

## Language of Love Sculpture Artist Statement - October 2020

The Language of Love sculpture is meant to visually represent the inclusive and multicultural nature of Harrisonburg and the surrounding area. By virtue of the wide variety of cultural heritages, ethnicities, and countries of origin present, our city has a unique culture that should be celebrated and cultivated. I hope that this sculpture will help contribute to that cultivation.

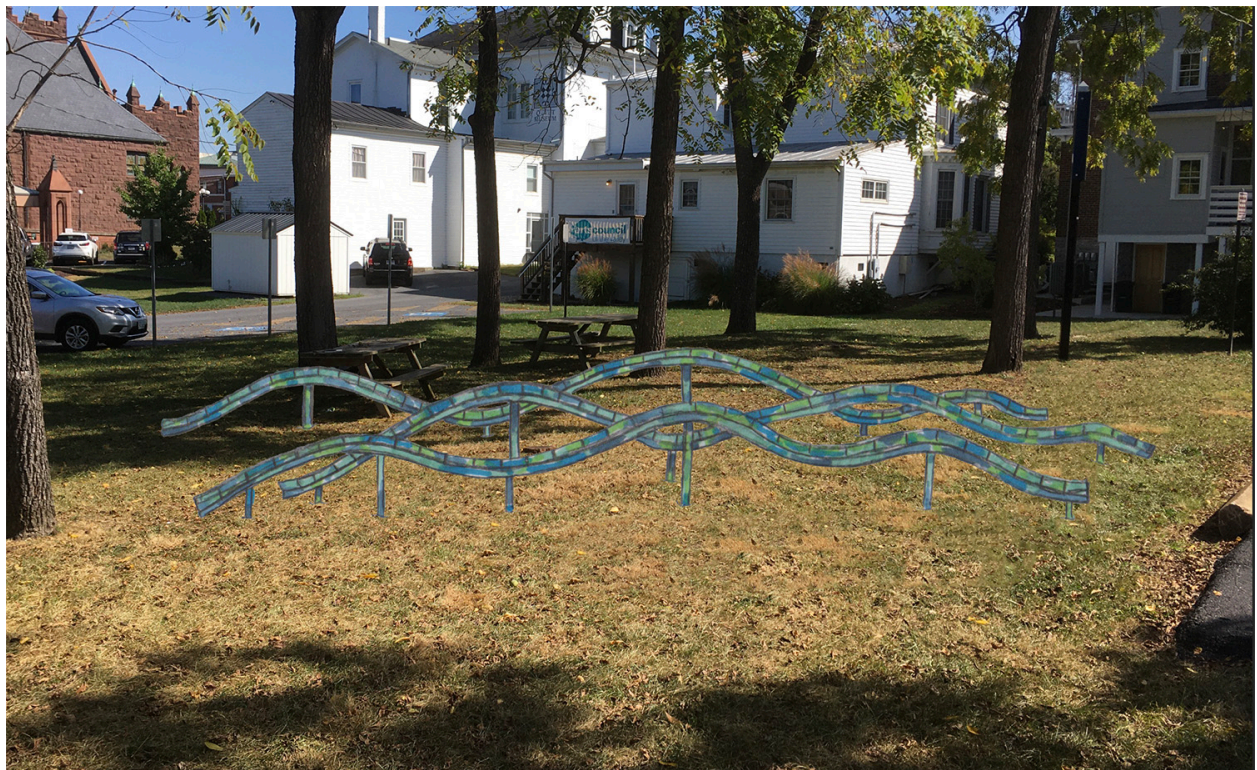
The sculpture itself will be a series of 3 structures offset from each other in a row, located in the grassy area behind the Arts Council building in downtown Harrisonburg. Each structure will consist of a wooden platform elevated on steel posts and crossbeams and is approximately 25 feet long. The top of each platform will rise and fall along an organic line, mimicking the silhouette of surrounding mountains, or flowing water.

The shapes are meant to represent the physical geography of our area, as well as the movement of shared language and experiences between people. Language is not static. It is a medium that is used and exchanged and experienced. It serves practical functions, but it also allows for more ethereal experiences, much like music.

