

ROBERT SMART

Spirit Ring

Concept

I am drawn to environments that promote pedestrian movement through dynamic spaces and integrate architecture and community using the interplay between light, metal, and space. The proposed site in Marshall and the Avera Plaza is an ideal canvass to express this vision. My interest in applying to this is more specifically motivated by the following three considerations:

1) Potential for collaboration, and community involvement: Identifying, and working with the key members of this project is essential to developing a dynamic proposal. Through site-specific research and engaging several voices from the community, my conceptual format and imagery would take shape from this collaboration. My approach to working with the community would be to research the master plan with specific focus on pedestrian movement, lighting, safety, and engineering.

2) Personal connection to the environment: As a resident of Minnesota for the past 15 years, I am very confident that through my artistic vision, and invested research within Marshall, I could build a proposal that would encapsulate the goals of the community, integrate history, and creatively connect the site to a broader context within the city.

3.) Circularity: The landscape design is circular in nature, with interconnecting pathways. It would be my intent to construct a work that reinforces this design element. Much of my prior work over the last fifteen years has utilized circles and spheres.

Relevant Previous Work:

My prior commissions using steel and programmable light are compatible with the proposed site and in line with creating a dynamic and engaging proposal for the City of Marshall, Minnesota. I have had first-hand experience designing, executing, and installing public commissions for municipalities with the size and scope that will be required for this project (Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN, Chicago, IL, Milwaukee, WI, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia). I have analyzed sites, worked collaboratively with architects, and done community research to make my work relevant and appealing to various audiences and locations. In the

production and installation phases of projects, I have organized teams of people, acquired bids, maintained timelines and budget guidelines, applied city codes and have dealt with the issues of safety and maintenance that accompany all public installations. My aesthetic and attention to detail have also shaped the conceptual quality of my work. In addition, my proposals always utilize 3-D video rendering in their design phase. This process allows me to move and analyze my forms within virtual space, fusing them to the landscape and also seems to provide selection committees a valuable perspective.

Thematic Considerations:

My proposal will consider the visitors as they move to and through space. I intend to create a work of art that would allow open interpretation and encourage interaction from the community. I would consider the pathways to, through, and away from the piece to be part of its dynamism.