



Small-Scale  
Sculpture  
Series Project

# Background of the project:

This project is part of the approved Public Art Work plan for FY20.

It was originally brought to City Council at the 2019 Retreat as a possible “Loveable Old Town” project. There were two possibilities presented at that time:

- A series of bronze 8-12 birds which were native or known to migrate through Lewisville.
- A series of 3-4 bronze hitching posts to tie to the horse-and-rider transportation history of Lewisville with a nod to the current wedding services industry companies, aka “getting hitched”, that populates many store fronts in the Old Town core.

This concept is inspired by an art installation in Greenville South Carolina called “Mice on Main”. This installation includes a series of nine bronze mice sculptures interacting with their environment installed throughout their downtown. There is a storybook/scavenger hunt component to this installation in Greenville.

# Background of the project:

City Council did not elect to do this project at the retreat but said they were open to the project if it was important to the Arts Advisory Board. They also wanted to see some refinements to the plan. City Council was not overly enthusiastic about the possibility of using all birds.

The Arts Advisory Board included the project in its 2019-20 Public Art Work Plan, with no specific theme identified. It was assigned an estimated budget of \$25,000 for 4-6 individual pieces. City Council reviewed the Public Art Work Plan at its budget workshop in August. The project was included in the adopted 2019-20 budget

The Arts and Advisory Board, through Staff recommendation, decided to engaged with the UNT College of Fine arts And Design about partnering on this project.

# Details about the project as presented to UNT

Each year, during the spring semester, UNT College of Visual Arts and Design offers a class called “**Multiples and Monuments**”

- This is an Intermediate level studio sculpture class where students work on both large scale and small-scale, multiple related unit projects from design concept through modeling and finally fabrication and casting of bronze (if applicable to the project for that semester.)
- Course description: This course builds upon the fundamental principles of mold-making and casting learned in Beginning Sculpture: Traditional Methods, while exploring more complex concepts, materials, and techniques. (both hot and cold casting)

The head of the sculpture division and professor of this course both felt that the potential Lewisville project was manageable for students to successfully execute as work for this class and would be a great project to use as the project this semester.

The budget limit for the students to work with was set at \$20,000 and will go fully into the casting/fabrication of the small sculptures in the series since all of the design work is being done students as their course work.

- Bolivar Bronze will be the foundry used to cast the bronze elements of this project.
- Bolivar Bronze lead artist David Iles created the Wayne Ferguson Bronze that was installed last September.
- The remaining \$5,000 will be used for signage/plaque elements and installation costs.

# The “assignment” given to the class was:

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PROPOSE THEMES OR APPROACHES TO TAKE WITH THESE SMALL SCULPTURES THROUGH ANIMALS OR OTHER FIGURES TO TELL A STORY ABOUT LEWISVILLE.



WORKS COULD ONLY BE INSTALLED IN OR ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AND ALL SITES SELECTED FOR PIECES WILL HAVE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF ENGINEERING AND CODE BEFORE MOVING ON TO FABRICATION



BRING THESE PROPOSALS TO THE ARTS ADVISORY BOARD FOR SELECTING A THEME TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH



WHICH IS WHAT WILL BE REVEALED TO COUNCIL SHORTLY.



The class visited Lewisville in mid-January and did a history and site tour with James Kunke and Denise Helbing

The class decided to break into several groups to further research Lewisville and create proposals to present to the Arts Advisory Board.

These options were presented to the Arts Advisory Board on February 4.

The Arts Advisory Board was largely excited by all the projects presented and through their discussion asked that elements from several themes be merged together for this project. This revised theme is what will be presented to City Council tonight.

# Next Steps once theme is approved:

Each student in the class will make an individual proposal and maquette consisting of the following:

- full-scale maquettes (in wax or clay or 3d print) that can be cast in bronze by

Bolivar Bronze.

- Identification of proposed site for their sculpture and,
- a supporting narrative

Schedule:

End of March: Student proposals due for exhibition

Early April-End of Semester: Student proposals are exhibited somewhere in Lewisville for review by Arts Advisory Board

Mid-April: Student proposals are ranked/selected; Quote is requested from Bolivar Bronze

for production/installation

May - August: Works are produced by Bolivar Bronze and,

- Staff, in conjunction with UNT contacts, will design plaques and make site installation preparations as needed

Late Summer/Early Fall: Series is installed


# Native Anthropomorphic Animals


The series will use a common native animal as the character of each sculpture “scene” to portray historic moments of the City of Lewisville.


The common animal selected is the **rabbit**. The rabbit was selected due to its prolific populations in Lewisville and its quality as an animal that can take on many different type of humanistic characterizations while still being recognizable as a rabbit.


These “scenes”, 5-6 in number, will be scattered throughout Old Town.


## Some events considered by the class:


 1885: Greater Lewisville Community Theatre building finished construction, being Lewisville's oldest standing structure


 1886: Lewisville Feed Mill opens, the longest continuously operating business in Lewisville, until it close in 2011


 1895: Fire Destroys North Main Street, forcing a group of Businessmen to form the Lewisville Water Company with a well, standpipe, and tower running water to serve Main Street


 1900: First Electrical Line in Lewisville was installed


 1909: First bank robbery of Lewisville was staged at the First National Bank. Robbers used dynamite to open safes, stealing around \$6,500

 1918: Third fire strikes the Northside of Main Street. It starts at the First National Banks and spreads along Main Street from East to West, burning six brick buildings and several wooden structures.

 1927: City Hires first police officer and first Fireman

 1942: Cities first traffic light is installed, at the corner of Main Street and Federal Highway 77 (Mill Street). Signal is operated by an employee of Huffines Motor Company from 8AM-8PM.

 1946: A man robs Lewisville State Bank on Mill Street and flees on foot past Lewisville High School, where he is pursued by members of the Farmers football team. He is captured minutes later, and the stolen money is recovered.

 1962: An episode of the "Route 66" television show is filmed in Lewisville, which was renamed "Kilkenny" for the program. The episode aired in April on CBS.