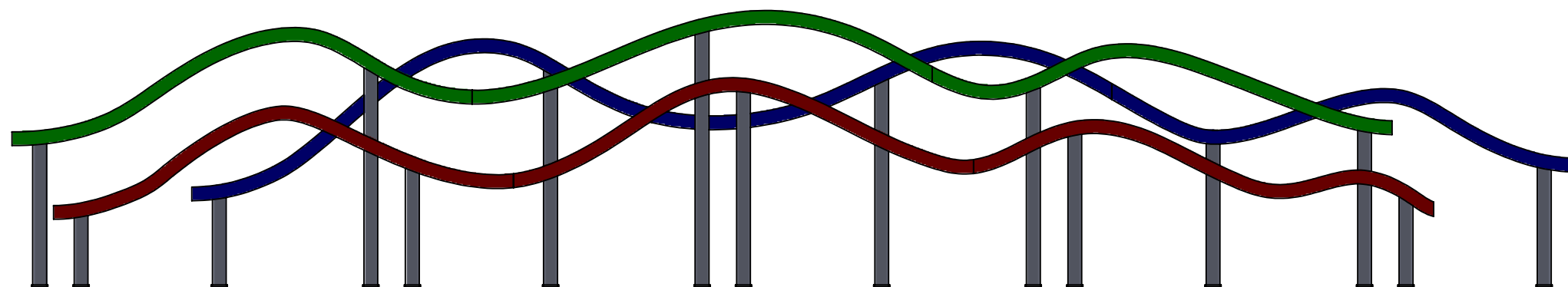
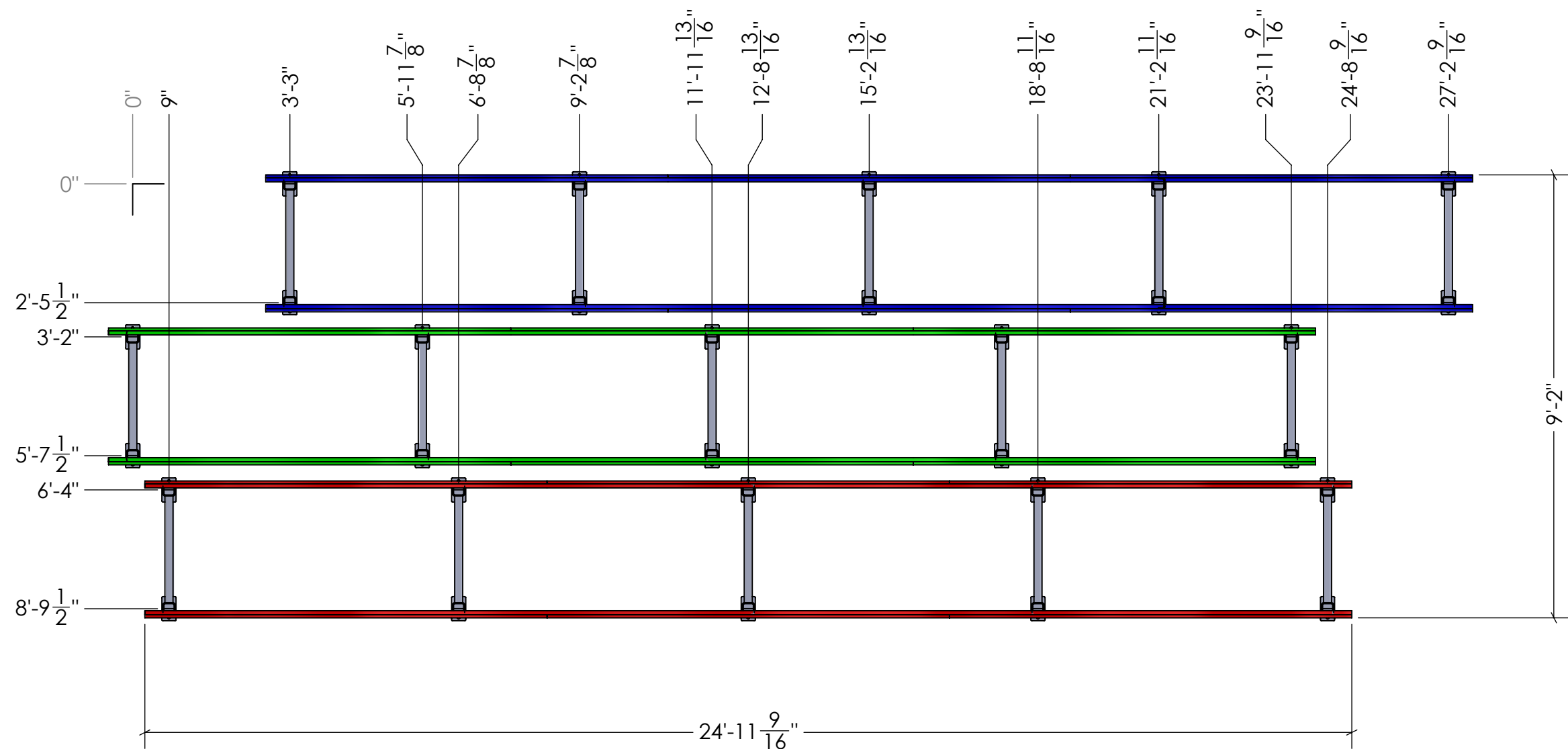
The structures will be painted in a palette of blue tones, to reinforce the natural themes. The colors will be applied through a series of stencils, by members of the community during the Celebrate Local Arts event in Spring 2021. The shapes and images for the stencils will be chosen through conversations with students at local schools and area residents, and will be representative of many cultures within the population of the city.

It is my hope that by viewing the sculpture and engaging with it, that people will be reminded of the rich heritage of our local culture, and also be inspired to continue to welcome and draw in new people, experiences, and ideas.

-Jeff Guinn







3/8x3-1/2x6 BASE  
 PLATES WITH (2) 1/2"  
 ANCHORS EACH; TYP

