

## City of Columbus Pilot Public Art Bike Rack Program

The Columbus Art Commission (CAC), through the Columbus Department of Development (DOD), and in partnership with the Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks (CRPD), Columbus Department of Utilities (DPU), and the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC), solicited proposals submissions from interested and qualified artists to design bicycle racks scheduled for fabrication and installation in 2014. A total of nine (9) bike racks, one per facility, will be fabricated and installed. The program is fashioned after a similar, successful public art bike rack program in Nashville, TN.

The Request for Proposals request (RFP) was issued on July 1, 2013 thru August 14, 2013. Proposal submissions were open to professional artists, working in all media, living or working within the City of Columbus corporate limits. Artists were asked to submit up to two proposals, one image per design & a brief description of each design. Goals and criteria related to design excellence and functionality were included in the full RFP. Artist submissions were made thru on-line entry at GoArts, GCAC's web-based application system.

A five -member Art Advisory Panel was seated by the Columbus Art Commission. Seated on the Panel were:

- Jason Sudy, Principal, Back Street Planning
- Maddy Weisz, Brick Street Arts Association
- Barbara Nicholson, Columbus Art Commission
- Sarah Rogers, Columbus Art Commission
- Jessica Mathews, Consider Biking

Also participating in the Panel discussions were: Mollie O'Donnell, Columbus Recreation and Parks (advisory/nonvoting staff support) and Ruby Harper, GCAC, (advisory/nonvoting)

Of the thirteen eligible proposals received, nine were advanced by the Panel. The advanced proposals were provided a cursory review by engineers in the Department of Public Service for safety, constructability and budget. One artist withdrew and eight proposals were included in a web-based, on-line selection survey. Votes were collected between April 3<sup>rd</sup> and close of day, May 6<sup>th</sup>. During that time a total of 1,011 votes were received.

The voting results, by Community Recreation Center:

- Barack Community Center: *The Sightseer*, Wes Kull, Artist
- Blackburn Community Center: *Follow the Bouncing Ball*, Michael B. Hays, Artist
- Dodge Community Center: *The Sightseer*, Wes Kull, Artist
- Indian Mound Community Center: *Sunshine Parking*, Glen Holland, Artist
- Milo-Grogan Community Center: *The Sightseer*, Wes Kull, Artist
- Tuttle Community Center: *Follow the Bouncing Ball*, Michael B. Hays, Artist
- Westgate Community Center: *Follow the Bouncing Ball*, Michael B. Hays, Artist
- Whetstone Community Center: *The Sightseer*, Wes Kull, Artist

The Department of Public Utilities selected *Dreaming Big*, ALternative, Artist, for their Dublin Road facility.

Commission Recreation Councils and Staff, artists and Area Commission Chairs have been notified of the voting results and that the Columbus Art Commission would be asked for final design and placement approval (Center location) at the May 22, 2014 Commission Hearing. The exact location of the selected art bike rack at each Center will be determined by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD). The selected proposals will be on the June agenda of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission to request acceptance of the art bike racks into each park. Upon CAC final approval and acceptance by the Park Commission, staff will prepare legislation to encumber funds and enter into contract with the artists. Artists will receive \$1,000 the first time a proposal is selected and \$500 per selection thereafter. Commission staff will work with Recreation and Parks to consolidate and coordinate the bids for fabrication and installation of the art bike racks at each facility. The goal is to complete fabrication and installation in 2014.

## Glen Holland: *Sunshine Parking*

### City of Columbus Pilot Bike Rack Program Submissions 2013/14

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#### **Proposal Design Description**

The *Sunshine Parking* bike rack design is made of steel tubing, plate and a sign. The design is centered around a hand painted sign, street – parking sized, which is used as an invitation (rather than a warning) and as a focal point for the metaphor of the bike rack itself, which extends to the bicycles parked there and beyond – out into the world of bike riders. The signs/paintings are both informational (showing where you park your bike – or sunflower as might be humorously interpreted) and “symbolic:” they emphasize the dual function of the art/bike rack. The signs are painted, silkscreened, or covered with printed vinyl on a standard aluminum traffic sign blank (or a re-used traffic sign if available). The upright posts are 2 – to 2 the major cross pieces 1 ¼ - to 1 ½ inch steel, and the smallest tubing is 1- inch steel. Other components: ¼ -inch steel plate and perforated steel, bent and welded as per the design and mounted to an existing concrete pad or poured concrete pier with anchors. All steel elements are powder-coated. All elements – materials, shapes, symbols, and colors – are designed to work together, to interact, and to perform the functions of a bike rack and a work of art.

