

**Mic Johnson,
Painter Sculptor Architect**

**McQuillan Park Public Art
Submission**

February 15, 2017

bryan.murphy@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Contact

Mic Johnson FAIA

612 325 6237

mic.johnson@archfieldoffice.com

Letter of Interest

February 15, 2017

Bryan Murphy
Project Manager
City of St. Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Murphy and Members of the Selection Committee:

Art creates a fabric weaving the individual with all aspects of life. Within a work of art are the threads that bind us to civilization. When installed in a public place such as a neighborhood park, artwork can help reinforce the location's stature as a center of community.

The City of Saint Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation is currently undertaking park improvements at McQuillan Park in the Historic Hill Heritage Preservation District of Saint Paul. Park improvements include new play equipment, the addition of ornamental fencing, replacement of park benches and picnic tables, and landscaping. The City of St Paul has allocated a portion of funding to implement public art at the park. A primary goal for the artwork installation is that it complement and celebrate the McQuillan Park history and enhance and connect to the park's activities – together making a complete place.

This means that the selected artist must consider all aspects of the park's design, in terms of its physical characteristics—materials, scale, structure, color palette, and natural environment—as well as its social characteristics as a gathering place and an important destination within the Historic Hill District of Saint Paul. With the eventual chosen location for artwork, the art installation must address durability, timelessness and longevity; it must allow for continued use of existing park attributes; and must consider overall ease of maintenance.

My over 30 years of design experience has taught me that a successful design process requires commonality of purpose and a willingness to discover, to learn, and to act collectively. A good process is one in which every participant is free to express ideas in an atmosphere of collaboration. The expectation is that this will be a public endeavor that engages members of the art selection committee and other constituents, as well as the community, in a collaborative process—resulting in a work that is uniquely of its place. I am able to meet your outlined schedule to design and install the work by October 31, 2017 at the latest.

Thank you for inviting me to submit my qualifications for this important expression of community and culture. I would be honored to work with the City of St. Paul and the neighborhood on this endeavor. Please let me know if you need any further information in advance of your selection .

Sincerely,



Mic Johnson, FAIA
Sculptor – Painter – Architect

mic.johnson@archfieldoffice.com

Mic Johnson Bio and CV

A native of rural eastern Oregon, Mic Johnson was introduced to both art and architecture at age 16, when he took a part-time job at a small architectural firm and began art classes at a local community college; together, these two moves broadened his thinking and showed him possibilities for a future outside his hometown. While he ultimately enrolled at the University of Oregon's School of Architecture and pursued a career as an architect, making art has remained a primary part of his creative process from the outset.

In 1985, Mic was recruited to join Ellerbe Becket's Minneapolis office, thus beginning a relationship that lasted for nearly 30 years. As design principal, Mic led design teams for large and complex projects globally and locally, including the multi-block urban redevelopment of Minneapolis' South Nicollet Mall on behalf of Target Corporation, the expansion and renewal of Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, District Energy St Paul, and at the University, the renovation of the Coffman Memorial Union and the Washington Avenue Pedestrian Bridges that connect Coffman to Northrop Mall. Internationally; Yonsei University Medical Center Seoul, Korea, University Hospital Dubai, UAE. Nationally; Mercy West Hospital, The Jewish Hospital , RookWood Medical Center, and Mercy Anderson Hospital for Mercy Health, Cincinnati.

In early 2013, Mic established Architecture Field Office, a unique and diverse consultancy that merges his interests and talents: specialized architectural design, transformative urban planning and placemaking, and artistic pursuits—including drawing, painting and sculpture. He began creating welded steel sculpture in early 2014, and with that medium, found a means to synthesize his architectural background and his interest in "making" with his passion for art. This work was extended to include painting and collage in late 2015. He currently devotes all or part of nearly every day to his artistic pursuits.

Selected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in the discipline of Design in 2013, Mic has taught graduate-level architectural design as visiting design critic and lecturer over the past three decades, holding positions such as Professor-in-Practice in the University of Minnesota's College of Architecture, and serving as Interim Director of the University's Metropolitan Design Center. Driven by his belief that architects and designers have responsibility to the broader community,

Mic is committed to creating art and architecture that are uniquely evocative of place and context, positively impacting human experience.

