



Conrad Schmitt Studios Inc.
Excellence In Artistry Since 1889

WAUKESHA CITY HALL
FRANKLIN BOGGS: BAS RELIEF
MAY 2020

Waukesha City Hall – Franklin Boggs: Bas Relief

RE: Current Conditions, Recommendations & Budgeting:

A concrete, geometric sculpture entitled “Waukesha Wall” by Franklin Boggs is located at the landing of the staircase to the second floor. Boggs, an internationally known muralist, sculptor and artist, was named in 1947 as “one of the best young American painters,” by LIFE magazine.

Current setting conditions: The concrete sculpture is comprised of two primary layers of individually cast concrete panels occupying several distinct planes all mounted to a base concrete block wall.

The most prominent panels (closest to the viewer) vary in size, thickness and subsequent weight and compromise the most aesthetic portion of the art piece. These panels are made of individually cast concrete and have steel anchoring straps cast into the panels themselves. These straps have been secured to the base concrete block wall with screws and plastic anchor sleeves. The straps and anchors are not visible as they have been covered beneath a layer of chipped marble set into mastic directly to the concrete wall. To expose the anchors and straps, the chipped marble will need to be selectively chiseled away. The order in which the panels are removed will also be critical, as some panel straps occur behind adjacent panels, requiring the removal of the adjacent panel to gain full access to the straps.

The next layer consists of cast concrete panels that are faced with marble chip. The installation follows the same method as the first layer with straps cast into the panel and screws holding the panels to the concrete block wall using plastic anchor sleeves.

The base wall has been coated with colored marble chips adhered to the base wall with mastic. This treatment serves as a unifying aesthetic treatment matching the materials used in the next layer of non-representational geometric shapes. The coating also serves to cover the brackets and anchors that hold each of the individual cast concrete panels in place. It will be impossible to remove the entirety of this layer without completely destroying it.

Documentation: Detailed photographs, elevations, drawings, measurements and notes are generated and published in print and saved electronically to serve as a record for the current conditions. This information serves as a basis for formulating a removal, crating, storage and re-installation plan.

It will be important to label each individual section and panel of the sculpture and note their locations on a corresponding elevation. Locations of mounting straps and hardware should also be noted as they are uncovered. The order in which the panels will need to be removed will be determined by the accessibility of the mounting straps and will be documented such that this order can be duplicated in reverse during a potential re-installation campaign.

Removal: Using the labeling system developed during documentation, each individual element will be labeled on the back (non-viewing) side of each panel. Panels will be removed beginning from the top and moving down, and from the perimeters working in towards the center. Panels straps and anchors will be uncovered using a cold-chisel to remove just enough mastic and marble chip to expose each strap and the corresponding screws. Screws will be removed and panels freed from the base surface. If there is any mastic adhering the panels to the base wall at their perimeters, air-shims will be used in

tandem on all sides to gradually lift the panels away. Once all layers have been labeled and removed, panels will be crated.

Crating and Storage: Due to the weight of concrete (150lbs per cubic foot), individual panel weight will make combining panels in crates problematic. We anticipate an average panel weight of 112 lbs., with larger panels nearly double this weight. The overall assembled sculpture likely weighs over 2,000 lbs. If the owner wants to be able to move crates by hand, then each panel will need have its own crate. A forklift could be used to move crating that contains more than one panel but this may give a more limited range of options for storage locations. For individual crates, simple wood frames with ply-wood sides will be sufficient. Panels can be suspended within each crate with vermiculite. Crates will be made to be as light as possible while still providing appropriate protection. Each crate will be labeled to reflect contents. If panel orientation is critical to the packing, a top-side of the crate will be labeled as such.

Re-Installation: Any re-installation of the sculpture should attempt to anticipate any potential for the sculpture to be moved again in the future. Due to the weight of each individual element, it would not be practical to create one large installation.

Reversing the removal procedure will be the best re-installation method with some basic changes to the base layer. The original base layer was a concrete block wall with marble chips embedded in mastic on the surface. We would propose to recreate the base layer using sign-grade plywood as a backing. The plywood would be divided into manageable 4'x4' sections and be laid out on the floor to facilitate layout. The individual panels would be precisely placed on the plywood and the perimeters of and anchors traced to the surface of the plywood. Panels would be removed and then anchor points for the plywood would be placed. The type and number of anchors would need to be reviewed and approved by a structural engineer. Once these locations are marked, they would be masked off and mastic applied to the balance of the panels in this horizontal orientation. Marble chip can be sprinkled over the top of the fresh mastic and allowed to set. Once set the panels can be moved to a vertical orientation to allow loose or un-adhered marble chip to fall away leaving the backing panels ready for installation.

The backing panels would be anchored to the wall in the new location using appropriate anchors as determined by the structural engineer. The cast concrete panels can then be installed onto the marble-chip coated plywood using the original cast-in straps and new anchors. The final step will be to use mastic and marble chip to cover these exposed anchors and straps.

Budgeting:

Removal and Crating: \$ 29,353.00

Re-Installation: \$ 52,635.00

(note this does not include fabrication of base wall or required structural engineering for load calculations:



























