

Language of Love Sculpture (“Waves of Love”) Artist Statement - October 2019

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. 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 colors, to reinforce the natural themes. The blue colors will be applied through a series of stencils, by members of the community during the Celebrate Local Arts event. The shapes and images for the stencils will be chosen through conversations with students at Harrisonburg High School, and will be representative of many cultures represented by 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 inspired to continue to welcome and draw in new people, experiences, and ideas.

-Jeff Guinn, October 2019