



"Caras de Waukesha/Faces of Waukesha" seeks to celebrate the Latino heritage of the community through the creation of an interactive sculpture.

Alberto Villalobos, a Mexican visual artist, will create an interactive sculpture that celebrates the Latino communities of Waukesha. Working with local organizations, such as Voces de la Frontera, the artist will create a series of ceramic masks that feature the faces of Latino residents of the city of Waukesha. Through this work, the artist seeks to document and share the stories of 3 generations of Latino immigrant experience. A mask will be created that represents each generation. Villalobos proposes that the work include interviews of the participants to document their family's stories. These stories will become a part of the sculpture via a webpage.

To mount the ceramic masks in to a sculpture, Villalobos is partnering with Waukesha-native Paul Mattek, founder of Design Fugitives, a high-tech architectural installation firm in Milwaukee. Villalobos and Design Fugitives have worked together to design and fabricate a totem-like structure to display the masks. Mounted on a 3'x3'x2' concrete base, the totem would be fabricated out of laser-cut steel panels that are welded together to form a rectangular prism measuring approximately 2'x2'x5' in height. When fully installed, the sculpture would measure approximately 7' in height.

The "Caras de Waukesha/Faces of Waukesha" sculpture project will also involve students at a partner elementary school in Waukesha. Through a series of 3 workshops (September), students will work with Villalobos and an educator from SHARP Literacy to create their own "cara/face" tiles out of clay. In the first workshop, students will learn about the "Caras de Waukesha" sculpture project, discuss Villalobos' ceramic work and then draft ideas for creating their own "cara/face" tile. In the second workshop, students will work with raw clay to build the form of their face tile. In the third workshop, students will glaze and fire their tiles. Villalobos will then install the students face tiles on wooden panels, to be installed on site at the participating school. This installation will be a sort of "sister" installation to the sculpture in Cutler Park.

SHARP Literacy proposes installing the sculpture in Cutler Park, near the library and Les Paul Performance Center. Cutler Park, a centrally located public park in the heart of downtown Waukesha, is easily accessible to the public and specifically to population it seeks to serve. Cutler Park, named for the first white settler to the county, features sculptures and other installations that celebrate the historical contributions of the Potawatomi, Les Paul, Civil and Spanish war heroes. Current installations, including signage, give the park the feeling of walking through an outdoor museum that tells the history of Waukesha. Unfortunately, none of these works celebrate the history or contributions of Latino residents of Waukesha or the region.

We believe a sculpture of this type would give the Latino residents of Waukesha a sense of pride and a feeling of welcome to the community. Because none of the current installations in the park celebrate the history or contributions of Latino residents, we believe Cutler Park would be the ideal place the proposed "Caras de Waukesha" sculpture.

Timeline

- September 2019 is the projected date for completion, installation and unveiling

Design & Dimensions

- Inspired by SHARP Literacy's newest book, "Discover Waukesha". The book was written by Pilar Melero and illustrated by Sarah Gail Luther in partnership with 3rd grade students in Waukesha.
- The "Caras de Waukesha" sculpture was designed by Alberto Villalobos (local artist) and Design Fugitives (high-tech art and architecture firm). Commissioned by SHARP Literacy thanks to funding from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation-Mary Nohl Fund and the Wisconsin Arts Board.
- Fabricated out of concrete, steel rebar supports and CorTen panels. The CorTen (weathering) steel panels will have laser-cut icons that celebrate Waukesha's past and present. Icons will be designed by elementary students from Waukesha. Cut icons shown on the current rendering are merely place holders.
- Ceramic masks, created by Villalobos, celebrate the generations of Waukesha's Latino residents. Masks will be fired to a higher temperature, to prevent damage caused by weather/climate.
- Dimensions are approximately 7'x3'x3'. See the rendering created by Design Fugitives for specific dimensions.

Installation & Unveiling

- Proposed Location: Cutler Park near Library. Away from Effigy Mound.
- Concrete Slab with additional concrete support down to the frost line. See rendering for details on size.
- Lighting: none. Budget does not allow for lighting.
- For installing the sculpture (digging and concrete), SHARP Literacy would like to work with contractors from the Waukesha Parks Dept's DBE List.
- For unveiling the sculpture, SHARP Literacy would like to work with the community organizations such as the Waukesha Library, Voces de la Frontera and La Casa de Esperanza on an unveiling ceremony that involves the community.