Steel and related crafts associated with it are important parts of the fabric of Ohio. Steel tubing reflects, and is used in bicycle frames, which were once also manufactured in great numbers in Ohio. The shapes and angles of the bike rack also reflect generally the shapes and angles of a bicycle, but also the surroundings of the bike rack: fences, fields, trees – the organic and the in organic. The colors have also been chosen to reflect and comment upon the surroundings and to suggest warnings, caution and safety. They are also designed to be easy to recognize and, even as dusk is falling. Both designs further point to the past, the present and the future of bicycling in direct, subtle and humorous ways.

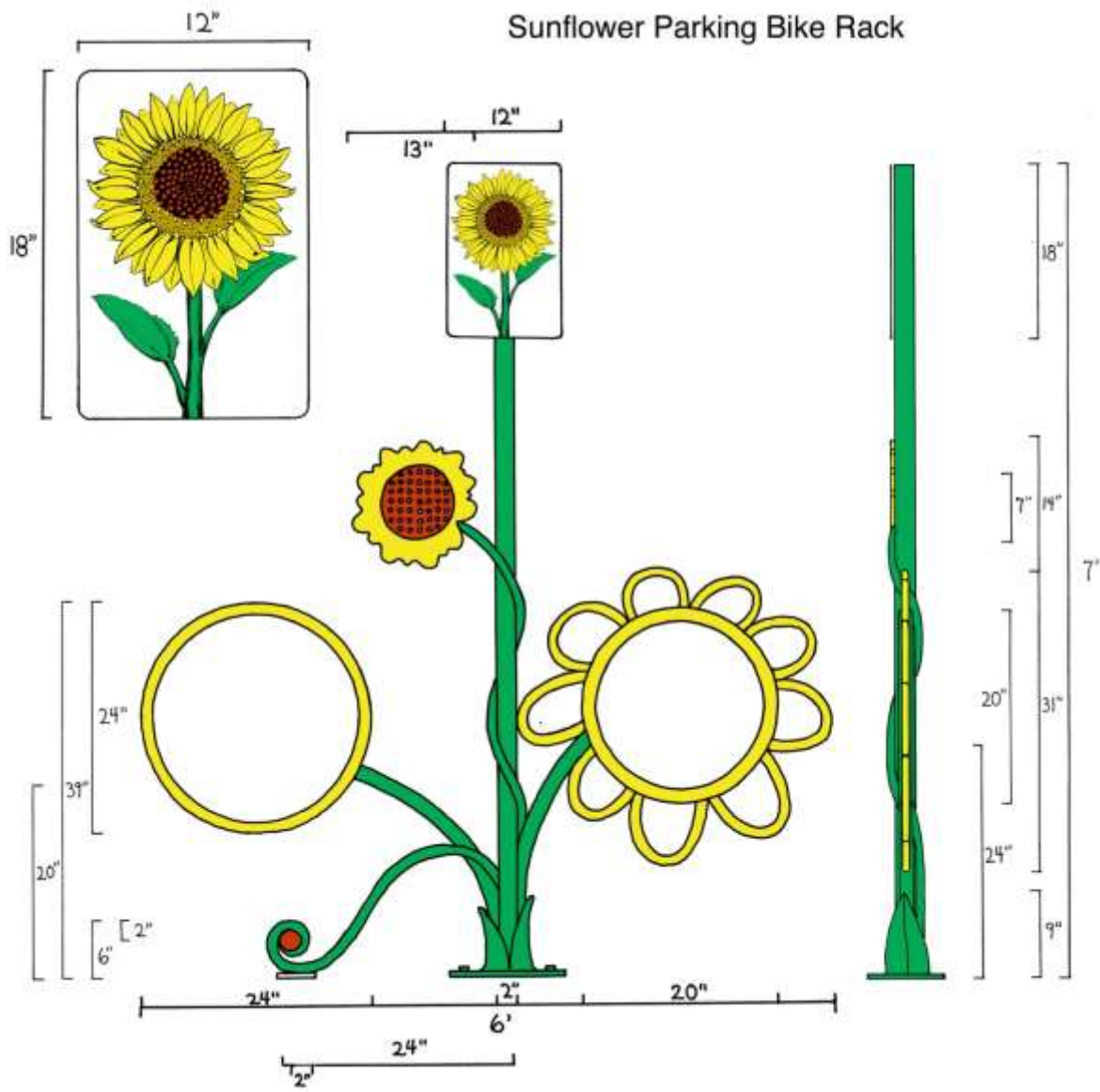
#### **Letter of Interest (text)**

My two proposals for the Columbus public art bike rack program deal with the same fundamental concepts from different angles. My primary aim in these designs is to find the merger point between art and functionality. This has been the guiding force in all of my recent artistic endeavors and the opportunity to design a functional bike rack that is also an appealing and thought-provoking work of art is one for which I am grateful.

For over two decades, I have been creating and exhibiting art in Columbus and New York City. My principal activity--and the work I have been showing, at the Fischbach Gallery in New York and in many other venues--has been painting and drawing. Over the last few years, however, I have been turning my attention toward other projects. I have always been interested in other forms of art, and recently I have been drawing cartoons and building three-dimensional objects, designing functional structures, and experimenting in various ways with painting and drawing that go beyond "marks on canvas" or on panel or paper. I am working on a project, for example, that is a group of paintings meant to be hung that are also a comic book--or, one might say, a comic book "of" paintings--that I hope (and believe) will fit, although not necessarily comfortably, in two presentational worlds.

Construction work has always been my secondary means of income (and for years it was my first). I have begun to consider and attempt ways to incorporate my skills and knowledge of building, and such related activities as electrical work, into my arts practice. I see the bike rack project as a unique opportunity to blend and manipulate forms in a way that has meaning, communicates, and provides a great place to park a bike.

# Sunflower Parking Bike Rack



## **ALternative: *Dreaming Big & Visionary***

### **City of Columbus Pilot Bike Rack Program Submissions 2013/14**

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#### **Proposal Design Description**

