

Floresta Oval-about Public Art Project Port St. Lucie, FL

I propose to create four larger-than-life dolphin sculptures, to be placed in groupings of two at either end of the new Floresta Oval-about. For thousands of years, dolphins have swum and frolicked in the waters off the Florida coast. They have endeared themselves to the human imagination with their playful antics and seemingly endless good humor, and they were even chosen as the Floresta Elementary School's mascot. They are revered for their joyful spirit, graceful curves, and powerful movements.

Description

I plan to emulate, on a grand scale, the strong bonds of friendship and joyful sense of community the dolphin is known for. The two groupings of dolphins are intended to:

- have a dramatic visual impact on the surrounding area
- be simple, yet elegant in nature
- create and foster a focal point at both ends of the oval-about
- inspire the imagination and appeal to a broad spectrum of viewers
- relate to man's natural affiliation with nature
- provide an awe-inspiring experience and become a landmark for Floresta Drive

The four sculptures will profile the dolphin in varying postures, capturing different moments in their out-of-water leaps. While there will be two dolphins at each end of the oval-about, they are intended to be viewed as two parts of the same scene. They will all be swimming in the same direction as the traffic flow, as if swimming along with the traffic.

At the north facing end of the oval-about, near SE Howe, the leading dolphin will have already crested its jump and will be diving steeply back towards the water. The second dolphin, trailing the first, will be seen almost suspended in mid air as its rounded body just reaches its highest point and prepares to curve back toward the water. At the south facing end of the oval-about, near SE Bywood, the first dolphin will have crested its jump and will be seen just starting its dive back towards the water. The second dolphin will be seen just starting its jump, lunging out of the water and straight up into the sky. Both pairs will be staggered apart slightly from side to side to appear as dolphins often do, playfully jumping about as if chasing each other.

The woven and welded dolphin sculptures will be roughly 12 feet long each, though they will vary slightly due to their various postures. The two dolphins at the north facing end of the oval-about will span approximately 24 feet in total length, while the dolphins at the south facing end will span approximately 21 feet total. The tallest dolphin in each grouping will be approximately 12 feet tall at its highest point while the lower dolphin will be approximately 8 feet tall at its highest point. The rods constructing the dolphins will be woven and overlapped, creating a

surface that presents a sense of volume and mass, while the intricate web of spaces between the woven rods allow the sculptures to feel light and open. It is the fluidity of lines created by the hand-bent rods that give the metal pieces a strikingly soft and organic feel.

Lighting

Each dolphin will be illuminated at night with up-lighting from two light fixtures set on a timer. The lights will be nestled among the plantings and aimed upwards so as not to affect the driver's line of sight. The strength of the light and its warmth will be determined in consultations with a lighting designer.

Materials

The dolphins will be constructed of 304 stainless steel rods of varying diameters, including 7/16, 3/8, 5/16 and 1/4 inch. The individual rods are shaped, bent, woven and welded together, one piece at a time. There are eventually hundreds of pieces welded together to create a frame-like structure that has enormous strength. Each dolphin will weigh approximately 350 pounds when completed, excluding the bases.

Each of the sculptures will be securely mounted to a stainless steel tube that has been rolled to create a graceful curving arch. The tubing will be 4 inches in diameter with ¼ inch thick walls (schedule 40). The tubing will be securely welded to a stainless steel base mounting plate using gussets. The base plates will be bolted to a poured concrete foundation. The dolphins are permanently attached to the steel bases—they are each one unit when shipped. The foundation can be either a large diameter reinforced sonotube type or a shallow, broad based type foundation. The exact foundation style will be determined in coordination with a licensed Florida structural engineer and representatives of the city.

Finish

The stainless steel sculptures and their bases will be primed and then painted white with a Sherwin Williams exterior top coat. I chose this white finish because it will allow the pieces to stand out against the darker trees in the back ground and really stand out at night when lit.

Maintenance

The sculpture's finish should remain maintenance free for many years to come. The finish is very robust to the elements, and can be easily touched up by hand with a brush should the surface be scratched or damaged. The stainless steel material the pieces are fabricated with precludes any serious rusting under the paint and the woven and welded framework of the sculptures is practically indestructible under normal conditions.

Timeline

January 2024.....Present proposal
Feb – March 2024.....Structural Engineering and coordination with City representatives
April -September 2024.....Fabricate sculptures and bases
October 2024.....Apply finish to sculptures
October 2024.....Foundations installed
November 1, 2024.....Ship sculptures
November 1, 2024.....Install sculptures
November 1, 2024.....Install lighting

Budget

Materials A-Z	22,500
Studio costs	7,000
Insurance	1,500
Travel	3,000
Shipping	6,000
Foundations	12,000
Installation	5,000
Electrical Installation	3,000
Lighting Components	2,500
Engineer Fee	2,500
Artist Fee	25,000
Fabrication	110,000
Total	\$200,000

Location of Artwork, two dolphins at either end of Oval-About



**North Facing Oval-About, near SE Howe
24 feet long overall, tallest dolphin 12 feet tall, lower dolphin 8 feet tall.**



South facing Oval-About, near SE Bywood

21 feet long overall, tallest dolphin 12 feet tall, lower dolphin 8 feet tall.



Night View of South Facing Oval-About, near SE Bywood



Night view with Floresta Elementary School in background

