



Maritime Arts

Peter Davidson

441 SE 2nd Street Gainesville, Fl 32601

www.maritimearts.org

Letter of Interest

Fragmentation of landscape to serve the needs of man is no new story. When Europeans first found their way to North America they met a large population of organic permaculturists that could have taught seminars at Humboldt. Conservationists are confronting the issue of “man as a part of nature” continually in an attempt to create a best- case scenario for all living things. Urban Planners must attempt to save a little in the name of parks, ponds and passages for those less resource ravenous than us. Parks are saviors to fragmented urban areas: too much is never enough when it comes to wild spaces, but management does what it can with what it is given and lobbies for more.

The Morningside Nature Center is a substantial chunk of park-managed landscape inside the boundaries of the Gainesville Florida municipality. If avian voices were intelligible to humans we would hear songs of thanks all around. My first experience at the center was with UF’s Avian Biology course in graduate school. I wrote a paper on avian informed sculpture for the class. Doug Levy and his graduate students may be able to confirm the throated messages for they are so in tune with birds I expected them to fly. I was always several birds behind and squinting with a panic when we were in the field. Birders are intense folks! I intend to involve as many of the passionate bird lovers interested to select the species for the weather vane final and have a call for found object contributions.

North Central Florida and the Morningside Center are premier habitats for birds and the sculpture I propose will celebrate the management and educational work of the center, and the beauty of the area. Echoing the living history, all materials will be post -consumer recyclia and low - impact processes will be used whenever possible. I have an extensive background in building structures from salvaged and natural materials that do not leak and will not fail. My work on Andros Island stands up to the harshest storms and rains. I have just completed a work at the Gainesville Regional Airport and continue to seek creative challenges in the area.

Look up and see the birds they are the best of us!

Design Theme

The work will have the look of an old farm weather vane of odd materials (stainless steel and copper alloys). Recyclia itself tends toward its own patination and weathered look. As the drawing shows the mechanism for rotation will be a shaft of stainless rotating on wheel bearings after the last globe of the rod and at the beam mount. The compass directions will be fixed in an exterior tube so that they can be set at the roof. The only rule to a weather vane telling the direction that the wind is coming from is that the “tail” must be offset on the shaft to catch more wind than the head. Use your binoculars for an up close look.



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Budget Considerations

Recycled materials in copper alloy and steel.....	\$ 200.00
Consumable welding supplies.....	\$ 200.00
Installation Laborer.....	\$ 100.00
Artists Fees.....	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Total.....	\$ 1000.00

I will provide a timetable upon acceptance of proposal. I think it can be fabricated and installed in one month, likely starting in September. I would need to meet with those concerned and come up with the actual desired species. It is important to me to have the overall physiology accurate, so I would submit it for review to a UF Avian Biologist, but the expression has license do to nature of the materials.

I hope for an opportunity to ride my bike, consort with the progressives, get back in my studio and create again in the historic city of Gainesville, Florida.

Peter John Davidson - Curriculum Vitae



Personal Details

- Queens Highway
Blanket Sound
Andros Island Bahamas
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441 SE 2nd Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
- petedavidson@hotmail.com
- Born 07-08-68 Rutland, Vermont

Education and Qualifications

- **University of Florida**
School of Art and Art History
Masters of Fine Arts - 2003
- **State University of New York**
College at Oneonta
Bachelors of Science Biology - 1991

Public Commissions

- **City of Gainesville**
Gainesville Airport "Indigenous"- Alligator in Recyclia and Stone 2009
- **Blanket Sound Settlement Andros Island**
"Turtle in Grass"- Settlement Signage Sculpture - Aluminium and Wood 2007
- **University of Florida - Center for Construction and the Environment**
Rails to Trails Kiosk - Bicycle Sculpture - Depot Avenue Gainesville, Florida - 2001
Annual Greening UF Awards (Commissioned to create awards) - 2001/2002
- **University of Florida - School of Nursing**
Bust in Bronze of Dean Dorothy Smith - 2003

Environmental Outdoor Works

- **Sea Gratis** - Cedar Key, Florida - Distribution and display of marine art objects in the Gulf of Mexico - Celebration of the success of clam farming and the return of the mullet fish stocks - 2003
- **Turtle** - Andros Island, Bahamas - Art as a Tool for Marine Conservation - Installation of submarine sea turtle bouys along the coast - Collection of audio interviews on the subject of sea turtle conservation - Gift of bronze bells to Andros Primary Schools - 2002
- **Fishe Pond**- Old Florida celebration of Gambusia the mosquito fish -Private Commission - Gainesville FL - - 2006

Collections and Shows

- **Turtle Bell** - Collection of Jaques Fretey - **France Museum national d'Histoire naturelle** 2002
- **Turtle Interviews** - **New England Aquarium** - Audio interviews - Boston, Massachusetts 2003
- **Juried Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition and Florida's First Coast Arts Festival** - St. Augustine FL 2009
- **One Island**- Recycled Beach Trash The Hub Gallery Nassua, Bahamas 2009
- **Oh My Andros**- Cofrin Gallery- Gainesville FL 2010

Career History

- 05/2003 - present - **Maritime Arts and Inspiration Center** - Director / Founder of Sustainable Living Arts Center - www.maritimearts.org
- 05/2003 - 2008 - **Hocking College** - Adjunct Professor - Ecotourism and Adventure Travel - Alternative Energy Center
- 05/2003 - present - **University of Florida** - Adjunct Professor - Andros International Program
- 08/93 - present - **International Field Studies** - Forfar Field Station - Andros Island Program
Former Naturalist - Director - Sailing Coordinator - Current Advisor