

Harris, Diego Letter of Interest for City of Sebastopol, South Entrance Public Art Project

My name is Diego Harris and I am an artist living and working in Upper Lake Ca whose focus is on making larger than life abstract corten steel sculptures. I have many works throughout Northern California in both public and private settings as well as several public and private sculptures in several other western States. I have experience working with Cities and other organizations to create public artworks. Some of which include sculptures in Clearlake Ca, Eureka Ca, Lafayette Co, and Moab Utah. I'm also working on three different public sculptures at the moment for towns in Lake County Ca. I'll provide some photos of recent sculptures that I've finished. More can also be seen on my website. Please note that some of the sculptures are still shiny steel but will develop a rusty patina after a year or so.

I like to make sculptures that blend well with their surroundings. I take design elements from nature in mind such as curves and spirals while also utilizing more modern industrial elements such as flanges and bolts. I strive to blend the natural as well man made together to create a beautiful harmony.

I was very excited when I first heard about this project. I've always wanted to have a public sculpture in the area. I do have three private sculptures in the Sebastopol area but so far I think that the closest publicly viewable sculpture of mine is in Healdsburg. I was first told about the project by my fiancé Stacy Maisenback. She grew up in and around Sebastopol and still has many friends there. One of them sent her an article about the project. I myself have always loved Sebastopol and often go out of my way to drive through there and stop on my way to the ocean. I like that the town has a very rural feel to it while still having a prosperous and artistic community. I often stop at the art store there since it's getting harder to find any with as good of a selection as the one that you all have there.

As I said, for this project I would be making a sculpture out of Corten steel. I cut out panels and shape them to fit over an internal steel re-bar structure and then fully seem weld the edges with corten steel filler wire. All the edges are sanded down smooth and are very safe. I have about fifteen years of experience welding sculptures. I have been making sculptures out of corten steel for about seven years. Before that I had been making jewelry and paintings for about fifteen years. I also have owned a small local gallery since 2007.

I would be very much honored to be chosen for this project and would work very hard to make a sculpture that your town would be proud of. I'd be happy to work with you and your town on any design or fabrication requirements and find the best way to move the project forward swiftly and safely. Thank you so much for reviewing my proposal.

Harris, Diego Artwork Description/ Depiction

For my proposed sculpture my plan is to make a large abstract tree like structure made of corten steel. "Corten" steel or "Weathering Steel" is different from regular mild steel in that it has added alloys of copper and nickel that help it to last much longer while also developing a fine red/orange rust patina. It will be similar to other tree style sculptures that I have made in the past. It will have a large trunk like base that spreads out at the bottom like roots gripping the soil. I will attach some photos of similar sculptures that I've done in the past for reference as well as a drawing of my proposed sculpture. I thought that a tree would be in keeping with the areas orchard history but it could also be seen as a very old grape vine in how the branches curve and spiral outward. It also has a very relaxed and free-spirited

nature which I thought would be good for the area since having such a wonderful trail system should encourage locals and visitors alike to spend time relaxing and to explore. The sculpture will be made of 16 gauge corten steel sheeting with a flange of 8 gauge corten steel at the bottom of the sculpture for added strength. At the bottom edge of the base there will be four corten bolt down tabs welded on for security and safety. There will also be an internal structure of steel re-bar and heavy square tubing for Strength and durability. The sculpture will be 16 feet tall by 10 foot wide and 5 foot deep. The base of the sculpture will be about 4x5 feet. It will weigh about 500 Lbs and can either be placed on a concrete pad of about 5x6 feet or be anchored to 4 concrete piers. If piers are used then gravel or mulch can be used around the base in order to make it look more natural. The sculpture will be made in three pieces to make transportation much easier. It can be delivered on a small trailer and then set up with some scaffolding and two people. The pieces will be bolted together with heavy bolts that secure flanges at the ends of the pieces. The flanges are made in such a way that they will actually enhance the overall look of the finished sculpture.