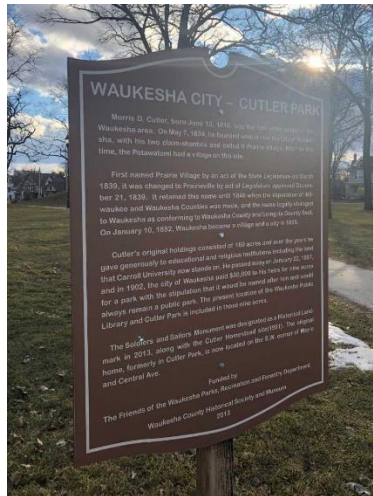
Maintenance & Life Expectancy

- Minimal to no maintenance. The only concern is graffiti, which would be removed by Waukesha Parks Dept with steel wool/wire brush. Parks Dept. indicated that graffiti in Cutler Park is extremely rare.
- Clay masks will be created out of high-fire clay and glaze, meant to withstand both high and low temperatures.
- Life expectancy of the sculpture is a minimum of 25 years.

Photos below to further illustrate the “Caras de Waukesha” sculpture project



Pictured above: Les Paul Performance Center, located near the public library in Cutler Park.



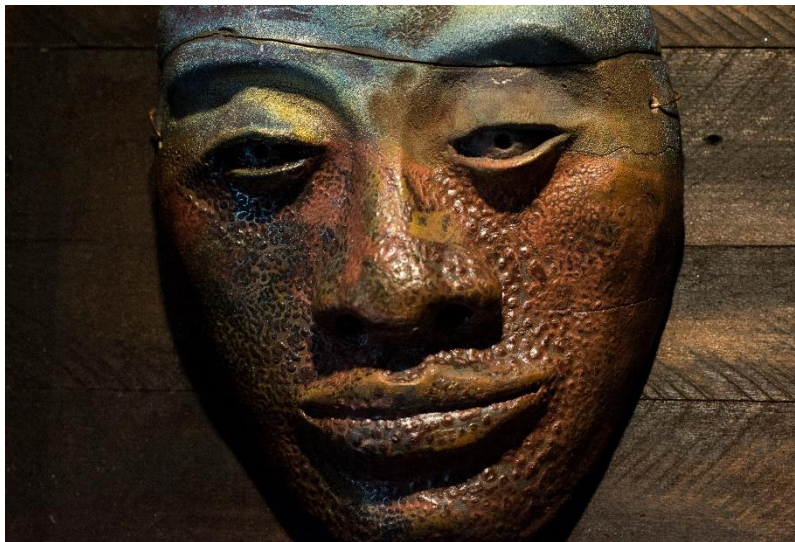
Pictured above: Signage that explains the history of Morris Cutler and Cutler Park.



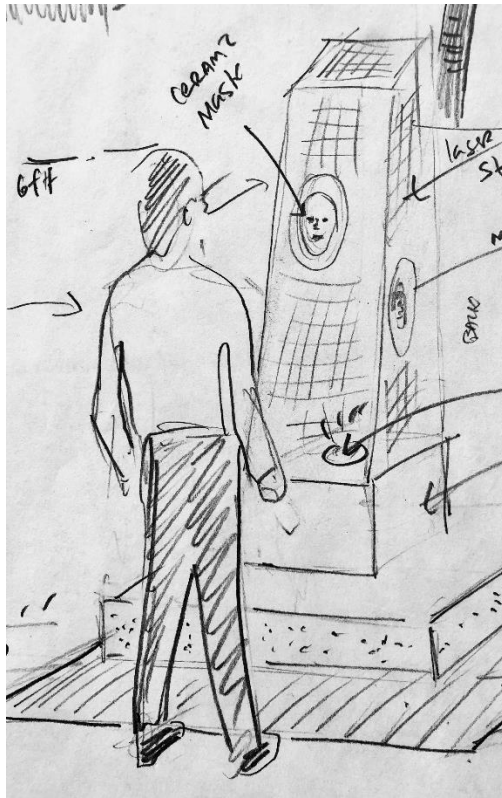
Pictured above: current installations in Cutler Park showcase the history of white settler Morris Cutler and local war veterans.



