

CENTRE IN THE PARK
PUBLIC ART

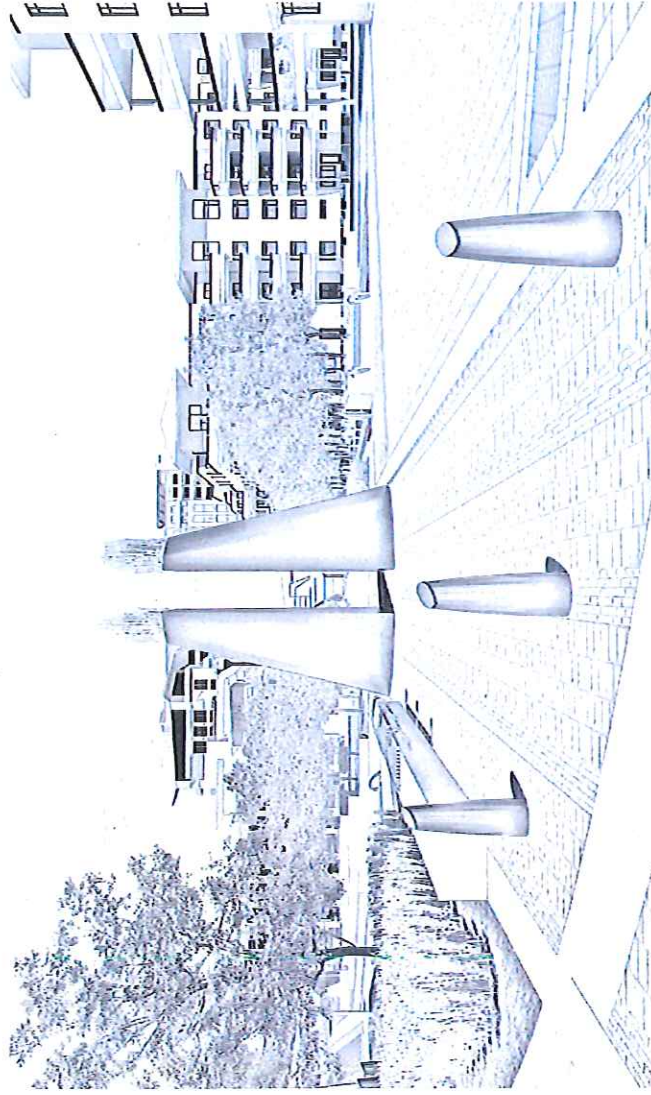
ART AND LANDSCAPE

Artist Team: Walter Jule, Catherine Burgess and Royden Mills
Landscape Architects: ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.
January 13, 2010

CENTRE IN THE PARK PUBLIC ART

The Centre in the Park public art program is an integral component of the public open space urban design. ISL Engineering and Land Services is leading a world class artist team in the development of three significant public art pieces that will further strengthen Centre in the Park as a unique precinct within Strathcona County.

The artist team is comprised of:



City of Red Deer Alberta in 2005.

All three artists have worked with ISL Engineering and Land Services in the past. The goal of our team is to integrate Art, landscape, and urban design to create truly special places. Our approach with Centre in the Park has been no different. Each of the three areas will receive a unique art component. However, collectively they relate and strengthen each other, while celebrating the story of Centre in the Park.

Catherine Burgess RCA Sculptor, Edmonton

Catherine Burgess is an Edmonton artist who has been working and exhibiting her sculpture for over thirty years. She graduated from the University of Alberta Department of Fine Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1975. She has maintained a sculpture studio in Edmonton ever since, mounted over 25 solo exhibitions, and shown in over 60 group exhibitions in Canada, the US and England. She has completed 4 large-scale public sculpture commissions, two of which are in downtown Edmonton: *The Big Rock*, 1995 and *Return*, 2001. Her work is represented in over 25 public collections across Canada.

Walter Jule Printmaker, Edmonton

As a renowned print artist, poster and book designer, Walter Jule has exhibited internationally since the mid 1960's, winning numerous awards both in Canada and abroad. His work can be found in over 40 major collections. Jule has taught and lectured widely at: Tokyo National University of Fine Arts, Montana State University, the Otis - Parsons Institute, The University of Brasilia and the University of Washington. Editor and designer of the Print Voice International Journal he has also curated a number of major exhibitions including a survey of Canadian printmaking for the Museum of the Contemporary Art in Osaka, Japan. Since 1970 Walter Jule was a Professor at the University of Alberta (Department of Art and Design) and is currently retired.

