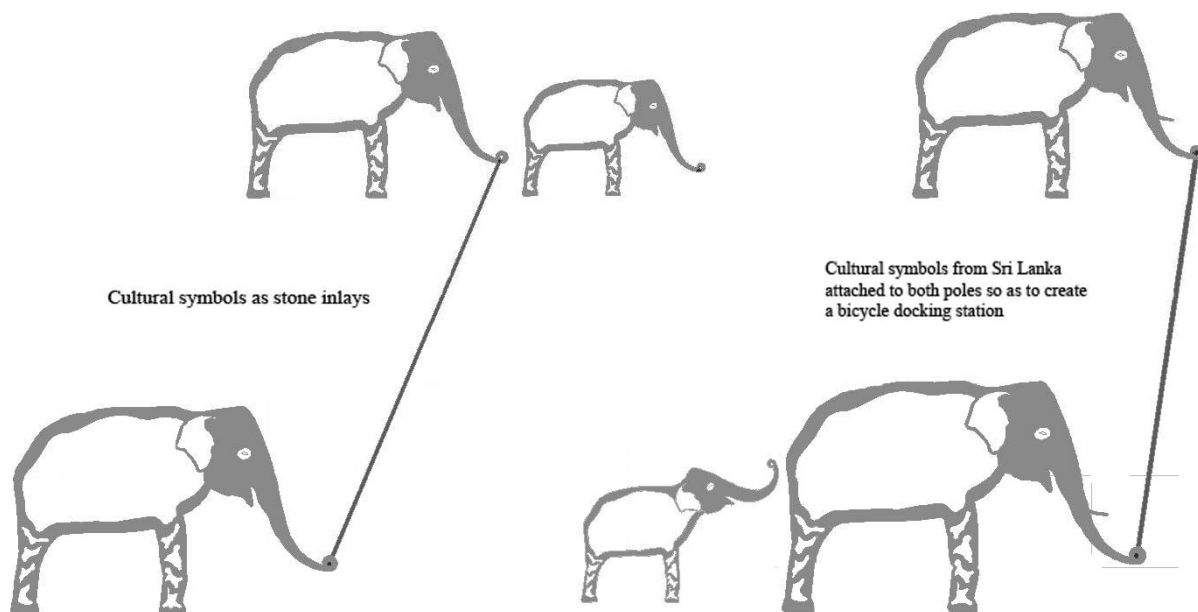


Peaceful Multiculturalism Proposal

In the traditions of peaceful multiculturalism that have developed throughout Canada, the Tamils and their supporters propose to design and build four artistic bike stand sculptures in cooperation with all cultural groups in Sri Lanka. The Tamil community will decide on a form for the sculptures that will be created by non-partisan Canadians. Tamils will invite to the project the other cultural and religious communities who have in the past lived in Sri Lanka. As a joint team of Canadians they will work together to design and build the sculptures.

These four bike stand sculptures will function as docking station for 40 to 600+ bicycles each. The sculptures to be the intertwining of cultural symbols from Sri Lanka. The four sculptures, two to be built in B.C and one built in the GTA will be given as gifts to: the Canadian government, the B.C government, the Ontario government and the Sri Lankan Government as symbols of peaceful multiculturalism and environmental responsibility.

The bike stand sculpture below is one of many artistic concepts by which one can demonstrate an approach to peaceful multiculturalism. The Tamil community and the multicultural team that joins with them may wish to modify or completely change the concepts. The image below can be a template onto which artists from this community can play with.



A young male elephant was chosen because it shows a modesty of choice and yet it will be very visible, [the design could have used the largest elephant ever recorded in Sri Lanka]. To create a family energy, the elephants above lead a parade involving similarly designed female elephants and new born elephants. Cultural figures from the different religious and cultural communities in Sri Lanka could ride on and join the parade of elephants. Cultural symbols could be attached to the pole between the two elephants and act as docking stations for bicycles. Cultural symbols could be stone inlays on both sides

of the elephant. To discourage vandalism, all the stone pieces would be protected by steel borders. Each sculpture will have different cultural symbols mixed in different ways by the group of artists from Sri Lanka that create it.

As beautiful as human cultures have become over the millennia we humans must learn to see a much bigger picture; in the preferred embodiment of the design, a dome will be built over top of the bike stand sculpture; the four corners of the dome to be held by cultural symbols riding the elephants. The dome to have small clear areas in it that symbolize the stars and galaxies in the sky above.

Summary

The artwork will speak out nationally to those who have been misinformed as to the plight and intent of the Tamils and to all Canadians regarding peaceful relationships in Canada. Internationally it will speak with a positive voice to the Sri Lankan government and to those in Sri Lanka who have suffered beyond what few can imagine. Through its involvement with other religious and cultural communities from Sri Lanka, the design, construction and installation of the sculpture will support the entry of the 500 Tamil refugees and build a path from Sri Lanka and other countries to Canada by which others may wish to travel.

The project will enable people can learn artistic, technical and social-political skills.

A documentary film showing the building of the sculptures, their shipment across the country on train and to Sri Lanka by boat will be worthy of a television and or internet audience.

The public art project is timely, due to the arrival of the Tamil refugees and the debate that has occurred throughout Canada because of their arrival. The vision of the artistic concept is to broaden this debate and humanize it. The development of multiculturalism has been a recent historical phenomena. The successful completion of this sculpture will be an historic landmark for its success.

Background

Over the past 7 years, we have been honoured to work with numerous community groups, businesses, friends and an art group from Parkdale Activity Recreation Center [PARC], to design and build over 50 bike art sculptures that are now installed on sidewalks throughout Toronto. Support for these installations came from Business Improvement Associations, Toronto Arts Council, the City's Economic Development, the Royal Ontario Museum and the city's Transportation Department, who installed the artistic bike stands free of charge on City property. Toronto was also the first City to incorporate safety and functionality guidelines with this art form. See bikestandart.net



Bike stands at Yonge and Lawrence. The three sculptures to the right designed by grade 5 students.



Modelled after a sculpture from an ancient Chinese tomb. Was created to ward off evil spirits. Located at the ROM

A gift from the Yonge Lawrence Village BIA and the Parkdale Village BIA to the Chinatown BIA

This art-form, first developed in Toronto, has flowered in many cities in North America: New York, Des Moines Iowa, Winnipeg, Ottawa, LA.



Sculptures in LA, NY, Louisville



Kensington Market

Budget for three sculptures

Finalizing artistic form or forms with Tamil organizations and invited guests \$2000

Creating detailed designs for three sculptures \$30,000

Engineering approval for designs \$30,000

AutoCAD drawings \$18,000

CNC cutting plate \$90,000

Welding assembly of sculpture \$45,000

Cutting of stone inlays \$45,000

Assembly of stone inlays \$9000

Assembly of structures on concrete foundation. \$9000

Building and assembly of domes, center columns and supporting structure \$150,000

Office admin \$11,000

Transportation \$60,000

Misc. \$90,000

Total \$569,000

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