

Received via email 9/12/2015

Dear Margaret Garrington, and the City of Ashland Public Art Commission, Gateway Art Selection Committee and Ann Seltzer,

While I know that the selection committee met on Friday, September 11, and that public opinion concerning the selection was not sought, I did attend the Thursday night introduction and would like to share my opinion about the three pieces under consideration for the Gateway Island.

Thank you for narrowing down the select to three wonderful pieces. I hope the process was enjoyable and that the conversations were creative. I seat on the selection committee for the sculpture on Lithia way and found the process artistically enlightening.

My personal preference for the Gateway Island would be: the large "interactive" structure, the soft organic "doughnut" and finally the helix.

The reason Roger White Stoller's helix is last is that it has no staying power with me. I saw the newspaper article and I already knew what it looked like and how I would interacts with it. Yes, the imagery is "Ashland" but it is not unique. Yes, it is timeless, but so is a coloring book. The audience will not have read Mr. Stoller's resume' so the fact that he is Buckminster Fuller's prodigy is irrelevant.

I enjoyed the Susan Zoccola's organic sculpture, I think it will play beautifully against the geometric lines of the library, fire station and roadway angles. I love the "peep hole" view one may get from the library if the sculpture is set up to be viewed from that angle. I am, however, fearful of the maintenance over the long haul. Our community is hard on structures, especially, along the parade path. I am concerned with the retention of the coloration twenty years from now.

Pete Beeman's interactive sculpture has the scale I think is necessary for that location. The slight incline of the road way as it enters down town requires a tall piece. I think the movement will have continued interest. While the support structure may not have huge pedestrian eye level interest its simplistic lines will work beautifully with the strong horizontal quality of the library and fire station and easily be enhanced by the landscape to emphasize the refractive qualities of the glass in the basket element. If Mr. Beeman's maintenance schedule is correct the City will be able to maintain well into the future.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet, hear and explore the artists and their work. Please accept my thoughts in the spirit of community involvement already set forth.

Best wishes,

Jay Leighton

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