Dixon Center Atrium Installation Contest Application

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Project Narrative:

The installation I am proposing will comprise of five (5) hanging star shaped photographic sculptures. Each sculpture will span 5' 6" in all directions and together will fill up the open air space of the atrium (figure 1). To help the selection committee visualize this I am including a floor plan of the star placements from a bird's eye view (figure 2) and a photograph of a similar design concept in public art located in Columbus Circle Time Warner Building in New York City (figure 3).

My sculptures have been designed as modular units so they can be easily transported to Harrisburg and quickly assembled on site. The sculptures modular unit consists of twelve (12) triangle points that will be attached using clear plastic threaded screws and inner threaded posts (figure 4) to a central core. The core of each star (which will be fabricated off site) is made up of a series of halved joints in flat plexi-glass pieces. The pieces join together through bisections (figure 5). The cores halved joints are then reinforced with a chemical sealant to strengthen it's structural integrity. This core design provides 12 angles from which the plexi-glass star points extend (figure 6).

On the face of each plexi-glass star point there will be original photographs of Pennsylvania. The images that occupy each star point will be landscapes, cityscapes, and detail photographs taken of Pennsylvania locations. As a whole, 60 photographs will illustrate the wide range of history and beauty this state has to offer (figure 7). The photographs themselves will not be printed on traditional photo paper, but rather on a transparent substrate. The transparent material creates an illusion similar to stained glass (figure 8). The substrate is a commercial grade UV protected self-adhesive material designed for environments with direct sunlight.

The transparency of both the photography and plexi-glass structure allows for an ethereal lightness to the entire installation, and though large in scale it will appear delicate as it floats above the viewers. This transparency also allows the photographs to overlap with each other as the viewer walks around the atrium, strengthening the bond between the viewer and the various depictions of Pennsylvania, while also creating interactivity between the viewer and the artwork.

To demonstrate my concept and construction I have included an image of my stained glass artwork that I completed last semester (figure 9). While this photographic sculpture is not materially the same as my proposal, it is aesthetically and conceptually similar. However, for safety and durability purposes, I have re-designed my star sculpture for the Dixon Center installation using more industrial materials. These alternative materials are lighter, allowing for a larger scale construction without increasing hanging weight. Each star will be just less than 50 lbs. in weight, and the galvanized wire used for suspension has a maximum bearing of 209 lbs. (figure 10). The bisectional plexi components will be cut using a CNC (computer numerical control) router, which allows precision cuts to the plexi-glass without weakening the material.

Artist Statement:

For the last two years I have made several bodies of photographic artwork dealing with landscape and location. I have used my personal relationship to Pennsylvania as a continuous source of inspiration and influence. I consider this project a continuation of my photographic investigation. I believe that the Dixon Center is ideal for my installation because it is the center of the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education. Using my Bethlehem star photographic sculpture, which I completed last semester (figure 9) as a springboard, I am proposing a large-scale installation of several photographic stars. I would like to use the Dixon Center atrium as an opportunity to expand my artwork into other areas of Pennsylvania. In order to do this I am changing my Bethlehem star design and adopting a 'universal star'.

The shape of a star is created by separate points meeting up at it's core, just as Harrisburg and the Dixon Center is the core of Pennsylvania, where people join together from all over the state, this is why my installation is ideal for the center of the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education. The atrium's large skylight makes these sculptures appropriate for the space because it utilizes the atrium's open design and natural light. Throughout the day the direction of light coming through the atrium windows will steadily change with the movement of the sun. As this happens a colorful cascade of light will move across the atrium walls, floor, and passers by below. In the evening the atrium's house lights will illuminate the stars, transforming the atrium into a colorful and vibrant space. The installation will transfigure the Dixon Center institutional atrium into a photographic starry sky of Pennsylvania.

Budget:

item	vendor	cost per unit	total cost
printing material	Wide Format Paper	\$100	\$100
plexi - glass	Canal Plastics	\$100	\$400
cutting and fabrication	Canal Plastics	\$40	\$40
suspension (galvanized) wire and bolts	Home Depot	\$5	\$20
clear posts and screws	Home Depot	\$15	\$15
transportation in personal vehicle	142 miles one round trip at \$0.52 per mile	\$74	\$148
gas	142 miles one round trip. 3.55 per gallon	\$21	\$42
Printing ink	kutztown printing lab	\$170	\$170
		tax 6% (PA)	\$56
		TOTAL:	\$991

Installation Plan:

I would like to request the provided electric lift for three (3) days, though I am planning on the installation only taking two (2) days.

Step 1: The artwork has been designed modularly, so it can be easily transported and quickly assembled on-site into it's final 3Dimensional form. The sculptures are constructed entirely out of transparent materials.

The plexi- glass sheets (which host my photographic images) will be fastened together with clear threaded screws and inner threaded posts (figure 4), making the entire construction lightweight, secure, and durable.

Step 2: I will use the electric lift to install five (5) galvanized wire supports across the 12-foot wide room at ten (10) points on the atrium sidewalls from the third story (figure 2).

Step 3:Each star will then be attached to the primary horizontal galvanized wire using two additional galvanized wire supports in a V-formation, which join together at the core of each star (figure 11). My V-formation hanging design will allow for structural integrity while limiting wall punctures. In addition, this hanging design will permit me to vary the height of each star, creating the illusion of atmospheric depth.

Rose DeSiano Galjanic, who is my faculty advisor, will be on site and assisting, along with two other KU students whom have agreed to assist with installing and uninstalling.

Images:

figure 1- Rendering of installation (left: view of atrium right: detail of atrium), using my already fabricated stained glass Bethlehem star.



figure 2- Bird's eye view of floor plan to scale (dark gray lines represent the horizontal galvanized wire) Horizontal wire bolted into the sidewalls at the third story.



figure 3 – Inspirational design. Public art installation located in Columbus Circle Time Warner Building, NYC.



figure 4- Clear posts and screws listed in supplies list used to fasten the star points to the star cores. Each point will be fastened with three (3) post and screw sets in a triangle formation (figure 6).



figure 5- A layout of specially designed pieces used for fabrication. Four (4) pieces with slits cut out connect using these halved joints making up the core. From the angled edges twelve (12) points (only 4 are shown here) get attached with clear posts and screws.





figure 6- Three-Dimensional plexi model of the star. Built to scale and fabricated from flat plexi pieces in figure 5.

figure 7- Photographs Pennsylvania landscape. These images are for proposal purpose only. They are being used to demonstrate the types of imagery I will be photographing and that will be printed on plexi-glass star points.



figure 8- Detail: Red circles indicate how transparent imagery overlay one another.



figure 9- Full view of completed Bethlehem star from last semester used as a springboard for Dixon Center installation.



figure 10 - Galvanized wire listed in supplies list used to suspend the stars. Five (5) horizontal wires will stretch across the 12-foot wide atrium bolted at ten (10) points on the sidewalls. From each horizontal wire, two (2) wires from each star's core in a V-formation (figure 11) will connect, suspending at varying heights.



figure 11- Side view of the star suspension. The horizontal supports coming in from the side walls is represented in dark gray, and the V-formation supports coming from each star's core and attaching to the straight supports are represented in light gray.

