

Proposal to increase public outdoor art spaces at GVR facilities

The ultimate goal would be to have many public outdoor art spaces at various GVR facilities, created by GVR members. GVR Club participation would be encouraged, as well as artists who are GVR members but may not belong to clubs.

This year the focus would be on a Totem/Sculpture park at the West Center in the courtyard area between Lapidary and Woodshop. This location is ideal because of the member traffic and locked gates in the evening. Artists will feel more comfortable with this area being locked at night, thus deterring theft of valuable, time consuming art pieces.

I, Ann Hirz had an initial meeting with Clay Studio Education committee Monday November 9, 2015 to discuss the possibility of such a park. Clay Studio is driven by committees, so the process may involve several committees before reaching approval from the Clay Studio board of directors. At the November board meeting approval was given to proceed with efforts to create a sculpture park. Clay studio will let me hold workshops and solicit volunteers for a sculpture park at West Center. GVR management support is crucial to Clay Studio support. Monetary needs, Maintenance, Insurance and deterring theft will all need to be taken into consideration.

The initial concept is to place a narrow gravel area on the perimeter of the courtyard with various heights of rebar upon which the totems of clay may be displayed. The rebar may be pounded directly into the ground or be secured beneath ground level in concrete buckets. Pedestals may also be needed, depending on the artwork to be displayed. Any suggestions of anti-theft measures would be appreciated. One idea is to have a locking mechanism on the top of each rebar piece, so that the individual totem pieces cannot be readily removed.

The totem sculpture park would rotate exhibits, particularly during the high season when more artists will be available to display their work. The park might have themes such as desert southwest, flowers, seasons, abstract etc., or the sculpture park may showcase individual artists. Signage will be needed on a permanent basis "sculpture park sponsored by GVR member artists" and on a display basis describing the theme or recognizing the artist.

All GVR assistance would be appreciated, in providing maintenance support for initial installation, monetarily to provide gravel, rebar and pedestals, keeping the park weed free, and lighting if that should be determined beneficial. GVR insurance would be needed for liability purposes. Artists would donate all artwork for a determined period of time. The Clay studio, or individual artists would provide the art and both Clay studio volunteers and a maintenance employee from GVR would be needed for each Art show installation.

The outdoor public art spaces will increase club participation, and enhance the GVR experience in general. GVR public presence and desirability will increase. Outdoor public art spaces within GVR may be advertised, increasing GVR awareness, or providing a promotional/selling tool. Outdoor public art spaces will be a benefit to the greater community, as has been seen with Median green and Highway public art installations. GVR can be a leader in this respect.

Ultimately, various clubs may wish to consider public art spaces. Santa Rita Artists club may have a mural. Ceramic or Lapidary a GVR center entrance exhibit, etc.

Upon GVR agreement, I will proceed with workshops to create clay art and procuring individual artist works for exhibits in the sculpture park. I would like to approach the Santa Rita art league for support next and will need dedicated space for mural art.

Kindly let me know how best to proceed. I sincerely hope this proposal is met with enthusiastic support. It would be beautiful to see art increase all over Green Valley beginning with GVR. Thank you for your time.

Ann Hirz

ahirz@cox.net

520 495-5405