Academic Background

"Contemporary Abstract Painting," taught by Ellen Richman, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Fall 2015, Fall 2016

"Advanced Welded Sculpture," taught by Judd Nelson, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Winter-Spring 2015, Winter-Spring 2016

"Beginning Welded Sculpture," taught by Judd Nelson, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Winter 2014

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Oregon, 1976

Mic Johnson CV

Exhibitions

Solo Exhibition, The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI (planned Summer 2018)
"Figures" Juried Show, The Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka, MN (March) 2017
"Student Show," The Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka, MN (February) 2017
Society of Minnesota Sculptors, Summer Juried Pop-up Show, Public Functionary Gallery, Minneapolis (August 2016)
"Members' Juried Exhibit" The Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka, MN (May-June 2016)
Society of Minnesota Sculptors, 2016 Art-A-Whirl Exhibit, Minneapolis, MN (May 2016)
Hopkins Art Street, Juried Sculpture Exhibit, Hopkins, MN (May 2016-April 2017)
"Student Show," The Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka, MN (February 2016)
"Black and White Show," Maple Grove Arts Center, Maple Grove, MN (October 2015)
Minnesota State Fair Juried Art Exhibit, St. Paul, MN (August 2015)
"Members' Salon," The Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka, MN (May-June 2015)
"Student Show," The Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka, MN (February 2015)
"The New Urban Landscape," Exhibition of Drawings, Stevens Square Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN (January 2004)
"Skyscrapers" Exhibition of Drawings, Minneapolis, MN (2002)
Exhibition of drawings at Portland State University (1993)
Exhibition of four tables, International Contemporary Furniture Fair, New York City (1992)
"Furniture I Presume," Minnesota Artists Gallery, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN (1991)
Exhibition of furniture at Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington, Minnesota (1989)

Recent Select Publications

"A Technical Assistance Panel Report", Minnesota Department of Transportation, I-94 and I-35W Lid Study, *Urban Land Institute of Minnesota*, Minneapolis and Saint Paul, June 20–23, 2016
"St. Paul thinks big for downtown with plan for River Balcony," by Jessie Van Berkel, *Star Tribune*, May 1, 2016
"St. Paul counts on developers to bankroll River Balcony," by Karlee Weinmann, *Finance & Commerce*, September 25, 2015
"A New Standard: Mercy Health-West Hospital," by John Reinan, *Architecture Minnesota*, November/December 2014
"Momentum Grows for a Lid over I-35W," by Kristen Painter, *Star Tribune*, November 23, 2014
"Best Projects – Project of the Year: Mercy Health-West Hospital," by John Gregerson, *ENR Midwest*, November 17, 2014
"Daring to Be Different: Mercy Health – West Hospital," by Anne DiNardo, *Healthcare Design*, May 28, 2014
"Room to Bloom" by Anne DiNardo, *Healthcare Design* August 2014
"The Making of an Exterior at Mercy Health West" by Anne DiNardo, *Healthcare Design* August 2014
"A Plan to Stitch Minneapolis Together Again: Cover a Stretch of I-35W" by Marlys Harris, *MinnPost.com*, April 11, 2014
"Futuristic Vision Would Top 35W With a Park Neighborhood," by Jessica Mador, *Twin Cities Business Monthly*, April 11, 2014
"Face Time: Mic Johnson," by Sam Black, *Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal*, November 15, 2013

Mic Johnson References

Jim May

Former CEO, Mercy Health - Cincinnati

mayji99@aol.com

Mic began working with Jim May in 1990, when Jim was CEO of Legacy Health in Portland, Oregon. After completing several projects together, Jim moved to the East Coast for another job opportunity. Nearly 20 years later, Jim was CEO of Mercy Health in Cincinnati, and reconnected with Mic on the design of a new community hospital, the Mercy Health-West Hospital, completed in November 2013. Mic was subsequently engaged to design three more facilities for Mercy, one of which was complete in 2013 and two others that completed that construction in summer 2016. Jim retired from Mercy in December 2014.

