

**Megan Stieritz**

**Proposal for Newport’s Southgate School Project: Virinda Doddy- Forever in Bloom**

I am proposing a public sculpture for the Southgate School location part of the Newport public art project titled "Virinda Doddy: Forever in Bloom". I was inspired by the story of Newport resident and former student at the Southgate School, Virinda Doddy, who told the story of the discrimination she experienced as a young child when the Newport schools were desegregated, and how she went on to earn three degrees, two being Masters. I was inspired by her story and felt it was important to memorialize a local individual who has worked hard to overcome the inequalities of the past and who continues to be a guiding light for the future.

The piece consists of a hand-sculpted portrait bust of Virinda, depicted smiling triumphantly, supported by a pedestal sculpted to look like her three degrees. Crowning her head will be ceramic flowers, specifically laurels and irises, with irises symbolizing wisdom, valor, and power and laurels symbolizing success and glory, further emphasizing Virinda's triumph over her oppressors.

**Materials and Dimensions:**

Fired ceramic clay with metal reinforcement

WxH: approx. 2.5 ft x 6 ft

**Possible Locations:**

Due to the non-freeze/thaw durable nature of ceramic, I propose that this piece be installed somewhere inside Newport's Southgate School, due to the importance of the piece to the location and to ensure longevity. However, if it is determined that there is a better indoor location for this piece, I am not opposed to it being in a more suitable location.

**Estimated Schedule:**

May 20<sup>th</sup>- August 16<sup>th</sup>

**Estimated Budget:**

**Materials:** \$690

**Clay:**.....\$80

**Raw materials:** .....\$100

**Glaze:**.....\$310

**Other Materials/Studio Fees:** \$200

**Labor:** \$18/hr x 240 hours: \$4,320

**Total:** \$5,010

Taking in account any unforeseen costs that may come up during the process, I estimate that this project will cost around **\$5,762**.

**Artist Statement:**

As an artist I like to create work that explores aspects of the universe that I find mysterious and fascinating. My current focus is an exploration into how humanity and plant-life intersect biologically, as well as how humans have fabricated cultural significance for plant-life. By investigating these connections, I aim to create commentary on complicated aspects of the human experience such as emotions, states of mind, mental illness, etc.

**Artist Bio:**

Megan Stieritz is a Cincinnati /Northern Kentucky-based visual artist. She was born into a military family in Tucson, Arizona and grew up traveling around the United States. She studied art throughout her academic career and will be graduating in May of 2019 from Northern Kentucky University with a BFA in Spatial Arts (Ceramic and Sculpture).

Megan mainly works in clay, creating sculptures and functional pieces, but she also loves working with fiber as well as 2-dimensionally in printmaking. Having grown up being exposed to different landscapes and environments, Megan developed a deep love of and curiosity in nature, specifically flowers and plants, which can be seen in her work.

6 ft



2.5 ft