

Advisory Report on Public Art Work in the City of La Crosse

City Arts Board
December 4, 2018

A survey of public art was conducted by a sub-committee of board members in summer of 2018. The charge to the sub-committee was to submit an inventory of public art owned by the City of La Crosse and to report on the condition of each. An assessment scale was established using a range of one to ten—one representing condition of the work is good, ten indicates that immediate action is required.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very good Immediate action

1. The Eagle, (1987) Elmer Petersen, Welded Cur-Ten and stainless steel. Dedicated to the past, present, and future Employees of Gateway Foods, Inc. and Affiliated Companies from the D. B (Rhiny) Reinhart Family. Location: 2nd Street and Main Street *(Condition: Steel on every side at the base is rusting away. Several areas on the upper surface of the structure are showing cracks and are also rusting through. An I Beam provides the framework for work and the sculpture is stable. The landscaping around the sculpture is in need of work and attention. For example, a large planter is held together with zip ties. The curbing around the sculpture site is crumbling. This sculpture is a focal point of one of the city's main cultural and tourist areas. It needs greater attention.)*

ASSESSMENT: 5-6

2. Reflections III (1983), Paul Granlund, Bronze sculpture and the pond and fountain. The sculpture is tribute to Carroll McCarty Gundersen, Donated by Dr. Adolph Gundersen. Location: 8th Street and Main, near entrance to the La Crosse Public Library. There are two components to this installation--the water basin and circulation system and sculpture. *(Condition: Since the 2012 report, the fountain and pond are no longer in operation and instead function as a planter containing local flora. The sculpture itself is still in excellent condition.)*

ASSESSMENT: 3

3. Dancers. Donna Cuta, Artist. Metal work by C and C Machine, Inc. Pedestal by Swanson Heavy Moving Co. Donated by Isola Laminate System Corp. City Vision 2001. Property of the City of La Crosse. Erected 2002. Location: 119 King Street and Front Street, The Pump House parking lot. *(Condition: Rust occurring at the base of the sculpture where the plates are attached to the concrete base. Rust is showing through the paint on the metal dancers. The pedestal is discolored. We recommend that the sculpture be moved from its present location in the parking lot to behind the Pump House, in accordance with the wishes of the Pump House and Artspire)*

ASSESSMENT: 7-8

4. Anidonts. (1983) Artist, Luis Arata. Aluminum. Location: Myrick Park entrance, La Crosse Street.

(Condition: Surface areas beginning to peel. Rust where sculpture attaches to cement base. There is no marker indicating the artist or the name of the work. This work would benefit from lighting and from having the branches of nearby trees cut back to better showcase the sculpture.)

ASSESSMENT: 5-6

5. Lyra (1980), Bruce White, Aluminum. Installed originally at Valley View Mall. Northern Engraving Corporation, The Gelatt Foundation, Inc. The La Crosse Community Foundation, Swanson Heavy Moving, Inc. Moved to current location in 1991, Painted dark brown. Current location: Burns Park 8th Street and Main

(Condition: Brown paint peeling off, bright blue color showing through. The adjacent trees obscure the sculpture and should be cut back to better showcase the work. The board recommends that the sculpture be repainted to blue, which was the original intent of the artist, that foliage be cut back and some lighting installed to better showcase the work.)

ASSESSMENT: 7-8

6. Hiawatha, Anthony Zimmerhagl, assisted by sons Don, David and Stephan. Concrete. 1962. Location: North end of Riverside Park

(Condition: There are numerous spots where the paint has peeled away from the sculpture and significant cracks in the north side as well. The outer coating of the base is cracked in many places, the sign is heavily tarnished, the color of the paint on the sculpture has faded significantly since the previous 2012 report. The landscaping around the pedestal is patchy and unattractive. Attached to this report are two city documents from 2001 detailing the work that was done then to repair the statue. This work exceeded \$35,000. The same repairs would need to be done to the statue today, with the cost likely exceeding past repairs.)

ASSESSMENT: 8-9

7. Water over the Dam, Jeff Wekleman, Sculptor, Mid-City Steel Fabrication. Donation by Melissa Gelatt to the Children of La Crosse. Property of the County of La Crosse.

(Condition: Good but rust is inherent in the surface. Should be monitored.)

ASSESSMENT: 2-3

8. Le Pinau, (Boy removing splinter from foot) Situated on a small platform overlooking the circulating fountain. A symbol of friendship between La Crosse and Sister City, Epinal, France. A project supported by City Vision 2010, Charles and Sue Gelatt, Phillip Gelatt, Dick Record and Family, Gail K. Cleary Family, Nettie O. Mooney and Family, Dacia and David L. Morris, Coulee Bank, Diane Saylor and the Epinal Committee. Property of the City of La Crosse.

Location: 2nd Street and Main Street.
(Condition: *Very good.*)

ASSESSMENT: 1

9. The Players, (1980) Elmer Petersen, Cor-Ten steel. Dedicated in memory of Frank and Elizabeth Stern by Wald Stern. Architecture and engineering services donated by HSR Associates, 1980. Location: 2nd Street and Main Street
(Condition: *Very good*)

ASSESSMENT: 1

11. A Simpler Time sculpture by Mike Martino inspired by a photograph by Theresa Smerud. La Crosse City Vision Endowment, Given to the City of La Crosse 2006. Extraordinary contributions by Sue Conner Gelatt and Liz Goli Ranger in honor of their Great Grandfather, Will Ott and John Kutz Borsky. Funded by numerous individuals and businesses as inscribed on the 18' x 40" walkway. Location: Riverside Park, State Street.
(Condition: *Very good.*)

ASSESSMENT: 1

Submitted December 7, 2018

Barry McKnight Dillon McCardle