

The Myth Makers: Donna Dodson & Andy Moerlein Proposal for Tempo Art

1. Concept Sketches – [Dancing for Joy \(By the Will of the People\)](#) A monumental pair of Great Egrets made of bamboo



2. Project narrative – What is your concept and how does it advance TEMPOart's mission?

During our site visit to the Back Cove Trail and Park, we noticed several bird species lingering in the water and on the shores of the cove that border the inlet to Casco Bay such as Cattle Egret, Great Egret and Double-crested Cormorants. While doing further research, we took great delight in learning more about the festive display of feathers by the Great Egret in the mating dance.

We know many families begin their relationship with Maine by summering there, then they find themselves falling in love with Maine, and eventually moving there and calling it home. Our proposed sculpture will feature two monumental great egrets performing their distinctive mating dance on the shores of the Back Cove. This duet symbolizes the local bird life of the cove and the way people move in and out of and connect to this special place.

3. Artist Statement – Summarize your goals as an artist (or group).

The collaboration between Dodson and Moerlein is born from a mutual love of the wild. Dodson takes inspiration from the mysterious nature of birds that spark her imagination. Moerlein takes inspiration from events in the natural world that leave visual marks and strike a narrative chord in the artist.

Although monumental in scale, their ephemeral bamboo sculptures are temporary in nature. Made from natural materials, they are site specific, and respond to their local audience. Meaning to only last 3-5 years, they appear, fade, and disappear, adding a chapter to the life stories in their communities.

4. Statement of Engagement – How will the work engage the community?

Dancing for Joy (By the Will of the People)

Great Egrets are flamboyant and vivid. Each spring they grow extravagant plumes and leap with abandon to attract and impress a mate. They are remarkable birds that develop adoring relationships, gently sharing all nesting and child care duties.

This work will be a meeting place, a place for children to play in and run through. A glittering silver white and nearly 20 feet tall, it will be a beacon, visible from many views along the Back Cove trail.

Dancing for Joy is designed for all ages. The doorways are a variety of sizes. Which entry suits you? Can you dance your best show off prance through the display of the Dancing Great Egrets?

This installation is dedicated to the freedom to marry who you love. These sculptures celebrate the will of the people to democratically transform society. In 2012 Maine became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage through a popular vote.

5. Means and Methods – Anticipated construction and installation methodology.

We will pre-build off site our two lightweight bamboo sculptures with natural materials, wire ties, repurposed and reused materials. Each sculpture is attached to a wood base made out of pressure treated lumber. Our methods are suitable for all seasons, strong and resilient in all types of weather and will stand up to public curiosity and interaction as designed. We will transport the two sculptures to the site and anchor them into the ground using a combination of earth anchors and gravel ballast that will fill the two wood bases. Once in the park we will augment the tall sculptures with wings that will be punctuated by arched doorways, creating an open but architecturally enclosing space that will invite playful interaction for all ages.

6. Preliminary Budget Estimate

Project Budget Template

Please provide a categorical breakdown of anticipated expenses.

You are welcome to include rationale for any of these expenses in your proposal PDF.

Studio Overhead

Studio rental \$4500

Supplies \$500

Other

Total studio overhead costs: \$5000

Insurance

Total insurance costs:

Engineering Support

Total engineering support costs:

Fabrication Costs

Materials \$2000

Labor

Other

Total fabrication costs: \$2000

Transportation

Materials to fabrication site \$1500

Finished work to installation site \$1500

Other

Total transportation costs: \$3000

Site Preparation

Installation, maintenance, deinstallation costs \$5000

Total Installation, maintenance, deinstallation \$5000

Artist Fees \$10,000

Total Artist Fees \$10,000

Grand Total:\$25,000

7. Resume or CV – For group submission, one per member.

SELECTED PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

2023 "Night Watchwoman:An Ode to the Mill Girls of Lowell's Industrial History," Lowell MA

2023 "Power of Three: For the love of Northern Saw Whet Owls," Patten Park, Salem MA

2022 "Owl Pavilion," American Bamboo Society Workshop, Sebastian FL

2022 "Chim Lac: The Bird of Hope," World Bamboo Workshop, Ben Cat, Vietnam

2022 "Owl Hollow," Discovery Museum, Acton MA

2022 "Avian Avatars," The Dawes Arboretum, Newark, OH

2021 "Night and Day: A Magic Pair of Magpies," Alaska Botanical Garden, Anchorage AK

2021 "Caterpillar Crawl and Butterfly Fairy Frolic," Wild Hideaways: Designed for Adventure, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, West Boylston, MA

2021 "The Phoenix Festival," A New View Camden, Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge, Camden NJ

2021 "Wings of Wonder: Towering Works of Nature," Atlanta Botanical Garden, GA

2019 "Love Long Last," Summit Public Art, Summit, NJ

2019 "The Wanderer," Private commission, Ward Parkway & Huntington Rd, Kansas City, MO

2018 "Persistence" and "Perseverance," Coral Springs Museum of Art, Broward County FL

2018 "The Beacon," Harborwalk Artists in Residence, South Boston & Charlestown, MA

2018 "Seeking Higher Ground," Larz Anderson Park, Brookline, MA

ART REVIEWS & PUBLICATIONS:

NewTV Innovation Showcase, May 18, 2023 by Jay Sugarman, [THE MYTH MAKERS: THE NIGHT WATCHWOMAN](#).