Typically, forms of many bike racks are determined by their function. While being functional, they can look repetitive and boring. Our two submissions are intended to make practical bike racks inviting and fun to look at. Both ideas are inspired by mundane, daily life objects. By enlarging them, a trike and a pair of glasses, the design are functional for bike parking and yet can stand alone as artwork that is of whimsical quality. Both designs can be fabricated with painted metal of different colors depending on the locations. For example, if they are placed at the Dodge Community Center in Franklinton, they can be fabricated with metal painted blue that match with the existing outdoors furniture and trash cans. In addition, metals are durable and require low maintenance. The designs also create interesting space that the public can interact with safely while no bikes are parked there. They comply with ADA standards.

#### **Design Idea #1: Dreaming Big:**

Like a child, a trike always wants to be bigger. This design plays off with this idea, enlarging a kid-size trike to become a bike rack. Powdered-coated metals will be used for its durability and low maintenance requirement. The structure of the enlarged trike can accommodate at least 4 bikes to park. Seating and planters are also incorporated to make it multifunctional. There is also space for signage to indicate names of different locations.

#### **Letter of Interest (text)**

On behalf of ALternative, I am writing to submit two design ideas for the public art program. We are very excited and strongly support this pilot program as it will definitely put Columbus on the map for its promotion of art and cycling in our civil life.

ALternative was founded in 2011 as a non-profit organization with a mission to use art and design to enhance Columbus neighborhoods' built environments and quality of life. My husband, Tim Lai and I are architect and designer by profession and believe that public art is a vital component of all progressive cities. Over the past two years, ALternative has collaborated with different groups and artists to complete various public art projects including community murals, an educational garden, and a street piano. Bike racks as public art will be valuable additions to our city, especially at neighborhood locations that are frequented by residents.

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Experienced working with fabricators and contractors, ALternative will be able to provide detailed drawings for fabrication purposes. We can also work to provide estimate costs upon your request. I am confident that the two submissions will be appreciated by the bike community and the general public. They can help making public art accessible to neighborhoods and be enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. We are grateful for your consideration of our participation in this project.



