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EDITOR'S PICK

ARTS

Plans for Library Mall leaf sculpture blow away; new project chosen Friday

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COURTESY OF KORYN ROLSTAD STUDIOS

Koryn Rolstad Studios has proposed a sculpture for Library Mall called "Converging Lights and Color."

Plans to install a leaf sculpture on the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library Mall have been scrapped. A new public art piece will be chosen to take its place this Friday.

“The price of metals got really high,” said city arts program administrator Karin Wolf.

Common council upped the budget for the sculpture, but it wasn’t enough for artist Jill Sebastian to make the work.

So the city went back to its original budget for the piece, \$160,000. The selection committee consists of five members of the Madison Arts Commission and two from the Downtown Coordinating Committee, which advises the city on issues related to the downtown area.

That committee narrowed more than 60 proposals to three.

These are set to be considered at three presentations starting at 1 p.m. Friday at the Central Library, 201 W. Mifflin St.

Wolf said the city refers to the sculpture’s location as a “confluence,” a place where State Street meets the UW-Madison campus and the Capitol Building is visible.

“This is an opportunity to really celebrate where the Library Mall, State Street and east campus mall converge,” Wolf said. “It really reflects the heart of the city.”



"DreamSky" by Dimitar Lukanov is one of three sculptures proposed for Library Mall.

COURTESY OF DIMITAR LUKANOV

Artists were asked only to submit a proposal and a rendering, so the city doesn't know all the details about materials.

Seattle artist Koryn Rolstad proposed a piece called "Converging Lights and Color," which looks a bit like trees topped with colorful leaves. She has been known to use brushed aluminum and an eco-resin that refracts light more intensely than glass does.

According to a Park City, Utah story about Rolstad's work, that eco-resin "exudes hundreds of different colors when the light shines on them during different times of the day."

Artist Dimitar Lukanov, who is from Sharon Springs, New York, made a site visit on Oct. 10 and was struck by the "crossroads of unstoppable human energy" he found on Library Mall.

Lukanov proposed a nine- to 10-foot high-grade stainless steel sculpture called "Dream Sky." It looks like ribbons tangled together, blowing in the wind.



RDG Dahlquist Art Studio, based in Des Moines, has proposed a large metal sculpture for Library Mall called “Both/And – Tolerance/Innovation.”

COURTESY OF RDG DAHLQUIST ART STUDIO

RDG Dahlquist Art Studio, the team of David Dahlquist and Matt Niebuhr out of Des Moines, Iowa, proposed a piece called “Both/And – Tolerance/Innovation.”

It’s a large metal sculpture fabricated of “angel hair stainless steel plates” and stone. The individual plates will be laser cut, which would allow light to move between them.

Dahlquist wanted to represent “a merging of Madison with the university ... the confluence of ideas and cultural diversity, the new consciousness that arises from this river of people.”

Wolf hopes that whatever the commission chooses, it will be installed by spring or early summer of 2017.

Those who are willing to have their thoughts about the art on public record are encouraged to email Rebecca Cnare, city urban design planner, by noon on Thursday. There will also be an opportunity for public comment at the meeting. Selection committee deliberations begin at 4 p.m.

Lindsay Christians | The Capital Times

Since 2008, Lindsay Christians has been writing about fine arts and food for The Capital Times. She loves eating at the bar, going to the theater, fine wine and good stories. She lives on the east side with her husband, two cats and too many cookbooks.