

Progress report on public art for East Wisconsin Avenue

Submitted to the Department of Public Works, Milwaukee

Janet Zweig, September 21, 2010

The project is on schedule with an install date in 2011.
As written in my contract, the target date for installation is October 2011.
I anticipate an earlier installation date.

Timeline of events to date:

May 2007- April 2009: work with art committee and public art consultant Regina Flanagan to develop a proposal, to augment and contribute to Ms. Flanagan's Public Art and Design Study for the City of Milwaukee, and consult with fabricators for project. Several trips to Milwaukee. Meetings in NY with Solari to engineer mechanisms.

April 14, 2009 Notice to Proceed from City of Milwaukee.

Week of April 20, 2009: funds sent to Solari, Udine, Italy to begin manufacture of mechanical parts.

April, May, June: continued consultation with Solari to make exact specifications for electronics design.

May, June, July: kiosk body design in studio using 3-D modeling software, consultation with AFX in Milwaukee about fabrication of kiosk body, heating and cooling, electronics protection, attachments, etc.

August: built full-scale model of kiosk in studio, shipped to AFX in Milwaukee.

July: wrote idea contest rules, posted to many online resources in Milwaukee, widely disseminated.

August through mid September: received 275 contest entries, communicated with each Milwaukeean individually. Made chart of all entries, formed new bank account to pay winning entries, worked with lawyer to draft contract for use for each winning entry, sent two contracts and SASE to each winning entrant, paid each winning entrant and then returned one contract to each.

July 28, trip to Milwaukee: meetings with Adam Brown of AFX and Bob Bryson.

August 6 -11 trip to Milwaukee: individual meetings with Alderman Murphy, Pegi Taylor Christianson of IN:SITE, Melissa Musante of MARN, Jill Sebastian of MIAD, Franklyn Berry, engineer, Debra Loewen of Wildspace Dance, Jonathan West, theater director, John Schneider of Marquette U. , Rebecca Holderness of U. of Milwaukee theater and dance.

August 24-26: trip to Milwaukee: three group meetings to collect information

Group 1: John Gurda, Milwaukee historian, Pegi Taylor Christianson of IN:SITE, Paul Kosidowski, journalist.

Group 2: Jonathan West, theater director, Kurt Hartwig, playwright, Paula Scuozzi, opera director, Alice Austin, playwright

Group 3: John Schneider, writer, youth theater director, Rebecca Holderness, U. of Milwaukee dance and theater, Debra Loewen, Wildspace dance.

All meeting attendants were paid for their time.

October: assembled interesting Milwaukee stories sent to me during the ideas contest as a separate document and posted them to a website as a side project. Asked each writer for permission to post. Contacted contestants to view link to Milwaukee stories page.

October: transcribed all recorded conversations from the summer meetings, sent transcripts to Milwaukeeans who will continue to help develop the plays built out of the winning entrants.

October 15-16: trip to Milwaukee to meet with John Schneider, Rebecca Holderness, Debra Loewen to develop plays. Met with Adam Brown and Bob Bryson to assemble full-scale model on a lamp pole on East Wisconsin Avenue to troubleshoot and develop installation plans.

November 24-25: trip to Milwaukee. Meetings with U. of Milwaukee dance and theater students to improvise various parts of plays to further development. Meetings with John Schneider, Rebecca Holderness, Debra Loewen. Additional meetings with Alice Austin, playwright, Michael Neville, playwright.

2010

January 29-30, 2010: trip to Milwaukee, meetings with Adam Brown of AFX, meeting with John Schneider, Rebecca Holderness, Debra Loewen.

February 22: delivery to Milwaukee of first sample parts from Solari, customs broker hired.

February- April: Franklyn Berry, engineer, works on troubleshooting electronic parts.

May 11-12 trip to Milwaukee, meetings with Franklyn Berry and Adam Brown of AFX, meeting with John Schneider, Rebecca Holderness, Debra Loewen.

January through July: continued consultation with Solari about finalizing improvements of electronic parts.

July 1 wire transfer remaining payment to Solari.

July 12: delivery of all Solari parts to AFX in Milwaukee, customs payments.

July- September: AFX builds prototype kiosk, assembles all electronics, puts sample kiosk outside for heat and cold testing. 50% payment to AFX Milwaukee.

July to September- continued developing plays.

Anticipated next steps:

Casting calls for actors in Milwaukee

Filming plays in Milwaukee using Milwaukee performers

Breaking down films into 1800 individual frames for printing, converting images into print ready form.

Testing of printing technique on plastic flaps.

Printing of first 1800 images by AFX in Milwaukee.

Building all 5 kiosks by AFX.

Assembling all electronics, images, testing.

Working with DPW on electrical installation plan.

Installation on lamp poles by AFX.

Anticipated total payments to Milwaukeeans: approx. \$105,000.