

Erika Koivunen
536 Algoma St.
Madison, WI 53704

1/17/11

Madison Arts Commission
Department of Planning and Development
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
P.O. Box 2985
Madison, WI 53701-2985

To Whom it may concern,

It is a pleasure to submit a funding request in the amount of \$1,300 for a **Blink** Grant to create and install *Birds on the Bike Path*. This series of sculptures made from scrap metal and recycled bike parts is to be installed along one of Madison's bike paths. The sculptures consist of an integrated art eco-system of various birds and flowers that playfully interact with each other. *Birds on the Bike Path* will foster community engagement and appreciation of the arts. My exhibition will be accessible to Madison residents and visitors of all ages, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

The metal sculptures reflect innovative design and superior craftsmanship gained from my years of experience and extensive training as a scrap metal artist. This unique art exhibit will reach a diverse audience that reflects the many people who use this commuter corridor everyday and spark dialogue about reuse and sustainability that can create ripple effects throughout the community. I would like to invite the Madison Arts Commission to share in providing the public with this thought provoking experience. I hope you will consider honoring my request to create and install *Birds on the Bike Path*. Thank you for taking time to review this proposal.

Sincerely,



01/17/11

Erika Koivunen

Erika Koivunen
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Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison Bachelor of Art in Science 1999
Apprenticeship, Welding and Sculpture, Dr. Evermore 1997-2000

Professional Experience

2003-present Scrap Metal Artist

- Teach seminars on scrap metal sculpture
- Collaborate with the community and local artists for various projects
- Metal art and welding for privately commissioned works, businesses, community organizations, and city parks
- Artist featured in the documentary film "Growing and Knowing", Wisconsin Film Festival 2010.

2001-2002 Tinsmith Urban Artifacts, Menasha, WI

- Make recycled furniture and art out of tin ceiling tiles
- Building, bending and forming with tin using a variety of tools

Notable Commissioned Works

2010-Illumination Towers, Brearly Street, Madison, WI
2010-Madison Children's Museum, Metal Entry Gate and Earthen Wall Portals
2010-Madison Children's Museum- Possible-opolis Climber
2009- Midvale Garden Gate and Documentary "Growing and Knowing"
2008-BB Clark Memorial Benches
2005-Rails, Barriques
2004-Rail, Blue Marlin
2003-Patterson Street Rail, "Intergalactic Wheels of Eclectic Consciousness"

Exhibitions

2010 NoMo, Kohler Art Museum, Butterfly Jesters Glorious Tricycle
2009-Present Absolutely Art, recycled metal sculptures
2009 Folklore Village, 4th Annual Plate Art Fundraiser, Scrap Metal Art Plate
2006 Women's Voices in Farming, Folklore Village, metal sculpture
2003 Ecletic Earth Art Show, metal sculpture
2003- 2004 Full Circle Gallery, monthly showings

Proposal *Birds on the Bike Path*

Conceptual Approach

Birds on the Bike Path is a solidly built, aesthetically pleasing, whimsical series of staked metal sculptures that range in size from 3'-4 1/2' tall. These giant birds and flowers embrace the community's core values about recycling while creating a magical, mysterious oasis of interesting creatures for people to appreciate around the bike path. It will be a great stopping-off point for pedestrians, residents and passersby. The sculpture garden will enhance the opportunity for people wanting to take pictures of our beautiful city. This exhibition connects to its physical surroundings by combining elements of nature, scrap metal and old bicycles. *Birds on the Bike Path* will encourage public dialogue and contribute to a sustainable, healthy community as they show people a beautiful way to use reclaimed materials while creating harmony and balance in nature.

Project Location

- The first choice for the sculpture installation is off John Nolen Drive, north east of the traffic light for Lakeside Street and the entrance road that leads to Olin Park in the grassy area overlooking Lake Monona and the Monona Convention Center
- Second choice for installation is on John Nolen Drive in the grassy area along the lake between the traffic light for Broom Street and the Monona Convention Center.
- Third choice for installation is along the bike path on Atwood Avenue after the First Avenue traffic light but before Monty's Blue Plate Diner.

Proposed Budget

The project budget is \$1,300 which includes materials and a minimum of 45 hours artist time to create and install the the sculptures.

Timeline

The installation will take place before bike to work week in June and remain in place until after Ride the Drive in September.

