



Johnson Parkway Roundabout Centerpiece Art

Project Description

The City of Poulsbo solicited for an artist to create a site-specific original artwork centerpiece for our new roundabout being constructed on Johnson Parkway/SR 305. This centerpiece will welcome all who enter the Southern gateway to the City.

Project Intent

The centerpiece is to be an artistic expression that welcomes and delights residents and visitors to the City of Poulsbo. The chosen artwork and landscape elements will reflect Poulsbo's eclectic character and community charm and its spectacular location with views of Liberty Bay and the Olympic Mountains.

Arriving at the Desired Art Concept

A Public Art and Landscape Committee (PAL) was created in 2019 for the entire SR305/Johnson Parkway Project to establish themes and elements which portray the character and spirit of Poulsbo and will guide the artistic design throughout the project. The committee included local artists, City residents, engineering consultants, City Council members, and City staff.

Fall of 2020:

- Call to artists to submit proposals for the roundabout centerpiece
- Artwork selection committee named – 3 City Council Members, the City Planning Director, and the Mayor
- Artwork proposals received and evaluated, artists interviewed, artist selected
- Collaboration with the selected artist to arrive at the desired concept

Finalizing the Concept with the Artist

Since early January, the City consulted with the Suquamish Tribe to ensure all voices were heard in the art decision. On February 17, the City Council approved a piece of artwork called "Land of the Maples" designed by artist Elijah Burnett. The artwork will be 14 feet high, made of forged steel, and will be placed in the center of the roundabout.

The artwork will be installed at the completion of the Johnson Parkway – SR305 Roundabout project.

Proposed Design

“Looking Through the Porthole into the Land of the Maples” by Elijah Burnett.

A three-dimensional sculpture from forged steel, measuring approximately 13-14 feet high and 12 feet in diameter. Design elements include a heron, boat, water, and colored glass leaves inserted in steel frames. The heron is completely 3 dimensional, the trees are convex, and the water is concave so that they extend outside of the plane of the frame



The roundabout will also contain a knee-high concrete wall (3' high) that will provide another opportunity for an artistic welcoming message. On February 17, 2021, the City Council passed a motion to invite the Suquamish Tribe to contribute art to a retaining wall next to the roundabout, including a \$25,000 grant to help pay for Coast Salish art to be installed at this location.