

April 11, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor James Ardis and the Peoria City Council  
FROM: Preston Jackson  
RE: Proposal for Stainless Steel Sculpture for the Warehouse District

This is a proposal to place a six-foot semi-abstract stainless steel sculpture which I would construct of stainless steel rod and forged stainless steel plate in the Warehouse District on the river side of Washington just north of State Street. The arms of the figure will not be extended, and the two child figures at her feet will be attached to her body, so the piece will not interfere with pedestrians in any way. Although the piece is stainless steel, it will not have large areas of reflective plate steel-- it will be polished, but there will not be substantial glare from its surface.

The piece would be placed in the 5' X 5' "art space" which is part of the street design. Our feeling is that getting approval on this sculpture and the Richard Pryor sculpture will have the effect of stabilizing the start of the Sculpture Walk, hopefully getting people excited about more sculpture coming to the area. And since our hope is to have both pieces completed and installed before December 1, I need to get started on this piece as soon as possible. I am ready to start fabrication immediately, and I will need the time to complete the sculpture, so there is some urgency here.

The sculpture would serve as an anchor for the Warehouse District along with the Bruce White sculpture at Harrison and Washington and the Richard Pryor piece across Washington, as well as an entryway to the proposed sculpture walk. We have discussed the possibility of this piece and the Richard Pryor sculpture being placed in this area with the Sculpture Walk Committee, and they approve of this concept

I propose to represent an unnamed woman with her children in recognition of women, their sacrifices, achievements and their place in society. There is a distinct lack of statuary of women, not only in Peoria, but worldwide. The piece would highlight women's contributions to societal change and the important part they play in our history.

I intend to present this woman in a semi-abstract style, with emphasis on the interaction of shapes making up the sculpture. The children portrayed in the sculpture represent the support and love of children for their mother, and emphasize the role a mother plays in their development. They will be presented as hollow shapes that are a reflection of her positive form.

The base would be fabricated from stainless steel, and would be an integral part of the piece. No further base would be required. The installation, which would be done at my expense, will be simple bolting to the concrete, with the figure facing Washington Street. Street lighting will be sufficient to illuminate the sculpture.

The sculpture, which I propose to create at no cost to the City, would be on long-term loan to the City of Peoria. Should the sculpture need to be removed for any reason, I would replace the piece with one of similar size and value. Any maintenance or repair costs necessary would be performed by my studio. I propose to complete and install the piece by November, 2014.

The only cost to the City of Peoria would be standard liability insurance on the sculpture. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.