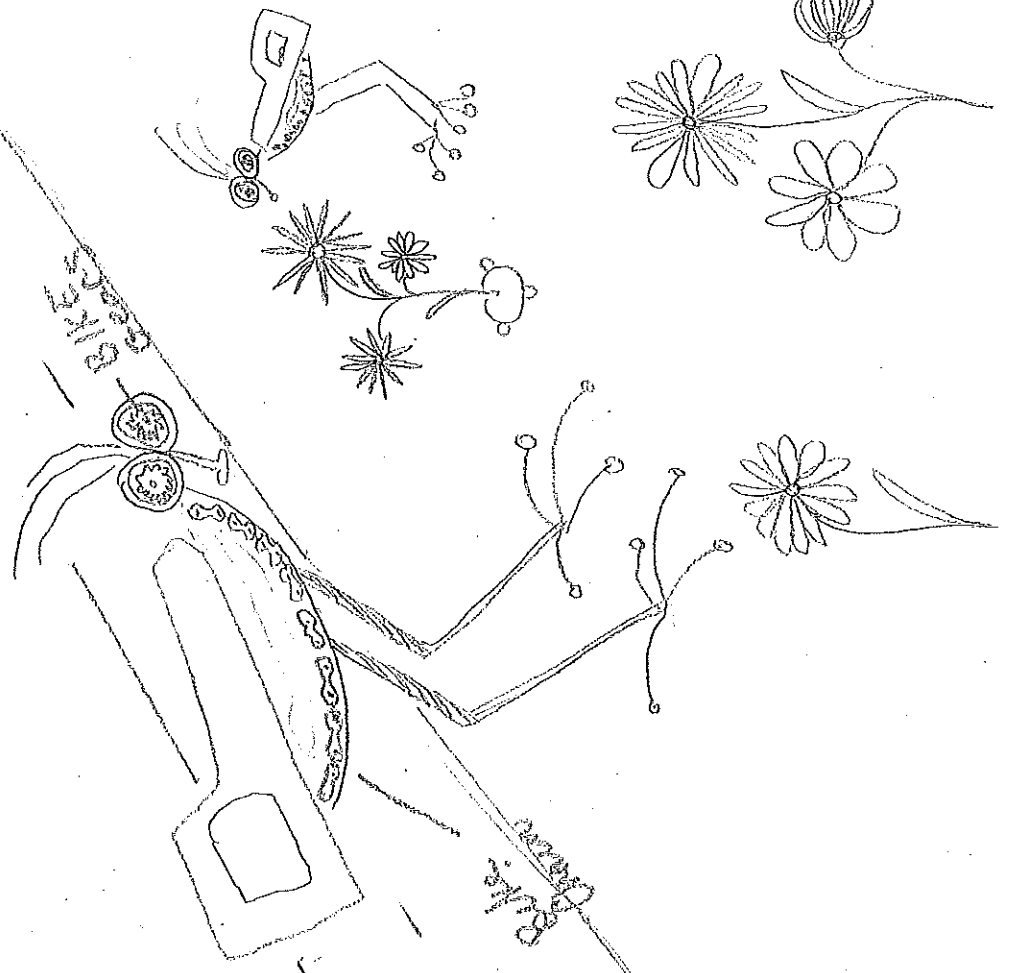
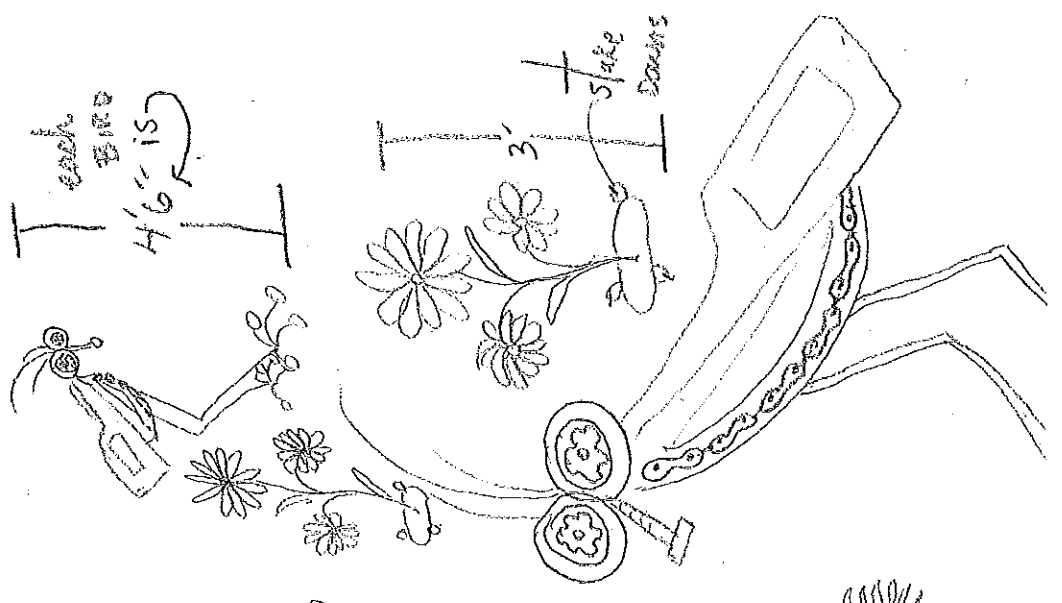
Project Evaluators

