

*City Council Memorandum*

To: Mayor Fasbender & City Councilmembers
From: City Administrator Dan Wietecha
Date: September 7, 2021
Item: Sculpture Display Proposal

Council Action Requested:

Approve pilot project allowing sculpture display on City property.

Background Information:

A submission was received by the City on behalf of Artist Dale Lewis proposing display of two sculptures on City property through early Spring 2022. The proposal identified two pieces (I AM the Walrus, Leatherback Turtle) and possible locations for display. The artist has previously displayed works along the river as part of the Riverwalk project.

The proposals were reviewed by the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Public Works Superintendent for suitability in the proposed locations. The most suitable location appears to be under the bridge. The artist carries liability insurance for the sculpture.

In the absence of a formal policy supporting this kind of request, it is proposed that this be a pilot project allowing the display to move forward while supporting the creation of appropriate policy. A defined approval process would then follow policy development.

As a pilot project, I recommend approval of the sculpture display on City property through early spring 2022. In the event that a sculpture poses a hazard or dis-repair, the City may require immediate removal.

Financial Impact:

Depending on the specific needs for installation and de-installation, the City may provide staff and equipment support.

Committee Discussion:

Not applicable

Attachment:

Proposal from artist

Sculpture on Loan Proposal
for the City of Hastings, MN
by Artist Dale Lewis



Contact Information:

- Mecca Page, Fine Art Representative for Dale Lewis, 651-202-7370
FineArtRep4DaleLewis@gmail.com
- Dale Lewis, Artist, 612-418-8652
ArtistDaleLewis@gmail.com

Sculptures on Loan for Display: See attached sheets for photos and details

- I AM the Walrus
- Leatherback Turtle

Intent for Display: Sculptures are for the public to enjoy and are for sale.

Duration of Display: Available immediately and will stay on display until needed by artist for display elsewhere - most likely early Spring 2022.

Installation: Artist will need the city to provide a forklift or telehandler for installation and de-installation.

Insurance: Artist carries \$2,000,000 in liability insurance.

Other information: Artist Dale Lewis is a long-time resident of Hastings and has displayed many sculptures along the sculpture walk at the Hastings RiverWalk, in front of various businesses and other public locations for years. He currently has one sculpture, *Automotive Tree*, on display along the sculpture walk.

Dale participates in multiple sculpture walks throughout the Midwest that pay stipends. He is offering to display these pieces in Hastings for the public's benefit at no cost.

Sculptures are maintenance free.

For best display, these sculptures should be placed on concrete, gravel or other solid surface. A grassy surface is not recommended because of the difficulty in cutting grass around the sculptures.



I AM the Walrus

102" Long x 75" Wide x 48" Tall

450 lbs Mixed Metal

Sale Price \$22,000



Possible Locations



Gravel area under the Hastings Bridge –
South side of river along
walking path at Hastings RiverWalk



Center of the Walking Labyrinth



Leatherback Turtle

110" Long x 101" Wide x 29" Tall

300 lbs Mixed Metal

Sale Price \$28,000



Possible Locations



Gravel area under the Hastings Bridge – south side of river along walking path at Hastings RiverWalk



In front of the Hastings sign or other similar location at the Hastings RiverWalk



Alternate Locations for Either Sculpture



Under the Hastings Bridge –
south side



Under the Hastings Bridge –
north side





Artist
Dale Lewis

Biography

Artist Dale Lewis has gained national and international attention as a respected sculptor. For years, his works have been included in sculpture walks throughout the Midwest including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kansas, South Dakota, Missouri and Iowa, in addition to British Columbia, Canada.

Dale has won numerous awards including People's Choice, Best in Show, Committee's Choice and First Place. Four of his sculptures were featured at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Festival of Lights Exhibit in 2018.

Seven of Dale's sculptures are permanent and favorite attractions at Big Stone Mini Golf and Sculpture Garden in Minnerista, MN. These include *Woolly Bully* (a life-size Woolly Mammoth), *Big Bird* (a life-size extinct Elephant Bird), *Sasquatch*, *Harley the Rhino*, *Dunes the Camel*, *When Pigs Fly the Natural Way*, and *When Pigs Fly - They Will Fly a Fighter Jet*.

While Dale's sculptures have long been purchased by retailers and private collectors, his sculptures have also been acquired as public art by Mankato, MN (*Godzilla*), Salina, KS (*Slim the Elephant* and *Patches the Hippo*), River Falls, WI (*Trout Slayer*) and Eau Claire, WI (*Trojan Horse*).

Dale's sculptures are available for sale and lease. In addition, he has four Lewis & Art Traveling Exhibits: *Scraposaurs* (currently on display at Artisan Forge Studios in Eau Claire, WI), *Scrap to Sea*, *Paint by Numbers* and *Traveling Trees*. These exhibits are available to cities, zoos, museums, arboretums, aquariums and sculpture gardens. Dale is interested in providing themed public installations whenever and wherever possible.

Dale can be reached directly or through his Fine Art Representative, Mecca Page.

Mecca Page
651-202-7370
FineArtRep4DaleLewis@gmail.com

Dale Lewis
802 Reuter Drive
Hastings, MN 55033
612-418-8652
ArtistDaleLewis@gmail.com
ArtistDaleLewis.com



Artist's Statement

After leaving my career as an electrical technician and machinist, I had time to explore three dimensional art. I began making traditional mosaic sculptures and enjoyed the results. However, they are not well suited for permanent installation outdoors and cannot withstand the freeze/thaw of our harsh Minnesota winters. So, in 2010 I bought a welder and started experimenting.

I discovered that metal provides greater flexibility and working with scrap offers a wide variety of materials that often influence the design of my work. Not only can my pieces be permanently installed outdoors, but I love turning scrap into art. I look at things differently, especially at junk yards -- and now I see art everywhere.

My goal is to make each of my pieces entertaining, fun and recognizable as having been crafted with salvaged materials. I've never felt that art has to be profound or deep to have an impact. So, while it is important for the viewer to "get" the recycling message, it shouldn't necessarily override the simplicity of the main purpose which is to make people smile.

My hobby has become a full-time obsession. There's no turning back now – this is what I want to do, when I grow up!

