

Proposal for a Community Stick Sculpture at Riverside North

Concept: Build a place and community-making stick sculpture, inspired by Patrick Dougherty, but using invasive buckthorn bushes and Black Locust trees, harvested from the new Riverside North Park. Mirror the Losey Memorial triumphal arch, a locally and universally familiar icon, and build it as a gateway celebrating and improving the new park. Have the community volunteer cutting, collecting and creating the sculpture. Use the black locust as a timber-frame armature to provide structural support and durability during sculpting and after completion. As an “eco-temporary” sculpture the Triumphal Stick Arch will render as a dark ethereal wire-frame in ironic contrast to the monuments. It will decay, first thinning from the top of its cornice, like an ancient ruin, but instead of crumbling becoming an ephemeral wire-frame and a memory of a memorial.

Schedule and Scope of Work:

- Month 1: Present a revised final sculpture to the La Crosse Arts Board with detailed plans, siting, budget, approvals process, sculpting schedule, and proposed community partners.
- Month 2-3: Seek approvals from City Parks, Planning, other departments and the City Council.
- Month 2-3: Assist with public relations and recruitment of community partners.
- Month 2-3: Set schedule and prepare logistics.
- Month 4: Execute buckthorn and black locust harvest.
- Month 4: Excavate post-holes and prepare black locust timber-frame.
- Month 4-5: Install timber frame and begin weaving buckthorn.
- Month 5: Finish and Dedicate Sculpture.

Budget: The budget is based on a stick sculpture of approximately 4’ thick, by 26’ wide, by 16’ tall. It includes: 120 hrs. of my time and 80 hrs. of an assistant’s for \$8,500; and \$1,250 of materials and equipment, for a total of \$9,750. This budget assumes 120 hours of volunteer efforts in harvesting buckthorn from the park and sorting and stock-piling it near the sculpture site.



Triumphal Entrance - Riverside North

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