Bob Bowman

Exhibition Director, Minnetonka Center for the Arts – Wayzata, MN

bbowman@minnetonkaarts.org

*Mic has been taking sculpture and abstract painting courses at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts since early 2014. In that time, he has worked with Bob Bowman on exhibiting his work in both juried and non-juried group exhibits at the Center. Bob also selected a group of Mic's sculptures for the Center's exhibition space at Ridgedale Mall in Minnetonka. Mic currently has a group of smaller-scale pieces, *The Band*, on display in the rotunda of the mall. In the future, Bob plans to install two of Mic's large scale (over 5 feet tall) steel pieces at the mall.*

Jim Clark

Visual Arts Manager, Hopkins Center for the Arts

jclark@hopkinsmn.com

*Mic currently has one of his pieces, *Handstand Guy*, on display in a park in downtown Hopkins, as part of the Hopkins Art Street exhibition series. The piece was installed in Fall 2016 and will be removed in April 2017.*

Slide Descriptions

Johnson_Mic01.jpg

Title: Mercy West Hospital Labyrinth Garden

Date: May 2014

Medium: Polished and etched Cold Spring granite

Dimensions: 48" x 48" x 6" deep

Budget: \$25,000

Description: The Labyrinth Garden is one of 3 gardens including a chapel garden and a three acre roof garden. The Labyrinth Garden is at the front door of the hospital and the most important as an introduction to a caring experience. It's intended to be both a symbol of healing but also a physical way to engage and help families of patients through a sometime difficult period

Johnson_Mic02.jpg

Title: Back to Back

Date: 2015

Medium: Wood: Painted Finish

Dimensions: 59"h x 18"w x 18"d

Budget: \$3,000

Description: Back to Back is made of a random series wood shapes that represents both in terms of color and shape the nature of the individual but also the dependence on a shared history. This piece was exhibited in the Minnesota State Fair Juried Art exhibit.

Johnson_Mic03.jpg

Title: Chasing City Form 1 and 2

Date: 2015

Medium: Found Steel: Natural Rust and Oil Painted

Dimensions: (1) 79"h x 18"d x 18"w (2) 77"h x 18"d x 18"w

Budget: \$1800 each

Description: Assembled from random steel shapes, these pieces represent the way in which many cities are made by adding each piece from the context of other times and places.

Johnson_Mic04.jpg

Title: Mr. Blue

Date: 2015

Medium: Wood: Painted Finish

Dimensions: 84"h x 20"w x 28"d

Budget: \$2500

Description: Assembled from shapes that relate to head, torso and feet, Mr. Blue's somewhat flat and dual personality is reflected in both color and attitude.

Johnson_Mic05.jpg

Title: Handstand Guy

Date: January 2015

Medium: Welded Steel, Oil Paint

Dimensions: 50"h x 18"w x 18"d

Budget: \$2700

Description: This piece was the first in a series of abstract figural sculptures I dubbed 'Handstand Guys.' The sculpture's form and weight are such that it is moderately kinetic when installed in the landscape. Its design creates movement through use of flat steel shapes that are bent and welded.

Johnson_Mic06.jpg

Title: The Band

Date: 2015

Medium: Welded Found Steel: Natural Rust

Dimensions: Varies up to 14"

Budget: \$180 each

Description: The form and attitude of each member of "The Band" is derived from finding just the right steel shape. The outcome is determined by relationship of each piece of steel to create the body/instrument ensemble.

Johnson_Mic07.jpg

Title: Shadow Dancer

Date: 2016

Medium: Welded Steel: Painted

Dimensions: 69"h x 12"w x 24"d

Budget: \$3000

Description: Cut from round steel disks, each steel shape is a descending in size, and then bent and welded together end to end. The result is movement similar to our body when viewed as our shadow.

Johnson_Mic08.jpg

Title: City House

Date: January 2016

Medium: Welded Steel, natural and polished finish

Dimensions: Height Varies to 28"

Budget: \$600 each

Description: Part of a series, this piece is an intentional reflection of the shapes of roofs, windows and walls. This 3 part assembly is intended to evoke a dynamic sense of living in a dense urban center, overlaid with the memories of a more traditional house.

Johnson_Mic09.jpg

Title: Stacked Landscape Assemblies: Windows

Date: May 2016

Medium: Welded Found Steel: Natural Rust

Dimensions: 44"h x 12"w x 34"d

Budget: \$1200

Description: Created from stacked 4"x4" steel tubes this assemble is designed to shape views of the landscape beyond. It is a frame of reference for both the change of the day and seasons but also as reference to the subtle changes in the landscape itself.

