

The Atwater Bobber Project

Artists:

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Preliminary website for The Atwater Bobber Project:

www.kulzerdesign.com/atwater/



What is The Atwater Bobber Project?

The Atwater Bobber Project is a proposed vision of a permanent Public Art installation in the town of Atwater, Minnesota. Area artists Jenna Tanttala and Gerard Kulzer are interested in designing, sculpting, and casting an artistically rendered bronze bobber sculpture to be installed in the central area of town in Atwater.

The bobber, symbolically representing Atwater, is a staple image that all who live in the community will immediately relate to and understand while at the same time piquing the curiosity and interest of visitors. It is envisioned that this permanent bronze art installation will become a landmark of the city and will be a treasured token of whimsical regard for all who spend time in the town of Atwater.

A permanent public art installation is a great next step in the growth and development in the town of Atwater.

Permanent public art installations truly are a way to show unity in a town. They become recognizable, expected, and precious aspects of a community.

Take for example the famous Mary Tyler Moore statue in Minneapolis. This permanent bronze sculpture is without question a landmark for people who reside or spend a lot of time in this part of town in Minneapolis.

It shows visitors that the city cares about beautifying the landscape and making it a nice place to spend time. Cities that incorporate public art installations show they value the arts and value making the town a welcoming place to be.



What will the bobber sculpture look like?

The bobber will be cast in bronze and into a size of approximately a two foot sphere and will include imagery and wording on it which represents the town of Atwater. Key highlights of the town could be included such as:

1. The dates of the first settlement
2. The name and a relief portrait of the first mayor
3. The imagery of the railroad
4. Imagery of lakes and other recreation activities residents enjoy in Atwater
5. Relief sculpture of the historic hotel and other historically important buildings
6. A tribute to the area schools and perhaps a relief portrait of Miss Monrovia L. Hutchinson, the very first teacher for the town of Atwater.
7. Neighborhood streets
8. A tribute to the rich farming community Atwater boasts.
9. A tribute to the pride Atwater takes in its local small businesses.

This list is by no means meant to limit what could be included. It is important that we as the artists work very closely with city members to design this installation to be tailored to the specific desires of the town of Atwater.

The images will be designed in relief on the bobber, raised up and away from the curved surface. This sculpture will be on a pedestal and will be viewable at approximately eye level. This sculpture will be meant to be viewed "in the round" - the viewer will be able to walk freely around the sculpture and see images in relief from all angles.



How will this project be funded?

This project will be made possible with funding from a \$20,000 SMAHC Legacy Grant upon being awarded to artists Tanttilla and Kulzer. The artists will write, submit, and plan out the requirements needed to receive this funding.

The completed grant application needs to be submitted by May 15, 2012.

If the grant is awarded, the project is allowed to begin after July 1, 2012.

A stipulation of the \$20,000 SMAHC Legacy Grant is that a match of \$5000 be received in the funding of such a large scale project. Tanttilla and Kulzer are proposing that the city of Atwater donates the \$5000 matching funds to the project. The requested \$5000 match from the city is money well spent for several reasons:

1. The city is benefitting immensely because the town is being beautified with sculptures which are meaningful and relevant to Atwater.
2. The city is increasing its potential for attraction. Landmarks such as these proposed public art sculptures draw people to them and pique curiosity of what more Atwater has to offer.
3. Local Public art demonstrates that a city values the arts; important in allowing the community to be known for celebrating the interests of it's population.
4. The \$5000 that Atwater will spend to help the funding requirements of SMAHC's Legacy Grant is small when it is realized that they are actually getting \$20,000 worth of sculpture for the \$5000 that is needed from the city.



Who else is involved?

Tanttila and Kulzer will be working closely with Darwin Monument (Darwin, MN) in the creating of the pedestals that will support the bronze bobbbers and NKC Sculptures (Kimball, MN) in the casting of the bronze sculptures.

This project will involve utilizing the talents at the local businesses in the area, uniting the surrounding communities.

Preliminary work toward this grant is and will be documented at the following website:

www.kulzerdesign.com/atwater/

When grant funds are awarded a website specifically for the project will be created to document the progress and allow public input through a guest book or other interactivity.

Responsibilities of the city of Atwater

1. Atwater must provide a 25% match of the funds in a Legacy Grant. This amounts to \$5000 if we ask for a \$20,000 grant.
2. Zoning and building permits for a permanent public art installation.
3. Location
4. Installation of Pedestal and Bobber
5. Foundations equipped to withstand the weight of a large scale bronze sculpture and cement pedestal.





Some possible items to be sculpted on the bronze bobber.

We envision possibly placing a “neighborhood street” on the sculpture also to pay homage to the small town values Atwater has.

