

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

City of La Crosse
Board of Park Commissioners
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Sirs and Madams;

I am writing on behalf of the Arts Board to support the acceptance and placement of the sculpture *Hatched Baby* by artist Wolfgang Auer from La Crosse's sister city of Friedberg, Germany. The Arts Board thinks this original, creative, and challenging work would be a good artistic asset to our city and suggests exterior placement at a suitable location. Locations may include: the International Gardens, the Main Street walkway, or a City park. The sculpture is available to the City free of charge, and would only necessitate appropriate installation, maintenance, and possibly an explanatory plaque. The Arts Board has already coordinated the sculpture's travel from Ohio and it is here in the city waiting to be placed. The Arts Board will be available to consult on placement and other related matters.

Please see the attached flyer for more information and visuals on this unique opportunity to have a modern piece of art added to our City's growing inventory of public sculpture.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,

Doug Weidenbach

County Board Supervisor - 3rd district
Chair, City of La Crosse Arts Board
213 Copeland Ave.
La Crosse, WI 54603
(608) 797-3240



Wolfgang Auer, a Friedberg, Germany-based artist, made public works of art in the form of bronze sculptures and fountains until 2007 when his daughter was born. The artist credits his daughter as his inspiration to alter the subject matter and style of his creations: the pieces created after his daughter's birth are modeled after her and have to do with the anxieties that Auer associates with parenthood. Some have suggested that Auer's *Blue Babies* are a continuation of the visual tradition of children symbolizing hope, love, new life, innocence, and purity, Auer has created other *Blue Babies* that have been on display all over Europe.

In addition to *Hatched Baby*, Auer also made similar infants in crawling positions. All of the babies have the same distinct blue skin, wide curious eyes, fully-grown teeth, and monumental size, which give the sculptures of infants a physical and emotional power rarely afforded to small children or representations of them. To see images of the other pieces in his Blue Baby project, visit Wolfgang Auer's [website](#).

