LOCKE STREET MARKER PUBLIC ART

STAGE 2 SHORTLISTED PROPOSAL

Title: **BEARING SHARING**

Artist: C. Wells

Artist Concept Statement

BEARING SHARING

In contemporary North America a common element which seems to define all cities, is a desired relationship to a larger whole. We structure our community identities by quadrants, by urban/rural, by ring roads and limits; by Regions, Townships and by names and acronyms which suggest greater expansive territories beyond the one. Epicentre or suburb, every ‘place’ seems to relate itself as part of a whole. **This is also the essence of mapping.** The numbers and letters that map our ways and means point to point centre our movement. They also seem to form the mementos of our experiences. The forming words, names, number sequences we have are associative symbols – a street’s name or number an obvious association.

Cartographic coordinates pinpointing a place are nothing short of our terra equivalent to the celestial stars.

Conversely, communities also work on purporting a sense of self, originality, uniqueness; from its way finders, to its landmarks, to its publicly digested thoroughfares, hubs, and its commerce and community identities. Cities and its citizenry pursue a sense of comfort by identifying the ‘here’ within the ‘there.’ This comfort is an emotional construct.
There is no place like home.

BEARING SHARING is a proposed sculpture that will seek to address these two relationships within the City of Hamilton, the Kirkendall neighbourhood and Locke Street. **Specifically the corner of Locke & Jackson will become a connecting compass to ideas of both ‘place’ and ‘space’. It will not only be a cartographic design – plural and democratized by its non-verbiage; but equally important, an emotional conduit, emoting a sense of place and community.** Our common habitual use of - ‘the 411’, ‘the 905’, ‘the east end’, ‘the north end’, ‘the west end’...and our ever present duality of ’the mountain’ and ‘the downtown’ will give way instead to an emotional funnel projecting a larger ‘here’ and ‘there’.

Using the specific latitude and longitude coordinates of this exact corner of Locke & Jackson; **BEARING SHARING is a proposed two-part sculpture, using the numerical coordinates, N43˚1529 and W79˚535 (latitude and longitude respectively).** Forming the visual structure of a sculpture that will function as both way finder and rest station for the general public; the latitude or horizontal designation coordinates will realize as a bench respite surface, while the vertical coordinate running ‘top down’ as a visual tower or scion.

Constructed in **stainless steel,** BEARING SHARING will function as a way finder, easily seen from a distance at its proposed height. Harmonious with the other urban street signifiers, the sculpture is proposed to be a tethering anchor to the rest of the streetscape with its ‘x y’ axis feature. To become a signature symbol for Locke Street by its global numerical coordinates, is to hope to connect and emote larger meanings of geo-placement and an earth-connected home. **To integrate contemporary art into the residential and commercial scape, beautifying the existing corner and enlivening as a meeting point is to engage the imagination through an exploration of home, place and space.**