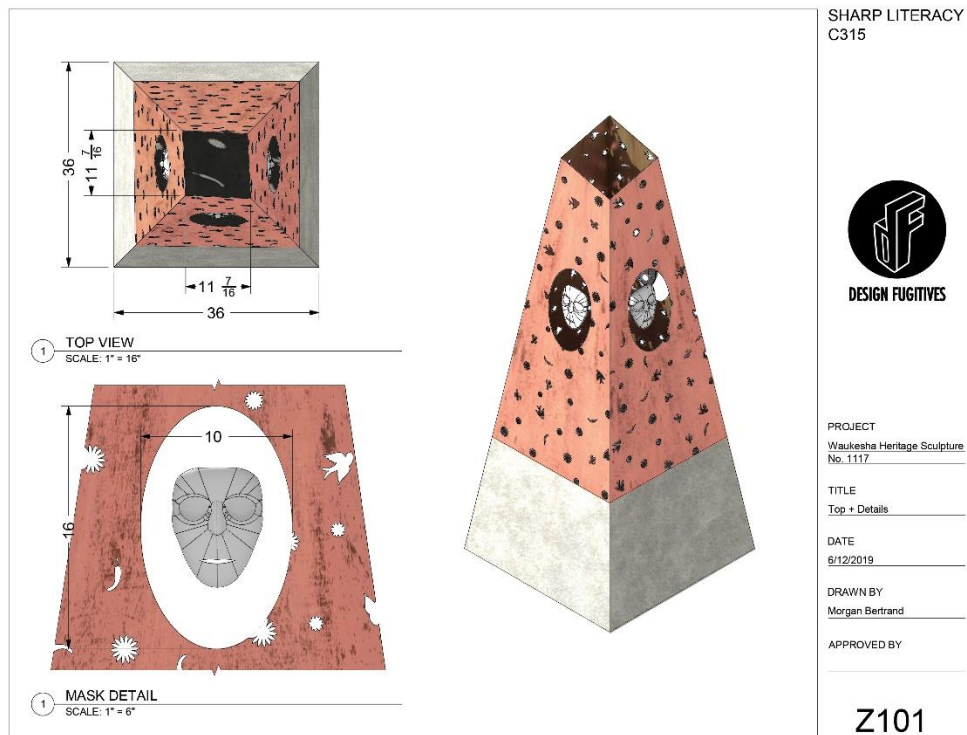
Pictured above: Work by Design Fugitives for the School Sisters of Saint Francis. The above picture illustrates the type of steel proposed for the totem-like structure for the sculpture. The steel becomes aged and weathered over time, which creates a feeling of permanence and history.



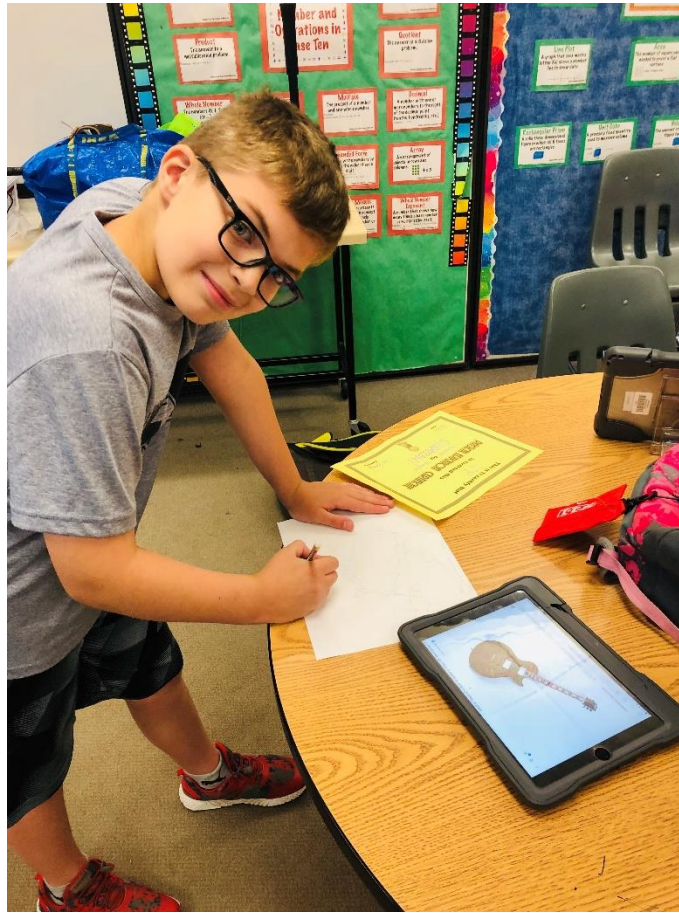
Pictured above: Ceramic work by artist Alberto Villalobos. About his work, Villalobos says "The mask is an important symbol in my work, alluding my Mexican roots. In Mesoamerican cultures, masks have a strong connection with religious celebrations, harvesting and planting cycles and rituals of life and death. Clay becomes a metaphor for life and loss – the fragility of its cracks, its durability after being tested by the fire, a connection to the earth itself."



Pictured above: Initial sketch for "Caras de Waukesha" by artist Alberto Villalobos



Pictured above: Renderings of the "Caras de Waukesha" sculpture by Design Fugitives



Pictured above: Students from the School District of Waukesha's summer school programs contributed ideas for the icons (cut-outs) for the "Caras de Waukesha" sculpture. Ideas included an eagle to represent both the US and Mexico, an electric guitar and a fox to represent Waukesha, and a heart to represent love and family.