



Proposed Sculpture for The Administration Building Front Entry David Tonnesen

I would like to create a sculpture that provides focus and interest to the entry courtyard while conveying a hopeful, inspiring and uplifting message. I hope to express a gesture of flowing and soaring through swooping shapes that appear weightless. Birds in flight have fascinated and inspired for centuries and the sculpture would make reference to the beauty of their motion in the sky.

The sculpture will consist of curved forms of brushed stainless steel which will catch and reflect the colors of the sky, the grasses, and surrounding environment.

The entry courtyard will provide nearly 360 degree angle of viewing opportunity for the sculpture, from the parking/staff picnic area to the inside glass-walled lobby. I am proposing two possible locations; 1) Near the corner of the glassed lobby wall, and 2) near the sidewalk. Both locations allow views from inside the Lobby waiting area so guests can experience it. If sited closer to the sidewalk away from the lobby wall, passers by and arriving visitors and staff on 24th Street can see the play of light on the abstract sculpture. Their first impression might be a sparkling abstraction of flowing and cascading shapes.

Approaching closer, the sculpture will appear to grow taller lifting from eye level to above human scale and appear to gracefully soar and animate, unwrapping itself as more forms become visible.

Abstract dynamic and flowing, the shapes will transform into a composition of soaring birds. Although not



kinetic, the feather/wing forms will make illusion to flying, and as one moves around it, foreshortened elements of the sculpture will become full fledged wings in flight. While detailed bird features are not expressed, the energy of flight will. The apparent 'solid' looking airfoils will reveal to be open, hollow and feather light. Vibrant colors will emit a life like force to expose an inner beauty; pairs of similar colored wings will define a complete bird. Canary yellow, robin's egg blue and other colors will have iridescent highlights like those seen on feathers, adding additional interest and delight to the sculpture.





Standing about 14 feet high, the sculpture's base will be both the launching and landing for the flock of birds. Enough head clearance will allow persons to walk around and under the stainless wings. The rust oxidized base will pull in the earth tones of the building façade and will be reminiscent of the Colorado cliffs, rich in iron ore, a reference to Pueblo's once burgeoning iron mining industry. The base will be both solid and hollow depending on the shadows cast and the angle viewed.

*Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if
no birds sang there except those that sang best.*

Henry Van Dyke