Harris, Diego Timeline for completion and installation of South Entrance Public Art Project

At the moment I'm finishing up a large public art project for the City of Clearlake. After that I have three smaller sculptures to make. The last one is due in June but may be finished sooner. At that point I would start working on this Project. I estimate that it will take two to three months to complete the sculpture and then a couple days to deliver and install it. I would be ready to install in late July to mid-August of this year. I'd be happy to coordinate the exact date and plan for installation with any city personnel in June/ July when I should have a better idea of when it will be ready. If that is too early you or if it's a bad time for installation then I could hold it for a couple months till a better installation opportunity presents itself.

Harris, Diego Budget for City of Sebastopol, South Entrance Public Art Project

A. Artist Fees

a. Design fees	\$1000.
b. Structural Engineering	\$500.
B. Materials, Equipment, and Production costs	\$18,000.

C. Studio Fees

a. Rental if unique space needed for this project	N.A.
b. Utilities (gas, water, electricity), if not included in rental	\$1500.
D. Transportation of finished artwork to site in Sebastopol	\$500.
E. Installation costs, including any equipment rental	\$400.
F. Lighting costs	N.A.

G. Insurance	\$1000.
H. Taxes	\$2000.
I. Documentation	\$100.
Total,	\$25,000.

Harris, Diego Artist Resume

Please see attached resume in email, thank you.

Harris, Diego Professional References

Sarah Dishong
Project Coordinator
Downtown Grand Junction



Gary Hauschulz
Director, Palisade Art Vision.
Palisade Colorado.



Michael Dunton
Director, Moab Art Trail
Moab, Utah.



Joyce Mann
Director, Cloverdale Sculpture Trail.
Cloverdale, Ca.



Harris, Diego photos of past work as well as current drawing



Proposed sculpture Drawing.



Here is a photo of the internal structure of one of my sculptures. This is before I add the corten steel sheeting. You can see one of the panels in the middle left of the photo before it is welded on.



This sculpture is titled "Tidal Wave". It is currently on display in Cloverdale, Ca.



This piece is titled "Rust Fire Tree". It is now privately owned in Middletown Ca.



This piece is in Healdsburg Ca. It is located at a private residence but can be viewed from the street at Borel Rd.



This is a large Mobile sculpture that was on public view for a time in both Middletown Ca. and at Cornerstone Sonoma. It is about 22 feet tall and has a mobile element that is attached to the top. It is now in Sacramento at a private residence On Freeport Ave. It is still publicly viewable though.



This sculpture is titled "Trinity" and it is on display in the town of Lafayette Co. as part of their collection.



This piece is titled "New Seedling". It's publicly displayed in Hidden Valley Ca. It really shows off the corten patina.

Thank you for your time

Dege Harris



Diego Harris, Artist



Mr. Harris is an artist whose current focus is constructing larger than life, whimsical sculptures primarily made of welded steel, sheet metal, and recycled car parts that invite people to interact with them. Recently Mr. Harris has begun to offer making his sculptures in Corten steel or Weathering steel as it is also known. Using weathering steel, a sculpture will last longer and require less maintenance than one made with traditional mild steel. This is because weathering steel has small amounts of copper, nickel and chromium. The sculpture will develop a rust patina but will not develop deep pitting rust. This eliminates the need for subsequent applications of weather sealant. Mr. Harris was born in Baja California, to artist parents and then moved to Rancho Palos Verdes in Southern California at young age. Later, he along with his family moved again to Lake County California where he has lived ever since. He has experimented with many different mediums including wire jewelry, burned gourds, fine art photography, and painting, but found his true passion when he learned to weld in 2007. He is inspired by the amazing effortless shapes of perfect symmetry as well as perfect asymmetry in nature. His metal sculptures are constructed with exposed rivets, wide lap welds and excessively sturdy bolts. These elements add incredible strength to his structures and break up the curvature enough to give the viewer's eye a chance to stop for a moment. He is fascinated with old industry and strives to find a perfect combination of organic contours while keeping his pieces balanced and anchored which ties it back to its creator, a human that lives in a structured society. Mr. Harris has owned an art gallery in Upper Lake, CA for the past 12 years and has recently opened a new shop with his fiancé in Lucerne CA. Mr. Harris has also been involved with public art projects for the past nine years. This has taught him how to get the best use of an outdoor space.

