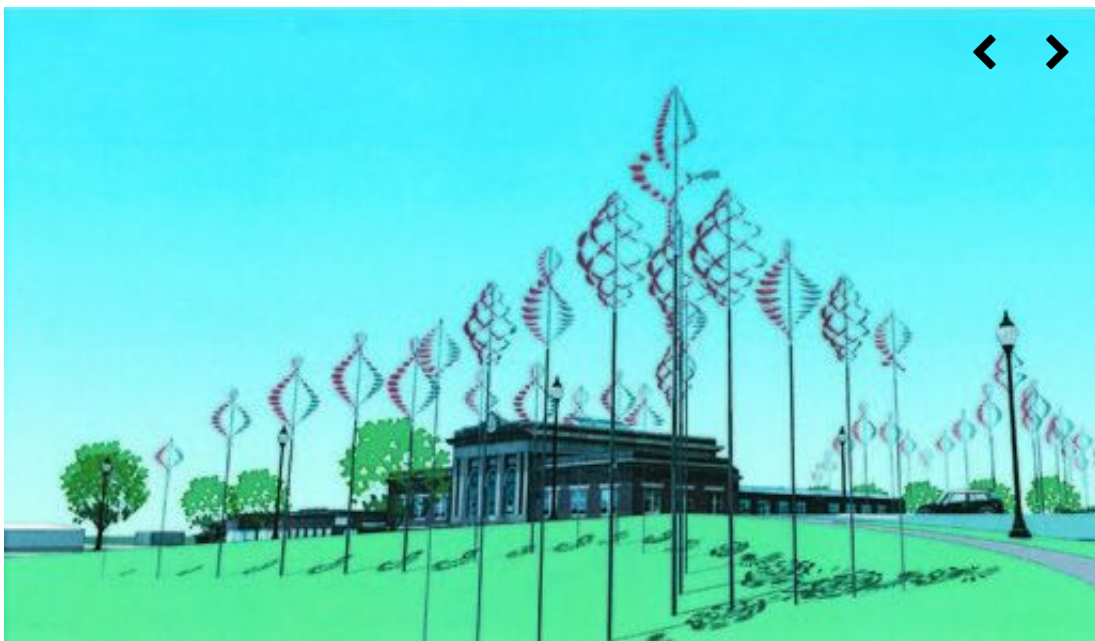


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## Panel recommends spinning sculpture for new Lititz Pike bridge

BERNARD HARRIS Staff Writer Dec 10, 2013



This rendering shows the 42 kinetic wind sculptures by artist Lyman Whitaker that will be installed this month near

With its convergence of trains, cars and pedestrians, North Duke Street and McGovern Avenue is a hub of movement.

And, to complement the new Lititz Pike bridge opening next year, plans call for a series of spinning wind sculptures to greet travelers.

An appointed committee on Monday selected Lyman Whitaker's kinetic wind sculpture over two other finalists for the \$200,000 art project.



"I like that it does move and because it moves, it's alive," said Tracy Beyl, Lancaster city's public art manager.

Whitaker's proposal calls for 42 individual wind sculptures to be erected at North Duke and McGovern Avenue.

About half of the sculptures would be on a grassy space north of McGovern Avenue, at the south base of the newly constructed bridge. The remainder would be across the avenue.

The sculptures will range in height from 14 to 34 feet. They will have different sized and weighted blades to allow them to spin at different speeds.

Proponents of Whitaker's sculpture said it will provide a fun, whimsical and welcoming gateway into the city.

Detractors noted that Whitaker, a Utah-based artist, has installed variations of the same sculpture at different sites across the country and internationally.

Whitaker was narrowly selected over the proposal of Suikang Zhao, a Chinese native now living in New York.

Five committee members voted for Whitaker; three for Zhao and two members did not vote.

Only one member voted for a blue glass star proposed by Maryland artist Judy Moore.

The committee vote differed from a public opinion poll on the LancasterArts Facebook page.

There, Moore's star received the most votes, with 39. Whitaker was second in that poll, with 26. Zhao received 15 votes.

Supporters of Zhao noted his plan to have three steel sculptures at the base of the bridge that would be cut with the words and languages of people in Lancaster.

To get those words and phrases, Zhao planned to meet with people in Lancaster's schools, senior centers and even the youth detention center.

The result would be an artwork unique to Lancaster, said Debbie Stuart, an architect and committee member.

Ken Hammel, another architect and committee member, unsuccessfully recommended the committee consider the work of both artists.

Hammel called for Zhao's sculpture be selected for the bridge site. And, he suggested, Whitaker's wind sculptures could be incorporated at sites in downtown Lancaster.

The committee selection of Whitaker's proposal will be presented to the city's Public Art Advisory Board next month, said Beyl. The board is expected to ratify the committee decision.

The next hurdle will be the presentation to the state Transportation Department, noted Charlotte Katzenmoyer, city Public Works director.

The sculpture would be erected on PennDOT property and must be reviewed by department engineers.

"I don't see how this is more distracting than digital billboards," Katzenmoyer said of the spinning sculpture distracting motorists.

A more important obstacle may be funding for the art project.

Beyl said the city was recently notified that it was not selected for a National Endowment for the Arts grant that would have funded half the cost of the project.

She was encouraged to apply for a second NEA grant in February.

The city is also seeking a \$100,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Lancaster.

The club would do so as part of a celebration of its centennial year in 2015. Club members also are considering two other projects for the grant, said Bob McClenathan, who is slated to be club president in 2015.

If funding is received, the artwork would be installed after the completion of the new bridge in May.



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