Royden Mills Sculptor, Edmonton

Royden Mills is a sculptor who served for several years as the Coordinator of 32 sections of Art & Design Fundamentals, and teaches Sculpture for the Department of Art & Design at the University of Alberta. Mills studied architecture at NAIT before completing a Diploma in Art & Design from Red Deer College, and a BFA and MFA (1990) from The University of Alberta. Mills had a studio and solo exhibition in Japan where he lived for two years. He has large scale sculptures in many national and international collections including: The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the State University of New York, Odette Sculpture Park in Windsor Ontario, the Franconia Sculpture Park in Minnesota, Sculpture Site Gallery San Francisco, and Arlington Heights Chicago. He won the Centennial Art Commission for the

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Program

One of the original design principles for Centre in the Park was the inclusion of art. The County buildings, private buildings, and open space would all be showcases for art.

The first phase of the Centre in the Park Public Art program is comprised of three displays within the open space and an art display and gallery in the new Community Centre.

ISL Engineering and Land Services and our artist team are responsible for the three open space "pieces".

These three pieces include:

- A. Prairie Walk natural art and celebration of the prairie landscape.
 - B. Volunteer Plaza sculpture
 - C. Community Centre plaza screens.
- (See key plan)

The designs are the result of intense collaboration aimed at producing an entirely unique art and landscape interface where visitors can connect to the world in a deep, compelling way by encountering a series of related visual experiences. The pieces are individually distinct, but related directly to the surroundings; they have been placed and reinforce the story each space is telling.

All three pieces are currently under design. The intent is to have all three pieces completed and installed prior to the opening on November 1, 2010.

The following pages illustrate and describe from the artist's perspective the design thoughts and status of each component. A preliminary cost estimate and schedule will follow in a few weeks.

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A. **Prairie Walk:**

The vision for *Prairie Walk* stems from the ideology of contemporary art practice which repudiates [isolated] objecthood and fixed reference in favour of art that is open to many meanings and experiences. Our landscape driven overview presents a transmutable environment in which art occurs.

Themes: the idea of *Prairie Walk* evokes feelings related to nature, time, place and space, journey and discovery, exploration, solitude, weather, memory and the overarching question of humanities' relationship with the natural world.

Opportunities and Constraints: The site as designed presents a dramatic and imaginatively conceived walkway with planting, lighting, seating, and water courses. The undulation of the Prairie Walk flows travel along the length of the walk and encourages investigation of intersections and entrance/exit points. Buildings on both sides of the walk encourage a linear visual orientation.

Proposal: to expand and amplify the aesthetic experience of *Prairie Walk* by:

1. Creation of several groupings of stones in harmony with the planting and lighting along the length of the southern edge. Individually selected stones, shaped, cut, polished and set [planted] will form seating areas, stopping points, and zones for contemplation. Polished stainless steel plates will cap some horizontal cuts to reflect movement of clouds.

2. **Integration of sound.** Recordings of sounds taken from the natural prairie landscape will be fed through directional speakers strategically and invisibly positioned with the stone groups (Item 1.). Low in volume and audible only at close range, the sounds will be programmed on random repeat, combining in infinite sequences and scheduled to turn off at night. Visitors will be surprised by familiar yet unexpected sounds of Redwing Blackhawks at sunrise, dry catcalls chattering in the wind, the buzz of insects, hummingbirds or crickets, the call of a distant loon or rumble of an approaching storm. Summer and winter sounds will be playfully interwoven. The combination of natural and synthetic forms, texture, light, and sound will awaken individual and shared memories and help re-calibrate the senses in biological time.

