

CAMBRIDGE SCULPTURE GARDEN

ON THE GRAND

December 19, 2023

To: Core Area Transformation Fund /Placemaking Project

From: Judy Major-Girardin, Co-Chair
Cambridge Sculpture Garden

The Cambridge Sculpture Garden (CSG) is committed to adding a permanent sculpture by a female artist to the site on Grand Avenue South. The garden currently is home to five permanent works, all by male sculptors. We have showcased over twenty temporary installations over the years featuring the work of many female artists but many of these artists did not work in materials that would be appropriate for long-term public display in an open access site. For the last few years, we have been actively exploring options that could help us resolve the under representation of female sculptors permanently on view. The committee has identified an artist and a work that will make an exciting addition to the CSG. We believe this work adds something new for residents and visitors and complements the other works on site.

Pentagonal Hexecontahedron by Laura Marotta



3D printed maquette for Pentagonal Hexecontahedron

Photo provided by the artist

Laura Marotta is a sculptor currently teaching in the Visual Arts and Design program at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie, Alberta. She holds a BFA degree from McMaster University and an MFA degree from the University of Guelph and still maintains a studio space in Hamilton, Ontario. Her sculptures explore modular construction and geometry and invite us to consider interactions between form, colour, and our own human scale. Laura has completed public art commissions for Mulock Park, Newmarket, Trafalgar Park Community Centre, Oakville, the Go Station in Hamilton and has previously installed a temporary public work at the Cambridge Sculpture Garden in 2018. She participates regularly in group and solo exhibitions in our area, including shows at the University of Waterloo Art Gallery, the McMaster Museum of Art, Art Gallery of Hamilton, B Contemporary in Hamilton, the Art Gallery of Mississauga, the Art Gallery of Burlington, and the Art Gallery of Guelph.

Pentagonal Hexecontahedron is proposed as a permanent public sculpture. It will be five feet in diameter and made from stainless steel components. Sixty separate shapes will be fabricated in stainless-steel and treated with epoxy colour printing with a protective polyurethane topcoat. They will be assembled in the artist's Hamilton studio and transported as a completed work to Cambridge for installation. The facets of the large-scale sculpture will be opaque as opposed to the translucent facets of the maquette image provided here. The hardware and edges will provide contrast that activates the sculptural surface and light will modulate the colour from different viewing angles creating a dynamic yet contemplative effect. The artist has collaborated with Dr. Brian Redman, a mathematician from Northwestern Polytechnic for the geometry and design of this project. The CSG has recently recontoured the garden opening a grassy knoll that provides viewing access from both Grand Avenue and the Canada Trail and this slightly elevated location provides the perfect spot for installing this work.

Adding a permanent sculpture by a female artist will make an important contribution to the existing public art in the city. This project will enhance a sense of place for residents and tourists and help us fulfill our mandate to provide opportunities for experiencing contemporary art in a viewer-friendly outdoor green space. It will contribute to the creation of vibrant neighbourhoods by:

- Contributing to the establishment of a cultural hub in the city
- Preserving and developing an urban greenspace that mitigates climate change
- Enhancing a sense of well-being contributing to improved mental and physical health
- Offering an aesthetic experience that creates a sense of place and promotes community connections
- Supporting accessibility and equity initiatives in the city by providing activities in a space that is free of charge, always open and welcoming to all

Budget

60 faces and 150 brackets in stainless steel \$14,275 + \$1855.75 tax = \$16130.75
Epoxy colour printing with polyurethane protective topcoat \$800 + \$104 tax = \$904
Installation hardware \$100
Transportation and installation \$1865
Artist fee \$6000
Total Project Cost **\$25,000**

Proposed Funding Sources

CATF \$12,000, Region of Waterloo ARTSFUND \$7500, CSG Fundraising/operating budget \$5500

