Northern Kentucky University
Public Art Proposal
April 2019

“One Step Before Flight”

Mary Aldridge
aldridgem2@nku.edu | (502) 682-8441
Mary Aldridge  
4501 Lebanon Road, Bagdad, KY, 40003  
(502) 682-8441  
aldridgem2@nku.edu

**Education**

2020  Bachelor of Fine Arts in Spatial Arts, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY (expected graduation: December 2020)  GPA 3.8/4.0  
2020  Minor in Computer Science, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY (expected graduation: December 2020)  GPA 3/8/4.0  
2015  Studied under Jennifer Zingg

**Exhibitions**

2019  NKU Student Exhibition, SOTA Gallery, Highland Heights, KY  
2017  University Open Exhibit, ArtsPlace Gallery, Lexington, KY  
2015  Congressional Art Contest, Lexington Art Center, Lexington, KY  
2015  Kentucky Governor’s School for the Arts Exhibition, Centre College, Danville, KY  
2014  Congressional Art Contest, Lexington Art Center, Lexington, KY

**Recognitions and Awards**

2006-2012  Gifted and Talented Program Member for Visual Arts  
2015  Governor’s School for the Arts Alumni  
2016-preset  Governor’s School for the Arts Scholarship  
2016-preset  Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship  
2016  National Tournament Scholarship, National Archery in the Schools Program

**Collections**

Private Collection, Frankfort, KY  
Private Collection, Bagdad, KY
Letter of Intent

To the Newport Public Art Committee:

I am proposing an installation titled “One Step Before Flight”. This installation is made up of a figure sculpted to resemble a silhouette. The figure is walking forward, 5 feet tall, designed after an elementary school-aged child. In the figure’s hand is a lunch box, and as it’s lifted in front of them the sculpture extends to form abstract birds taking flight. This piece illustrates the step forward the South Gate school represents—a step towards freedom through education. A step before taking flight.

In the past, I have worked on finding a method for expressing rebirth—that is, taking something that is either damaging or has negative connotations and creating something beautiful out of that. A real-world example would be plant life emerging from the decay of an animal. In the context of this region, it would be the Southgate School in its entirety—building a place for learning and hope in a place that crumbles under the weight of its own hate.

This project creates the perfect opportunity for expressing this idea, which is something that many of my peers seem to agree with. A great number of amazing things have happened because of the school—it raised amazing individuals, it strengthened a community, and it gave hope to the African American community and other minorities south of the Ohio River. To not express this feat by honoring the people behind it and promoting the continued education of the past would be a disservice to the community.

Sculptures that can start a conversation about history are a perfect means of accomplishing this. By instilling a curiosity in people for the past, we promote the growth of our society despite the horrible things that have, are, and will happen in the past, present, and future.
## Budget

### Materials and Fabrication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.018” Stainless Steel Sheet Metal</td>
<td>900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.25” Steel Round Bar</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.25” Plywood</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasma Cutter Torch Consumables</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Steel MIG wire</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Artist Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist Fee</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Design, Materials, and Artist Fee Total

| Total                                         | 2,479.00|

To consider the unexpected I would make the proposed budget for this installation $3,229.00.