Lowell Sun, April 28, 2023 by Melanie Gilbert, [The Myth Makers' owl sculpture soars in Lowell](#)

[Basketry+](#), National Basketry Organization, Spring 2023 by Noelle Foye, "Artist Profile: Donna Dodson & Andy Moerlein- The Myth Makers," p.8-13.

[Public Garden Magazine](#), v38 iss1 2023, by Jenna Chirdon, "Garden Exhibit: Avian Avatars," p26-27.

Spectrum News, June 10, 2022 by Brionna Rivers, [The Avian Avatars, 20 ft Bird Sculptures, on Display at The Dawes Arboretum](#).

The Columbus Dispatch, June 5, 2022 by Nancy Gilson, [Impressive king-sized bird sculptures a feather in artistic duo's caps](#). Accompanying this review is a [slide show](#) of 16 installation images by the photographer, Joshua Bickel.

ABC live interview on Sunday May 29, 2022 for this special [Dawes Arboretum 'Myth Makers' Preview](#) by Latricia Polk.

Streets Department Podcast, October 6, 2021 by Conrad Benner, "[Sidebar: A New View – Camden, Art As A Public Resource \(Episode 3\)](#)."

Cherry Bomb! The Podcast, September 8, 2021 by Matt McKee, "[Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein, The Myth Makers Making Avatars](#)."

Anchorage Daily News, July 11, 2021, by Emily Mesner, "[Giant Magpie Sculptures rise along trail at Alaska Botanical Garden](#)."

Alaska's News Source TV, June 30, 2021, [Unique sculptures built at Alaska Botanical Garden](#).

Tower Hill's next outdoor exhibit opens to public ([MetroWest Daily News](#))

Outdoor exhibits, gardens, and caterpillars ([Boston Globe](#))

Tower Hill Botanic Garden opens 'Wild Hideaways: Designed for Adventure' ([Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#))

Trip on a Tankful: Tower Hill Botanic Garden's 'Wild Hideaways: Designed for Adventure' outdoor exhibit. ([Spectrum 1 TV](#))

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, May 28, 2021, [Behind the Scenes of Wild Hideaways at Tower Hill Botanic Garden](#).

Press coverage of The Phoenix Festival, A New View Camden:

6abc - <https://6abc.com/community-events/new-art-installation-raises-awareness-about-illegal-dumping-incamden-nj/10537456/>

Burlington County Times

- <https://www.burlingtoncountytimes.com/videos/news/2021/04/21/preview-newview-camden-illegal-dumping-art-installations-bloomberg-south-jersey/7321193002/>

Broad Street Review - <https://www.broadstreetreview.com/wwn/painting-a-new-view-in-camden-onearth-day>

Chestnut Post - <https://www.thechestnutpost.com/news/free-art-exhibit-gives-you-a-new-view-of-camdenNBC10/>

City Pulse - <https://www.thecitypulse.com/post/for-earth-day-environmental-art-exhibit-unveiled>

Courier Post Online - <https://www.courierpostonline.com/picture-gallery/news/2021/04/20/new-viewcamden/7307849002/>

Courier Post Online

- <https://www.courierpostonline.com/videos/news/2021/04/21/preview-new-viewcamden-illegal-dumping-art-installations-bloomberg-south-jersey/7321193002/>

Courier Post Online - <https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/life/2021/04/21/new-view-preview-looklarge-art-installations-camden-bloomberg-illegal-dumping-public-art/7258882002/>

Dosage Magazine - <https://www.dosagemagazine.com/a-new-view-camden-a-public-art-exhibition/>

Fox29 - <https://www.fox29.com/video/924771>

Go Green Podcast - <https://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/130700/earth-day-in-camden-nj-public-art-atillegal-dump-sites>

8. Relevant Prior Work Examples (5 images Max and/or 2 video links Max)

Video links:

A. The Night Watchwoman by the Myth Makers,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUyNm95m8do&t=3s>

B. Innovation Showcase: The Myth Makers and the Night Watchwoman,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6UIYM7dbYU>



A. The Night Watchwoman, 60 ft wx20 fthx15fl, bamboo, mixed media, 2023



B. "The Power of Three: For the Love of Northern Saw Whet Owls, 20ftx15ftwx30ftl bamboo, mixed media, 2023



C. Towering, 30 ft tall, Bamboo, wire ties and mixed media, 2022.



D. The Great Owl, 25 ft tall, Bamboo, wire ties and mixed media, 2022.



E. Bertie's Peacock, 25 ft tall, Bamboo, wire ties and mixed media, 2021.

9. Two Professional References: email/phone number – Someone who can speak to your ability to execute a project on time, within budget, and in accordance with TEMPOart's mission.

A. Peter Crewe, Director
Cultural Affairs & Special Events
375 Merrimack Street, Room 7
City Hall | Lowell, MA 01852
tel: 978.674.1481
www.lowellma.gov

B. Mike Monterusso, Executive Director
Alaska Botanical Garden
4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507
tel: (907) 770-3692
garden@alaskabg.org

10. Project timeline – Estimated timeline for development, fabrication, installation, and de-installation. Please include information about the proposed duration of the installation (no longer than 2 years).

April 2024- May 2024 fabrication

June 2024- transportation to the site and installation

June 2024-June 2026 proposed duration

11. Maintenance Plan – How will needed maintenance work be completed?

The sculpture, as designed, will not require maintenance or upkeep other than normal mowing and occasional trash pick up around the sculptures.