Johnson_Mic10.jpg

Title: Wall Fragments: Windows: Sculpture Studies

Date: 2017

Medium: Mixed media

Dimensions: varies

Budget: In development



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL
 VENDOR OUTREACH PROGRAM ORDINANCE
 QUESTIONNAIRE BUSINESS INCLUSION DATA MANDATORY
 SUBMISSION***

FIRM NAME: Architecture Field Office, LLC

CONTACT PERSON: Mic Johnson

ADDRESS: 2200 Zane Avenue North, Golden Valley, MN 55422

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 612-325-6237

E-MAIL: mic.johnson@archfieldoffice.com

PROJECT NAME: McQuillan Park Public Art Design

EVENT #: not available

Failure to complete and include this questionnaire with the bid/quote//request for information/request for proposal/request for qualifications, or any other type of solicitation not listed herein, will deem it non-responsive and it will be rejected.

(check if applicable) At this time there are no subcontracting opportunities as we are self-performing all work. If the scope of our work changes and we will not be self-performing this work, we will (1) consult the CERT list to look for a qualified subcontractor to perform the work and (2) notify compliance of the change.

Anticipated percent of the available business opportunity for this project that will be awarded to CERT certified businesses:

MBE _____ % SBE _____ % WBE _____ %

Percentages and estimated dollar amount is required. Attach additional pages if necessary.			
Name of Certified Vendor	MBE/SBE or WBE	Type of Work or Supplies	Dollar Amount

*I understand that, pursuant to Chapter 84 of the City of St. Paul Code of Ordinances, the Vendor Outreach Program applies to this bid, and under the Vendor Outreach Program, the City requires submission of the Vendor Outreach Program Questionnaire in order for the bid to be responsive. I further understand that I will have up until the time of award, or 10 days after bid opening, whichever occurs first, to complete and submit my Vendor Outreach Program Questionnaire. Failure to submit this form will result in my bid being treated as nonresponsive.

