

Revised Proposal: Arch of Nature Sculpture

Concept: Build a stick sculpture, (see revised drawing 9/21/21) in the form of a classical triumphal arch, using invasive buckthorn trees harvested from the new NiiHosto Art Park, and built just north of the La Crosse River Pedestrian Bridge. The sculpture will be a gateway, celebrating and ecologically improving the new art park. Community volunteers will help cut and collect buckthorn, to create the sculpture. A revised concrete footing and sill plates will allow the sculpture to be anchored securely to the base, and, in the event of a 500 year flood, be un-bolted and moved, or removed when time comes for disposal. And while buckthorn is rot-resistant, the Arch of Nature has a 10 year life expectancy, during which time the artist will perform annual Spring inspection and maintenance to ensure public safety. An inspection and maintenance fee is included in the overall budget. The artist's intent is that the Arch of Nature render as a dark ethereal wire-frame in ironic contrast to it's gleaming monumental inspirations. It will decay, first thinning from the top of its cornice, like an ancient ruin, but instead of crumbling, becoming an ephemeral wire-frame memory of a memorial, reminding us that all things- even monuments- are temporary.

Construction Schedule and Scope of Work:

- Month 1 (February, 2022): Present a revised final sculpture to the La Crosse Arts Board with detailed plans, siting, budget, approvals process, sculpting schedule, and proposed community partners. Procure materials and tools upon receipt of 50% payment.
- Month 2-3 (March, April): Harvest buckthorn and stock-pile, excavated, form and pour reinforced concrete footings.
- Month 4 (May, June): Pre-assemble buckthorn panel components. Lift and install components. Install signage, approved by Arts Board and provided and installed by artist.
- Month 5 (July): Finish, submit final billing and dedicate sculpture.

Budget: The budget is based on a site-sourced buckthorn stick sculpture with a foot-print of approximately 4' thick, by 22' wide, by 22' tall, with a 10' wide by 15' tall arched entry. We will use 1.5" to 4" diameter buckthorn trees fastened to at the top and bottom to 2x rot-resistant sill and header plates. The sill plates will fasten to the concrete with ½" dia. galvanized anchor bolts at 4'O.C. and corners per IBC. The construction of the sculpture includes an estimated 140 hrs. of the artist's work, and 100 hrs. of an assistant's work for a labor contract of \$9,500; and \$2,750 of materials (concrete, rebar, fasteners, sill/header plates) and equipment, for a sub-total of \$12,250. This budget assumes 100 hours of volunteer efforts in harvesting buckthorn from the park and sorting and stock-piling it near the sculpture site. As well as

assisting in the fabricating of the buckthorn panels. The artist will provide ten years of Spring inspection and maintenance for an additional \$200/year, for a sum of \$2000 and a grand total of \$14,250. The artist requests 50% payment, or \$7,125, prior to proceeding with work. Final invoicing for the last half, or \$7,125, with substantial completion defined by the revised drawings dated 9/21/21.