## **Michael Hays: *Loop the Loop & Follow the Bouncing Ball*** **City of Columbus Pilot Bike Rack Program Submissions 2013/14**

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### **Proposal Design Description**

“Loop the Loop” and “Follow the Bouncing Ball” present two designs that are infused with the movement inherent in an active lifestyle along with a sense of fun and whimsy. “Loop the Loop” embodies the swirling, playful action of a group of children leaping, twirling, and interweaving as they cavort across a field. “Follow the Bouncing Ball” represent the path of numerous balls being scattered, bouncing and rebounding across the ground. Together they demonstrate how dynamic and joyful play is as parts of a healthy and gratifying lifestyle.

With these two works I wanted to design bike racks that were recognizable as bike rack by using familiar materials and shapes often used for such purposes. My “art” comes in bringing them together in unexpected and exciting ways to so that they engage and inform the public.

To address the functional requirements of the project each rack provides enough points of contact to easily and comfortably allow for 10 or more bicycles to be positioned using a standard U-lock around the structure. Both racks can be either inserted directly into the cement of newly created walkways or provided with flanges so they can be bolted down to preexisting walkways. Each of the racks should be formed using two inch diameter steel tubing for strength and durability. Bright and active colors could be added using powder-coating to make them even more eye catching. As shown in the insert of the side view for “Follow the Bouncing Ball”, a decorative metal grid work could be placed within the circle forms.

### **Letter of Interest (text)**

As a metal smith, a long-time biking enthusiast, and resident of Columbus I welcome this opportunity to bring together all these aspects of my life into a single endeavor to benefit the community at large.

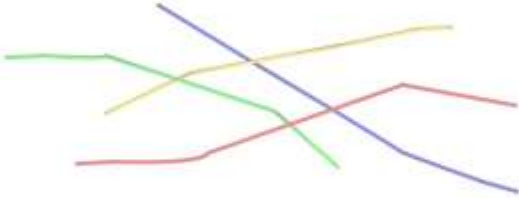
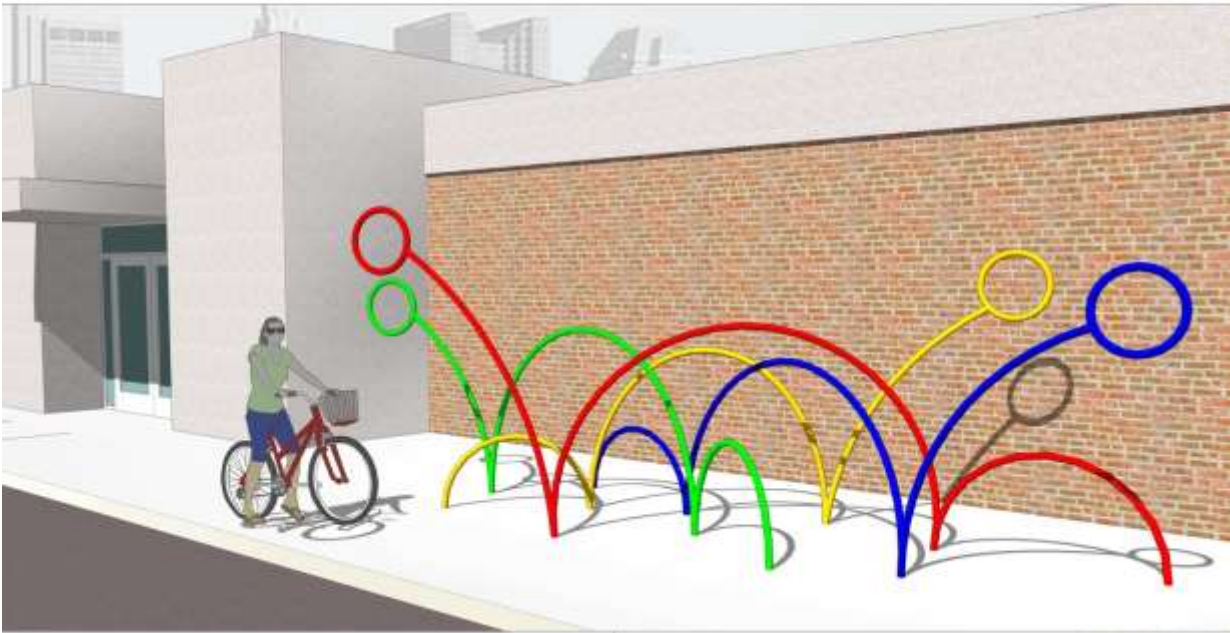
With this project, I feel that the racks should not only function as useful objects and bring a strong and engaging sculptural presence to the community, but they can also communicate a subtle message about the health and welfare of that same community. This can be done through the use of shapes and colors that impart a sense of fun and action.

