

## **A DESCRIPTION OF THE HERITAGE SCULPTURE**

The purpose of the rings is celebrate our community having twice hosted a Winter Olympic Games. One ring is leaning on the other symbolizing that the 1980 Games were inspired/supported to a degree by the 1980 Games. The video images are a bit crude showing rings thicker than they would be, see attached photos of the maquette. The exterior would be stainless steel polished to a mirror finish like the Cloud Gate (Bean) sculpture in Chicago (attached) enabling it to reflect our ever changing natural environment. (Note how light the Cloud Gate sculpture feels). The interior finish would have a gold tint as Olympians aspiration is winning the gold medal. The edges would contain the colors of the Olympic rings. The sculpture would be 38' high, so that people standing near or under them would have a feeling of awe, as people feel a sense of awe when an athlete (i.e. Eric Heiden) or team (USA Men's Hockey) accomplishes a remarkable achievement.

The Clarkson students reviewed three sites, #1 Main Street, across from the Post Office, and partway up Olympic Drive. #1 Main Street was filled with problems (tight space, road salt contamination, and lots of utility and water infrastructure buried in the ground). Across from the Post office had similar issues though not so extensive. They felt the Olympic Drive site best as it provided ample space around the art work, resulted in the easiest location for maintenance, and public safety. Another advantage as many visitors confined to Main Street are not fully aware of our amazing environment. At the location of the sculpture they can see both lakes and Whiteface (site of the Alpine events) as well as the Sentinel and High Peaks ranges, the Ski Jumps, Hoevenberg sliding tracks, the Olympic Oval, Horseshow Stadium area, and the Olympic Center – all the venues from one locale.

Coming up to the sculpture, there will be displays that highlight the athletes that participated in the Games, a brief story of both Games, and the possibility of including the names of all those we have sent to the Olympic from Charlie Jewtraw to now and into the future.

Another purpose of the sculpture is to draw attention to the reality that Lake Placid supports the arts as well as athletics, that we have great cultural assets, have produced and launched the careers of many talented people in all the arts. I hope it will stimulate a desire for people to want to see not only the public art we have, but will encourage the creation of more public art going forward. I also think it will demonstrate that the arts of this community do, in of themselves, attract visitors to our region, a message that will benefit all our cultural agencies.

The goal is to have the sculpture installed before the opening of the University Games, which like the Olympics, requires a strong arts & humanities component. No question, raising funds during COVID is a challenge, but so was putting on the our first Games during the Great Depression. First step is get community support, then funding for the engineering (\$9,000), and then send those plans to firms that specialize in fabricating public art to get their bids (one is located in Glens Falls by the way), and compare the bids, select one, finalize the permits and agreements, and then raise the money, fabricate the sculpture, and install it. A lot to accomplish by the University Games, which is why we are seeking your input, and I ask for your support.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Naj Wycoff

- BFA from the Pratt Institute
- MA in Sculpture from Hunter College
- Exhibited widely in New York City, and was for many years presented by the Zolla Lieberman Gallery of Chicago.
- Has art work in many collections around the nation. His 1986 120' tall kinetic sculpture *The Prairie Ship Liberty* was featured on the three segments of CBS Sunday Morning and displays in such locations as under the Arch in St. Louis, on the Mall in DC adjacent to the Washington Monument, and adjacent to Battery Park City as an official part of the Parade of Tall Ships for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State of Liberty.
- Lives in Keene, NY