevant to place. People-interaction great!
- Thought deeply and carefully about the history and geography of the area and Madison. Sense of timelessness and sophistication strongest of all candidates, with added elements of representational aspects – water surface, badger, female with cubs reference "alma

mater,” nurturing mother, connection to UW and to state symbols. Trough evokes linear mounds.

- Canadian quarry. Low to the ground. Working with the pieces of the plaza already there. Create an inter_____ space with high quality material inviting interaction. Caught the ancient history of the street. Just because it doesn't match the energy of the space.
- Aesthetically really liked it. Loved badgers and boulders – alma mater. Thought about history – linear mound. Not sure it fits into space which is lively and urban versus pastoral. Not enough flow for clogging. Very well conceptualized – tranquil. Would be low maintenance – fountain-wise – but concerned about “interaction.” Not a gateway piece.

Artist: Actual Size

- Monolithic – does not seem to fit space well. Love the whimsy. Not sure if it fits well.
- Perfectly fits the space, feel, whimsy, intellectual and spatial design of the project. Will quickly become a Madison icon. A true “gateway.” The name alone will bring people to Frances Plaza.
- Like the idea of debating the heads. Scale too big and color (blue) too cold. Megaphones too silly. Mostly scale issues. Love the idea.
- Relates well to the area. Limited graffiti exposure. Size? Too big? Good from a distance.
- Too big and silly for space. If selected should be placed away from State Street toward Frances Street. Can't see from Frances Plaza.
- Too big for space. Too silly. Concern over “white heads” – racial?
- Visually pleasing, playfulness, water head, megaphone. Bulky, awkward, monumental/megaphone – not appealing. Interesting narrative – University/Madison community. Neoclassical look – desire to bring together architectural. Much thought put into work. Heads would have to be carefully handled to make work and appeal to broader audience; generally identified or “universal.” Water quite high.
- Conceptually connected to a specific notion about the Capitol and UW; oriented equally from Frances and State Streets. Funny, but perhaps a bit superficial over time. Strong use of local elements and suppliers. Narrative elements far removed from users and space.
- Love that it is all local. Answered all the requests of the State Street Committee.
- Liked local source of materials. Size – may be oversized? Love whimsy, but one liner? May be interpreted as political statement. 10-12 hotel rooms face area – look at heads. Work better near Frances with scale. How architecturally does this fit in the space? Very aware of and responsive to all concerns. Seems to work best far away but this space is in_____.

Artist: Roger Stoller

- Really like the piece. Would love to see it in Madison, but not quite fit the site. Concern about climbing and effect of mist. Could see it elsewhere on campus.
- Beautiful piece but too formal for the location and purpose at Frances Plaza.
- Climbing hazard. Very appealing visually.
- I like the overall project but not in this location, mostly safety and climbing. Concerns with mist and practicality, love the idea and possibility of ice and different look. Budget concerns and safety concerns.
- Technical features seem flawed. Doesn't relate to the space.
- Doesn't fit in location. Would like somewhere else in Madison.
- Concern over misting – not done before – unknown. Someone jumping up and grabbing and climbing.
- Artist put much thought into sculpted form. Nature, philosophy, mysticism – are interesting elements. Beautiful form. Problem of possible dangers with sharpness of form. Not as exciting/relevant to place as some others.
- Budget for sculpture only. No incorporation of seating or other features that invite interaction. Not as well integrated into site, use of site, history and narrative of Madison. Follows his own interests and work rather than trying to use Madison's history and place.
- Science and philosophy – liked the combination of the two.
- Concern-safety-climbing on it. Budget-pavement, benches? Can mist work in our harsh winter? Science/technical – not so much the place – this is retail, restaurant, dining, UW. Among lowest maintenance.