

BRUCE MYERS

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

BRIDLE TRAILS PROJECT



1.
 - a. I am interested in working collaboratively with the Bridle Trails Community to develop an art plan that is inspired by the equestrian tradition in Bridle Trails and the contribution of this program historically to the sense of place, belonging and community identity. I work with unified themes of nature, community and stewardship. In addition to the equestrian theme, I am interested in responding to the unique natural setting of the neighborhood as an inspiration for the character and integration of art elements, specifically the timeless quality of the forest and the passion of residents to preserve this aspect of the neighborhood for future generations. I call this approach to design as responding to the *Ecology of Place*... the combined elemental qualities that support sense of place.
 - b. It will be important to honor the unique character of the sites selected for an artwork as well as the historic character of the community. The location near the boarding area and park is particularly vulnerable to visual impact as it is the most “pristine” of the four sites. This location, however, is also a very compatible location for an artwork for the same reason... that the surroundings are rich with visual and contextual relationships. Thoughtful consideration ought to be given to each of the proposed art locations for conditions and infrastructure which could visually compete with an artwork and how to respond creatively to these conditions. As is the case with all public art projects, the design process will require a public process that honors the perspectives and expression of many people, this must be orchestrated in a way that is respectful, thought provoking and engaging.
 - c. Summary: My impression of the project is that the art is essentially about relationships, inspired by the local equestrian tradition and creating an artwork that will be a catalyst for a renewed expression of community identity. I will bring to the project extensive experience working collaboratively on community based projects, this quality is the essence of my work... to harmonize with my audience and sense of place.

2.
 - a. My interest in working collaboratively is a core aspect of my work and development of themes artistically. I initially like to meet with the members of the community involved in the project in a meet the artist forum and as an opportunity to learn more about each other. I would then follow up this *discovery* meeting with research of the area and a follow up presentation of initial concepts for consideration and comment. The presentation would include brief descriptions, photos and drawings or models, material, scale and description of relationships to the site and community for several options of an integrated art feature or series of art elements. Upon approval I would then continue to develop the art concept(s), reflecting on the comments received from the community. The intent of this interaction is to discover and articulate the interests held by the community and to present opportunities for artistic expression that are engaging, inspire connection and a poetic relationship to the site. I would then move forward with final designs for the artwork and developing a plan for any potential neighborhood participation in the final design and fabrication of an artwork for the selected site, such as progress reports and final material selections. I want, as much as possible, for the community to have access to the artistic experience in order to create an environment of ownership and understanding. This is the model I utilized for the Meadowbrook Bridge Project to develop the art concepts for “Guardians”. In addition I worked closely with volunteers from the community and the local historian to explore details and options pertaining to the art and its expression.

3.
 - a. I have developed an approach to design and creating art that is responsive to sense of place, community, nature. My approach embraces participation, engagement and stewardship as a primary source of inspiration and meaning inherent to the experience of an artwork. I always encourage involvement and discovery of common ground for expression, while bringing authentic ideas to the table for consideration. The balance is held by developing trust, conveying ideas clearly and staying true to the location and to self. Art is essentially about our relationships to our surroundings, to each other and time.

4.
 - a. My plan for collaboration would include a general model for collaborating as described in section 2 of my response. In addition, since the community has already expressed an interest in the equestrian theme, the initial meet the artist forum could include a presentation of concepts introduced during my interview as a source to reflect on an approach, interests and responses... the primary goal, however is to begin the discovery process. I would invite the community to contact me during the design phase by phone or e mail and would be interested in attending events or local activities relating to the project and neighborhood. I feel it is important in a collaborative approach, when presenting ideas, that there are options for the artwork that demonstrate varied approaches to the theme. I look at the initial designs and collaboration as trail heads... intended to direct creativity toward a common interest. I am interested in the personal history and passion residents have for living in Bridle Trails, photos, beliefs, interests, values and enthusiasm for the project, or perhaps concerns or ideals. This project is an opportunity to grow and to nourish a renewed connection to each other and to place. I will bring poetry, my favorites and my own... to set the tone and focus.