Brenda Baker
1511 Chandler Street
Madison, WI 53711

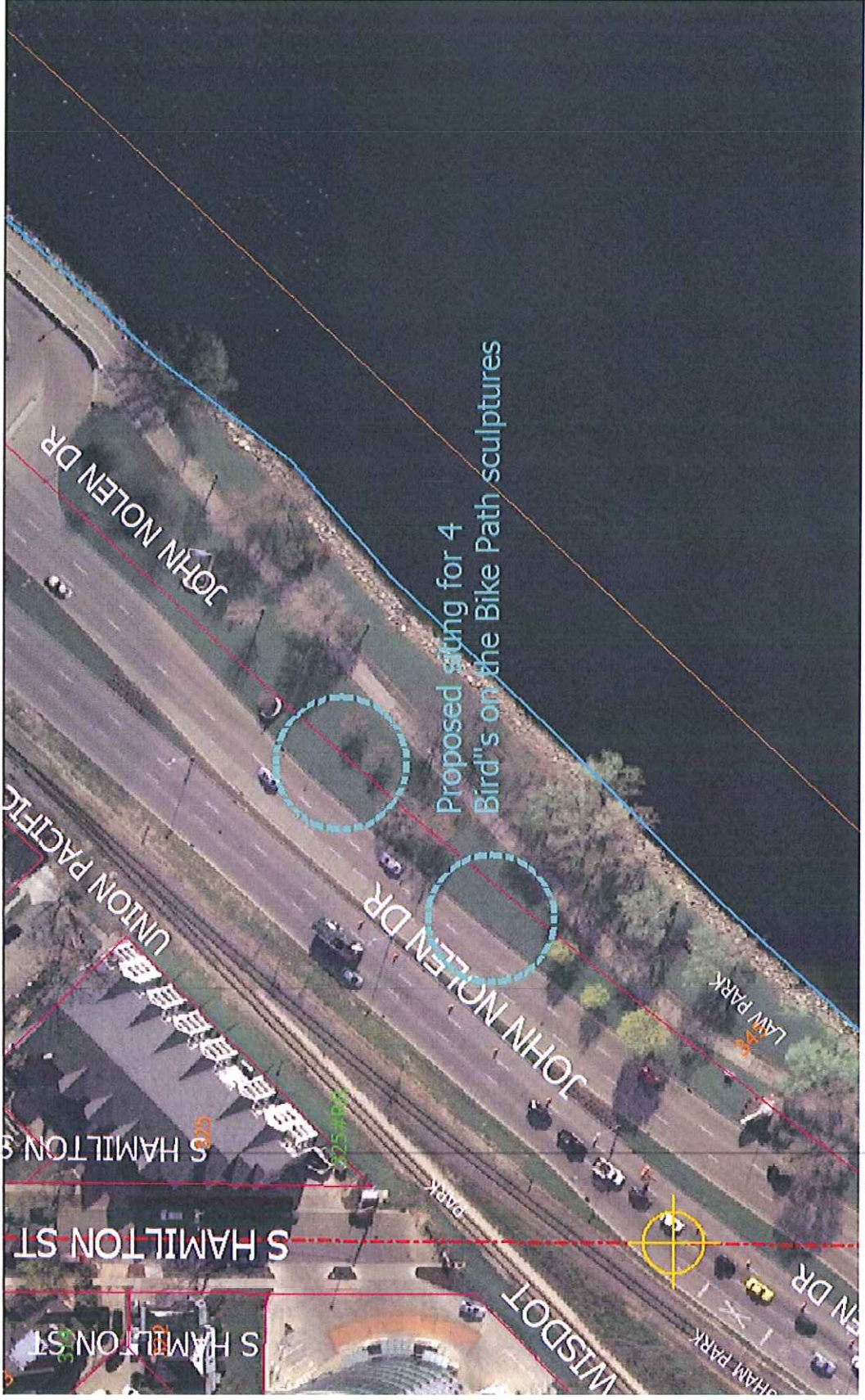
Chris Murphy
1914 East Main Street
Madison, WI 53704

John Robinson
953 Lawrence Street
Madison, WI 53715

01.14.11



THE HAWK
PARK



Proposed setting for 4
Bird's on the Bike Path sculptures