Having engaged in metalworking for many years I have an understanding of what works well when it comes to the materials and forms found within the parameters of this project. Most of my production is designing small scale, three dimensional, serving pieces for the table made of silver, pewter, brass, or copper. I attempt to approach each item with a strong awareness of aesthetics combined with the concern to create well designed, functional objects that also contain a sense of mystery and delight. I see these bicycle racks as merely an extension of this process, with just an increase in the scale and a variation in purpose.

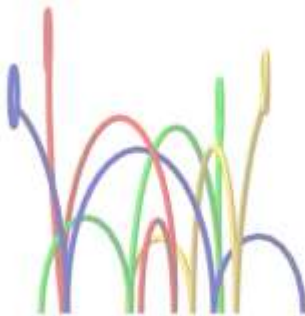
My involvement with the coordination and installation of several large outdoor sculptures has brought to me an understanding of some of the processes involved and the quick problem solving skills necessary for these kinds of endeavors. My time spent curating exhibitions with several local institutions has allowed me to develop my organizational and communication skills with both large institutional bodies as well as with the artists themselves.

It would be a source of great pleasure for me to bring my experience working with metals, organizing and coordinating with other artists and community stakeholders towards this exciting opportunity.

# Follow the Bouncing Ball



overhead



side view

**Proposal Design Description**

Columbus is a city with an ever-growing list of sights to see, and a bike offers the perfect vantage point from which to take them in. The Sightseer bike rack recreates Columbus' photogenic skyline with playful and iconic sculpture painted bright red for a highly-visible and distinctly memorable rack to secure 4–8 bicycles.

**Letter of Interest (text)**

It is a pleasure to submit my credentials for the Pilot Public Art Bike Rack Program Artist Call.

My experience in environmental, exhibition, and identity design encompasses projects that range from content-rich and artifact-heavy museum environments to wayfinding signage and branding for small companies and large corporations. I have led teams of specialists in the development of creative strategies and have distilled mission statements into brands with universal appeal. Collaborating with architects, curators, scholars, and CEOs, I have participated in telling stories and engaging a global public through 2D, 3D, and interactive techniques.

At Ralph Appelbaum Associates, I applied my graphic design skills to traveling exhibitions and large-scale, permanent projects. Among these is the new 12-story patient tower of Nationwide Children's Hospital, which embodies the intensive research and development that goes into interpreting a space that is both emotionally charged and objectively clinical. Through graphics, media, sculptures, sound, and lighting, it illustrates the potential of design to have a profound impact on a complex set of users. The project both promotes the healing of children and supports the work of those who experience the hospital on a daily basis. During this project, I came to appreciate how well-designed, smart environments can inspire, educate, and connect.

My interest in the Pilot Public Art Bike Rack Program lies perfectly at the intersection of my interests in public art and cycling, and in the pride I have for my hometown. The city of Columbus is currently experiencing an upswing in activity in and around downtown, and bicycling is increasingly becoming an option for residents and visitors to experience our many neighborhoods, museums, shops, and restaurants. Public art is a highly-visible way to make a permanent statement of civic pride, and serves as a memorable and distinct icon that resonates in our public consciousness. It is my hope to be a part of this project to increase the awareness of cycling as a viable transportation option.



# THE SIGHTSEER

Columbus has an ever-growing list of sights to see, and a bike offers the perfect vantage point from which to take them in.

The Sightseer bike rack re-creates the photogenic skyline of Columbus with playful and iconic sculpture painted bright red for a highly-visible and memorable rack to secure up to eight bicycles.