5.
 - a. I was struck by the sheer beauty and remote quality of the neighborhood, the trees and deeply rooted sense of place. I noticed details, like the sidewalks navigating around a tree, that said everything about the intent of the community. The 500 acre park and equestrian influence is moving... to say the least.
 - b. I do have some initial ideas inspired by my interests in the sites, art, nature and recent fascination with horses. (Please see attached handouts.) Equestrian: equus - horse + ian. The horse has been a subject of art throughout time, contributing to humanity, personal passions, artistry of discipline, leadership and relationship. There is a quality that is expansive and timeless, no two ways about it, interacting with a horse is about leadership, dreams, passion and relationship. I am interested in the influence of this powerful metaphor as a source of artistic expression and community identity. The challenge here is certainly not a shortage of themes to draw from.

6.
 - a. I would initially develop concepts for each site or the top three locations. The initial weighing in would occur at the community meetings and discussion of opportunities for art,

how the individual locations relate to the sense of community... arrival, heart, discovery, renewal, identity, these are all qualities that can inform the direction and primary interests in the artistic expression. There is also the option of creating a series of art elements. Much of this decision has to do with the kind of, or degree of presence the art is expected to convey. I am looking for qualities in a site that will contribute to the overall experience and inspiration of the art, such as the timeless quality of the park, the sense of remoteness and elemental environment. I am also interested in opportunities for inspiring continued stewardship of the land and maintaining a strong connection to the roots of the community. The park location on 24th and 134th Avenue could use some improvements to the entrance experience, is this an opportunity to address that artistically? I will bring experience evaluating and reflecting on opportunities and priorities for the art.

7.

- a. I would like to see people moved by the experience and for the art to convey or inspire a renewed sense of connection to place, community or arrival... a lasting impression that is accessible with abstract roots/origins. The artwork for Discovery Park is a good example of a success story and Edmonds Midwaterfront too, people immediately relate to the artwork. However, there is a lasting impression that is like a question or a sunset, the art is interactive... the meaning and experience grows as people grow and become more familiar with the Ecology of the Place.

Sincerely,

Bruce Myers

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BRUCE MYERS

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

BRIDLE TRAILS PROJECT:



ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

HORSE / MEANING

POWER
FRIENDSHIP
PASSION
BONDING
PURPOSE

QUALITIES / FORM

TIMELESS
CIVILIZATION / COMMUNITY
BRAIDING
REFINEMENT
DISCIPLINE
METAPHOR

BRAIDED COLUMN/BASALT: BRAIDING, FRIENDSHIP, TIMELESS, METAPHOR, COMMUNITY, DISCIPLINE, GROOMING, REFINEMENT, PRIDE.

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ARTIST INSPIRATION

BRIDLE TRAILS PROJECT:



ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

HORSE / MEANING

EXPANSIVENESS
RELATIONSHIP
HARMONY
LEADERSHIP
CLAIRVOYANCE

QUALITIES / FORM

CIRCLE
TIMELESS
FORGING
COMMUNITY
POETIC

**GATEWAY: FORGED GATE DESIGN, COMMUNITY, VISIONARY,
LEADERSHIP, HARMONY, RELATIONSHIP, FREEDOM, RENEWAL**

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ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

HORSE / MYTH / MEANING

POWER

EMOTION

HISTORY

EXPANSIVENESS

RELATIONSHIP

HARMONY

PASSION

ADVENTURE

FRIENDSHIP

FREEDOM

EMOTION

LEADERSHIP

BONDING

MYSTERY

PURPOSE

LEARNING

PARTNERSHIP

RENEWAL

CLAIRVOYANCE

DREAM

GROOMING

QUALITIES / FORM

CIRCLE

SERPENTINE

FIGURE 8 - INFINITY

TIMELESS

CIVILIZATION / COMMUNITY

RHYTHM

FORGING

BRAIDING

REFINEMENT

WIND

POSSIBILITIES

PATH / JOURNEY

DIFFERENT WORLD

DISCIPLINE

POETIC

METAPHOR