
City talks statues on Square

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Published: Friday, October 28, 2011

Updated: Friday, October 28, 2011 03:10

SEARCH

City officials met Thursday to take another step forward in choosing an art statue to stand on the Rotary Centennial Plaza, just outside the Madison Children's Museum on the Capitol Square.

Of the four finalists drawn from a pool of more than 100, city officials favored David Boyer's "Sustainabilitree." Boyer's design also garnered the approval from the public and the Rotary Club.

Boyer's "Sustainabilitree" is currently proposed as a colorful wind sculpture constructed of stainless steel and aluminum.



Photo Courtesy City of Madison

"Land of 5 Lakes"

Rotary Representative David Schreiber said the statue "could work in the context" of the children's museum.

"The boldness of it is going to grab you," Schreiber said.

Public Art Professional Brenda Baker said that, of the proposed ideas, Boyer's design was "the one that people would remember."

However, the committee reviewing the art plans chose to push the final selection to a future meeting after members communicate further with Boyer to discuss suggestions they have to change his design.

Among the committee's suggested revisions are increasing the statue's height from its current 13 feet and a more elegant design for the tree's trunk.

City officials have not completely ruled out the other three designs, especially artist David Dahlquist's mosaic column, which incorporates both geographical and historical focuses on Wisconsin. The committee hopes to make a final selection soon.

A pending grant from the National Endowment for the Arts will be available for the project if a chosen design is presented at the organization's November meeting.

Ultimately, the statue built will be unveiled in June 2013.

—*Meghan Chua*