Date: February 27, 2012
To: Steve Albers and members of the Board of Trustees
From: Mary Getchell, Marketing & Community Relations Director
Subject: Art Proposed for Fife Pierce County Library

For the past several months I’ve been working with the City of Fife on their proposal for art for Fife Pierce County Library. Laurel Potter, the City’s Communications Director, has been my conduit to the City’s newly formed Arts Commission. In fall 2011 the Arts Commission conducted its first call to artists. In all artists submitted 24 entries and the commission selected five to purchase. The five selected pieces will be displayed in locations throughout the city, with the Fife Library proposed to be one of the five sites. I consulted with Lorie Erickson and Sally Porter Smith to determine the medium of art and location of art that would work best for Fife Library. We determined a sculpture placed outside of the library in the landscaping would be best.

After reviewing three recommendations from the arts commission, with the review of the Fife Arts Commission we propose Pierce County Library System’s Board of Trustees approve Whispering Bird by Marion-Lea Jamieson. Ms. Jamieson graduated with honors in 3D design and fabrication from the Vancouver School of Art. Since 1998 she has worked as a sculpture. She creates durable artworks for the public realm commissioned by local governments. Her concrete public art commissions are on display in Zhengzhou, China; Surrey, British Columbia; and Victoria, BC. Steel sculpture is the medium for Whispering Bird, the piece proposed for Fife Library. Her steel sculptures appear in Kelowna, BC; Amneville-les-thermes, France; and Bremerton, Washington. Ms. Jamieson has earned an impressive array of awards, grants, and scholarships.

Whispering Bird is a steel sculpture depicting a fox with a bird on its back. The bird, with a human face, appears to be whispering to the fox, with human legs, feet, and hands. Ms. Jamieson said the original idea for the sculpture came from a very small 4,000 year-old ceramic figure she saw in the Louvre. The steel sculpture, with sealed rust patina, measures 16 inches high x 20 inches wide x 12 inches deep. The City would pay for full installation of the sculpture on a sturdy pedestal, with a plaque. I will work with staff to secure the best location in the landscaping.

The Fife Arts Commission is interested in rotating displays. I let them know we may have an interest for biennial rotations.
Marion-Lea Jamieson

Fife Public Arts Commission Call For Artists

Application

Name: Marion-Lea Jamieson
18 Years or Older: Y


Phone: 604-739-8531 E-mail: mjamieson@shaw.ca

Art Work Title #2: Whispering Bird Medium: steel with sealed rust patina

Stipend/Grant Amount Request: $500

Display: Outdoor

Requested Display Location: no preference

I agree to allow my work of art to be resold to support the ongoing display and creation of the public art collection.

Summary of Proposed Art:
The proposed artwork, Whispering Bird, is a steel sculpture depicting a fox with a bird on its back. The bird, who has a human face, appears to be whispering something to the fox who has human legs, feet and hands. The original idea for the sculpture came from a very small 4000 year-old ceramic figure seen in the Louvre. This proposed artwork is part of a series of sculptural works called Back to Nature. The concept behind the series has to do with the significance of archetypal images of part human/part animal figures. This animal/human fusion is a characteristic of myths in every culture in the world creating a recognizable common thread among cultural traditions.

Brief background of my experience as an artist:
I graduated with honours in 3D design & fabrication from the Vancouver School of Art then worked in dance and illustration before returning to sculpture in 1998. I work through drawings and paintings to develop visual ideas then simplify them to capture their essence in 3D. My focus is on creating durable artworks for the public realm commissioned by local governments. I have been working in wood, concrete and steel fabrication and am currently focusing on concrete. My concrete public art commissions include a piece purchased by the City of Zhengzhou, China in 2006; a large concrete work for the City of Surrey, BC in 2007; and a smaller concrete sculpture for Victoria BC in 2010. Public art commissions in steel include a
16.5’ (5m) high steel & resin sculpture for Kelowna, BC in 2002; a steel sculpture commissioned by the City of Amneville-les-thermes, France in 2007; and a steel piece for the City of Bremerton WA in 2009.

**Awards/Grants/Scholarships**

2 Canada Council Short Term Grants  
Local Initiatives Project Grant  
Vancouver School of Art Graduate Honours Award  
Vancouver School of Art, Fred Amess Memorial Award  
2 Vancouver School of Art, Helen Pitt Awards  
2 BC Opportunities for Youth Grants  
2 Vancouver School of Art First Class Scholarships

See email application for images of work to be considered and past work.
WHISPERING BIRD
STEEL WITH SEALED RUST PATINA
41 CM HIGH X 50 CM WIDE X 30 CM DEEP