Education

Associate of Arts, Mendocino College, Ukiah, CA, 2013

Affiliations

Member, Mendocino Arts Center, Mendocino, CA (2009-present)
Guest Lecturer, Art House Gallery, Clearlake, CA
Member, Arts Council of Mendocino County, (2014-present)
Member, Middletown Art Center, Middletown, CA (2016-present)

Public Art Projects

2023 – 2024 Heart of the Desert, Palisade, Co.
2023 – 2024 Aurora, Art on the Corner, Grand Junction, Co.
2023 – 2024 New Sprig, Douglas County Art Encounters, Castel Rock, Co.
2023 – 2024 Sidewinder, Art on Parade, Northglenn, Co.
2023 - 2025 Cosmic Vortex, Art without Walls, Los Altos, Ca.
2023 – 2025 Celestial Mobile, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Art in the Gardens, Fort Bragg, Ca.

2022 – 2023 Water Spirit, Moab Art Trails, Moab, Utah. Honorable mention.
2022 – 2024 Being, Cloverdale Sculpture Trail, Cloverdale, Ca. Winner of 1st place prize and also people's choice award.

2022 – 2024 Living Steel, Gallery Without Walls, Lake Oswego, Or

2022 – Present Trinity, Art on the Street, public sculpture, City of Lafayette, Co.

2020 – Present Clearlake Bass sculpture, Austin Park, City of Clearlake, Ca

2020 – Present Serpent Vine, Geyserville Sculpture Trail, Geyserville, Ca

2019 – 2023 Vortex, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg. CA

2018 – 2020 Dancing with Wind Mobile, Geyserville Sculpture Trail, Geyserville, CA

2018 – Present Steam Engine Bench, Eureka Waterfront Trail, Eureka, CA

2018 – Present Metal in Motion, Eureka Waterfront Trail, Eureka, CA

2017 Phoenix Tree, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg. CA

2017 Dancing with Wind Mobile, Middletown Art Center, Middletown, CA

2016 *Phoenix Tree*, Middletown Art Center's sculpture garden, (Tribute to Resilience Show), Middletown, CA

2016 *Dancing Tree*, Now part of a private sculpture garden in North Lakeport, CA

2016 *Dancing Tree*, Geyserville Sculpture Trail, Geyserville, CA

2016 *Spiral Galaxy*, EcoArts Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

2016 *Rust Fire Tree*, Geyserville Sculpture Trail, Geyserville, Ca

2016 *Rust Fire Tree*, Now in Hidden Valley, Ca as a memorial to the Valley Fire.

2016 *Time Killer*, Cornerstone Sonoma Sculpture Garden, Sonoma, CA

2016 *Serpent Vine*, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg, CA

2016 *Horn Tree*, Tapestry Studio in Napa, Ca

2015 *Horn Tree*, Cloverdale Sculpture Trail, Cloverdale, CA

2015 *Time Killer*, EcoArts Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

2015-Present *Olema Tree*, Olema Cottages, Olema, CA

2014-Present *Giant Horn Serpent*, purchased by Real Goods Sculpture Garden, Hopland, CA

2014 *Giant Horn Serpent*, EcoArts Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

2014-present *Spring*, Geyserville Sculpture Trail, Geyserville, CA

2014 *Sound Tree*, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg, CA

2014 *Torqued Bell*, Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden, Fort Bragg, CA

2013 *Torqued Bell*, EcoArts Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

2012 *Spiral*, EcoArts Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

2011 *Found object mobile*, EcoArt Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

2010 *Diego's Bench*, EcoArt Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

2009 *Large Gourd Mobile*, EcoArt Sculpture Walk, Middletown, CA

Exhibitions

2013 - Mendocino College Art Gallery, Ukiah, CA

2012 - Art House Gallery, Clearlake CA

2012 - Corner Gallery, Ukiah, CA

2007-Present - Diego's Art Gallery, Upper Lake, CA

steelsculpturesbydiegoharris.com