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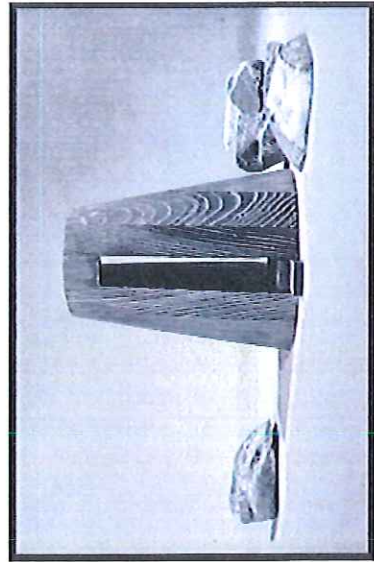
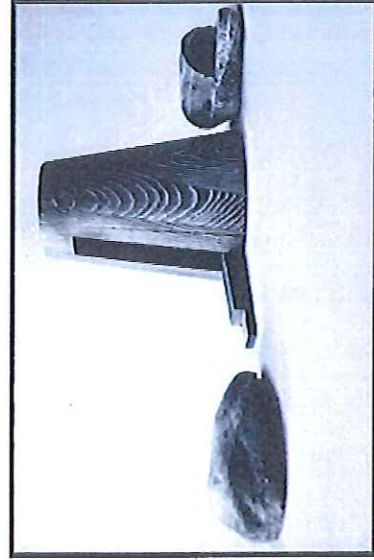
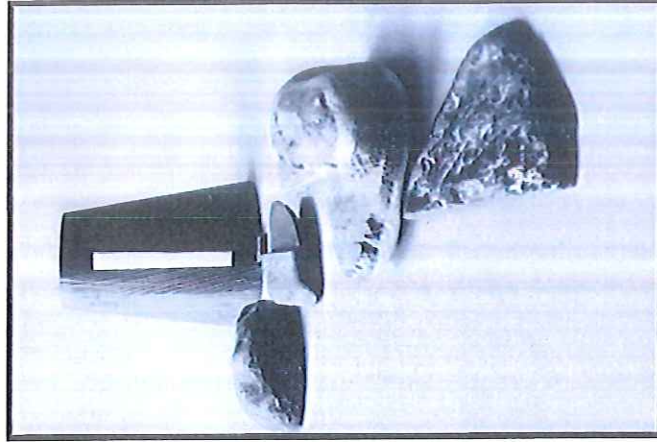
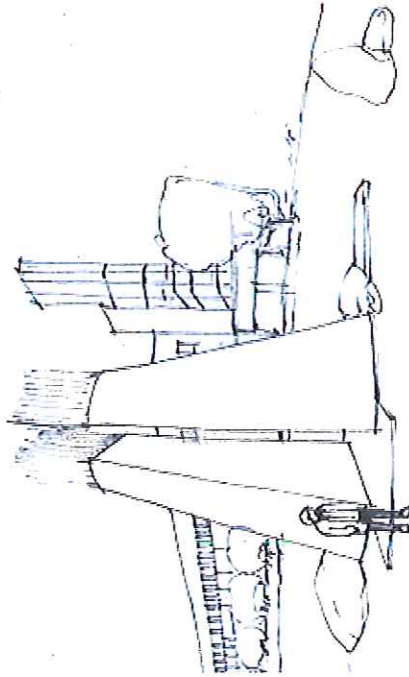
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B. Volunteer Plaza Sculpture

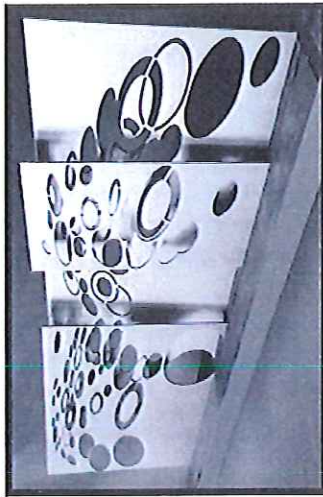
This site at the top of the Prairie Walk and aligned with the main hall of the Community Centre and County Hall, is both a point of departure and arrival and requires an emphatic statement. Scale, mass and aspects of interactivity will be combined to announce its importance within the broad ensemble of forms.

Proposal: A large truncated conical volume over 4 meters high. Curved steel plates suggesting a historical building site, directional marker, or portal will support a raised plateau of natural prairie grass. An opening in the sculpture will allow physical passage through the form and provide a dramatic experience of compression and release. The interior sculpture will be illuminated by natural light entering through a prism in the "ceiling" and sounds will be hidden inside the walls, whispering to visitors as they enter and depart to hire ISL and the artist team on future projects. Special recognition of volunteers will be included in the sculpture.

The images are maquettes, detail and refinement of the sculpture will follow.



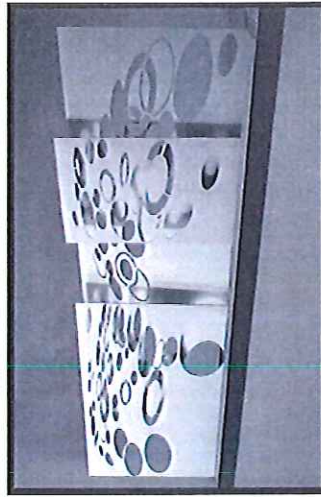
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C. Community Centre Screens

The screens will be positioned in a large paved plaza located on the west side, between the new Community Centre and the existing County Hall. The screens will identify, shade and protect a large patio space which will be used for seating, meeting, reading, coffee, lunch breaks, and socializing. Formally and structurally, the screens will extend the axle and radius dynamic initiated by the curved facade of the council chambers.

Proposal: A series of overlapping and sliding stainless steel screens presenting an organic pattern of "negative" cut-out shapes reminiscent of small prairie ponds overlapping and drifting toward a vast horizon. The openings in the screens will create complex patterns of light, shadow and reflection, animating the patio and the plaza offering a complimentary "softening" influence and counterpoint to the crystalline elegance of the building facade.



Summary

The art program establishes a foundation for future public art. It is unique to Centre in the Park and Strathcona County and reinforces the storey of Centre in the Park.