Sculpture



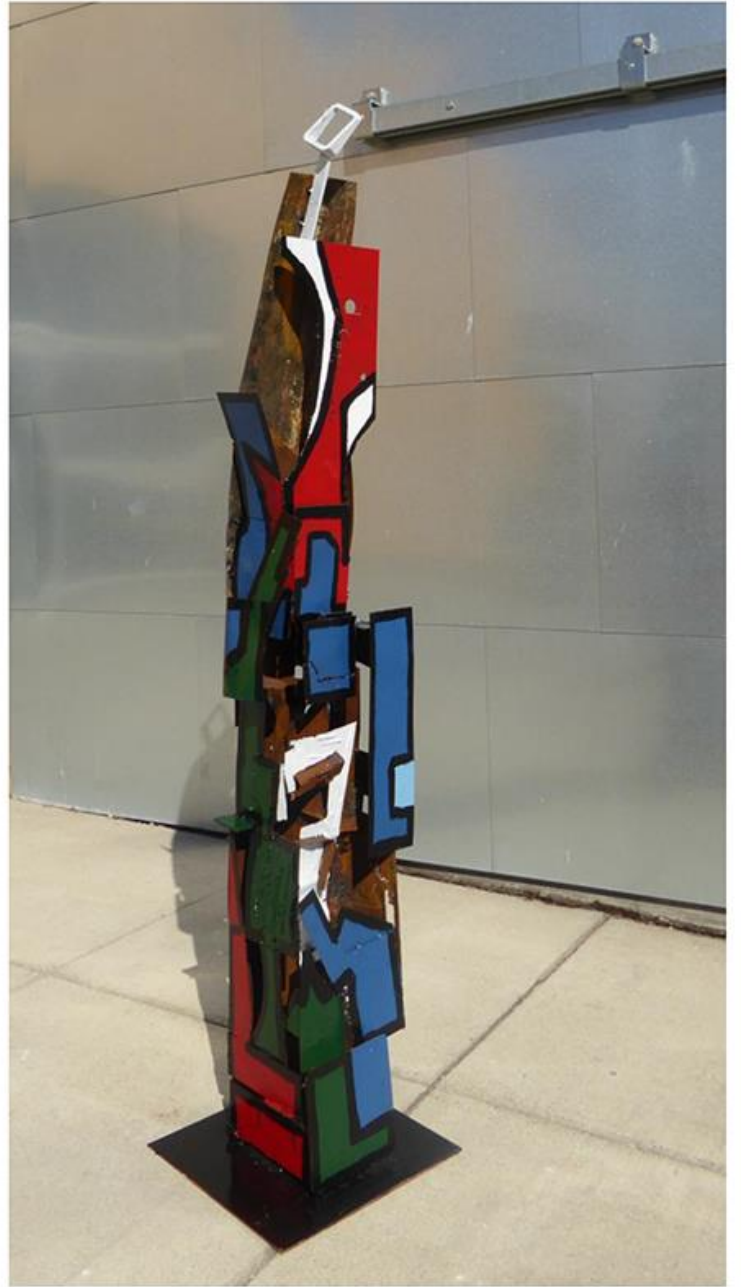
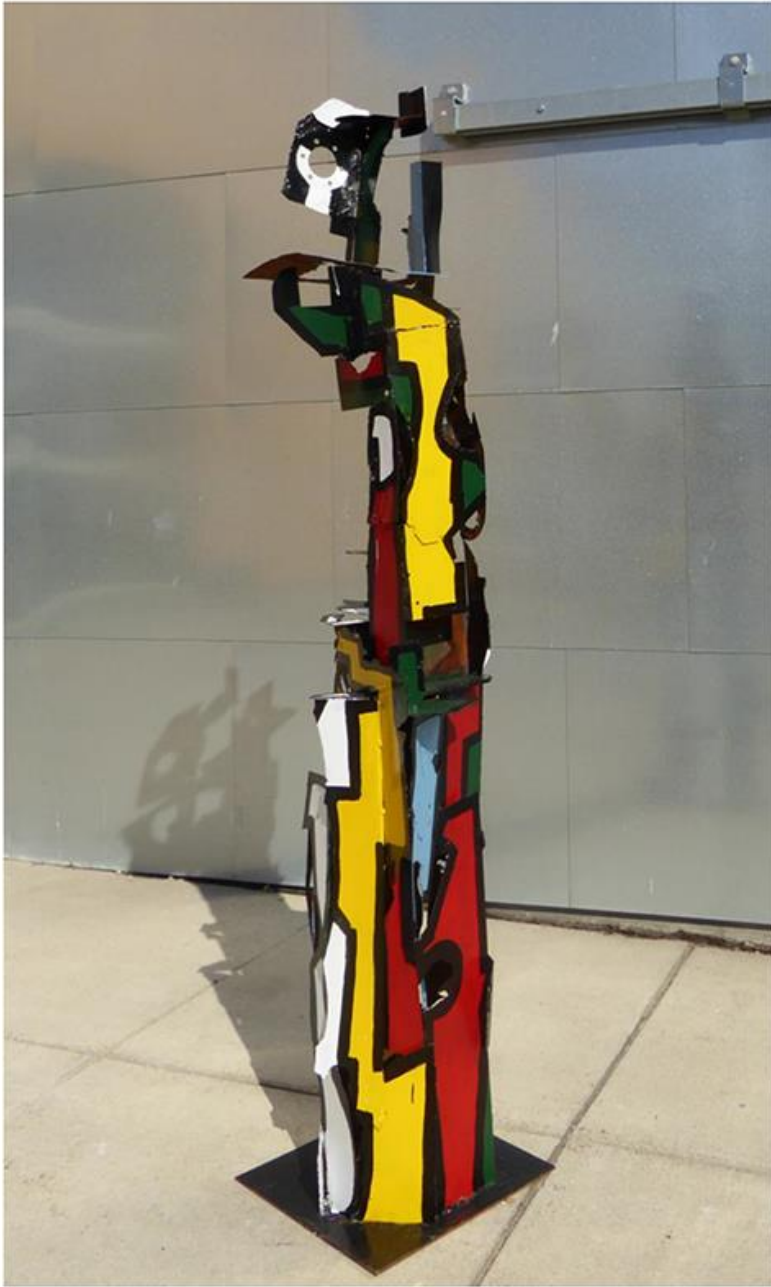
View of Garden and Labyrinth Stone at Main Hospital Entry



View of Garden and Labyrinth Stone from Second Floor Lobby



Detail View of Labyrinth Stone















Johnson_Mic08.jpg





