

To: Members of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Mary Berryman Agard, Monona Bay Neighborhood Association  
Re: *Updraft: The Brittingham Garden Place Making Project*  
Date: January 6, 2015

## Background

This document describes *Updraft: The Brittingham Garden Place Making Project*, being undertaken by the Monona Bay Neighborhood Association. *Updraft* is designed to be sited in Brittingham Park in the general area of the garden. *Updraft* returns to the Board as an expanded version of an approved Neighborhood Place Making Grant, which originally envisioned a rabbit proof fence around the garden and certain community building activities. Tonight, we seek your approval for the expanded concept, in particular the addition of an **open arch** along the bike path, **four benches** in the area surrounding the community garden, and artist made **ornamentation** for the fence. Here is a preliminary artist's site illustration looking down the bike path from the West Main Street park entry toward the bay. The garden is on the right.



## **Purpose**

*Updraft* is designed to achieve a set of goals particular to Brittingham Park. First, it meets commitments made to the neighborhood to maintain high aesthetic standards at the community garden. In doing so, it models the role public art can play in advancing urban agriculture in public spaces. It continues Brittingham Park's forward motion toward safety through increased park use; memorializes the contribution of the Hmong elders who led the creation of the garden; provides a visual gateway to the downtown area for bike path commuters; and creates a space that invites park users and residents to stop and rest, to connect with one another, and to be restored.

## **Site Map**

A site map is provided. Generally speaking, the *Updraft* site is near the W. Main Street bike path entrance to the park, where the community garden is located.

## **Project Status**

To date, a highly experienced and well-regarded artist, Michael Burns, has been selected. He has developed early design drawings and a maquette of the arches and made preliminary materials selections. In addition to City funds, DaneArts and the Evjue Foundation have joined as significant funders. Fund raising efforts will be broadened once the Board's approval is secured.

## **Materials**

Cor-Ten steel has been preliminarily identified as the material for the arch, benches, and fence ornamentation. The artist will conduct further research during the design phase as to the best materials for the budget and environmental conditions. The fence to be installed is a commercially produced black steel fence to which the ornamentation will be appended.

## **Dimensions**

The arch is made of two halves that are not placed immediately opposite one another, but rather separated linearly by 30-70 feet along the bike path. Each half is about 20 feet tall and arches approximately 12 feet from its base. Each half is set approximately 6-7 feet back from the bike path. Benches will measure approximately 72" long x 36" deep x 42" high. The fence will be 36-48" high with some variability due to ornamentation.

## **Engineering Issues**

Engineering services will be secured to insure a safe and stable footing design for the sculptural pieces and benches. Engineering decisions will be undertaken in consultation with the artist, the engineer, and the Parks Superintendent or his designee.

### Preservation of Trees

No trees will be removed or harmed by the project. In fact, as a part of the project, Emerald Ash Borer sponsorship will be secured for a huge, signature ash tree that shades an area beside the garden, a prime spot for some benches to be placed.

### Ownership

Once completed, ownership of Updraft's components will be transferred to the City, using a standard public arts procedure.

### Maintenance Responsibility and Maintenance Endowment

The artist will provide a maintenance plan. The project is raising an endowment fund equivalent to 10% of the project cost, consistent with best practice estimates for installations of this type. The endowment fund will be held at the Madison Community Foundation and advised by the City of Madison Arts Administrator and the Parks Superintendent. The Monona Bay Neighborhood Association will assume continuing responsibility for conserving the work through the use of endowment resources.

### Further Information

For further information, please contact Mary Berryman Agard, Monona Bay Neighborhood Association, [MaryBerrymanAgard@mac.com](mailto:MaryBerrymanAgard@mac.com) or 608.257.7809. Both Mary and Michael Burns will be present at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting to answer any questions you may have.