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Sculptures give Lakeside office-retail site a breezy feel

Officials hoping to make development more people-friendly

06/13/2003

By KEVIN KRAUSE / The Dallas Morning News

A future office-retail development doesn't have any businesses yet, but it just got some eye- and wind-catching features.

Eleven metal wind sculptures have been installed on the Lakeside DFW campus as part of a landscaping theme meant to attract pedestrians.

But only 10 are still twirling in the wind on their circular perches. Police are investigating the theft of one sculpture, which was discovered June 3.

Utah artist Lyman Whitaker was commissioned to create the sculptures, 10 of which are made of copper.

The sculptures, installed May 20, are 12 to 28 feet tall, and rotate at different rates with the slightest breeze.

The Flower Mound development has the largest collection of Mr. Whitaker's work in Texas, said Alan G. Stewart, managing partner of the development.

"We researched a wide variety of artists and art over two years to symbolize Lakeside DFW in a public way," Mr. Stewart said in a statement. "We chose Lyman Whitaker's wind sculptures for their timeless design, dynamic movement and calming environmental nature."

Mr. Stewart said the sculptures are a good addition to the 161-acre planned mixed-use development that will overlook the north shore of Grapevine Lake, with shops, offices, restaurants, a hotel and conference center.

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His father, Peter Stewart, said he first saw Mr. Lyman's wind sculptures in Arizona, while his son saw them in New Mexico.

"We thought it was something unusual and beautiful and suited to the Texas climate," Peter Stewart said. "They reflect the sun and the weather. They go fast and slow, and you're conscious of the wind moving them."

Mr. Whitaker and his wife will be in Flower Mound this summer for the official unveiling.

The artist works with various materials but has become known for his kinetic wind sculptures. Among his works is a giant sundial at the South Pole.

Five of the copper helixes are located on the east side of the intersection of International Parkway and Lakeside Parkway in the Lakeside Business District. The sixth was stolen, along with materials for a fountain.

Four more are positioned on either side of Lakeside Parkway between two roundabouts. The largest sculpture, the 28-foot stainless steel GyroMax, sits atop the southern roundabout. A crane was needed to hoist it in place.

"In general, they're creating an area out there that's very pedestrian friendly," said town spokesman Kevin Lahner. "When it's complete, people will be able to move freely. There will be gathering places, connected with walkways."

Mr. Lahner said the campus's design is consistent with the town's philosophy of smart development.

"We pursue economic development but also take great strides to protect the environment," he said. "They're very picturesque. They have a calming effect and really accent the landscape."

E-mail at kkrause@dallasnews.com

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