



Maritime Arts and Inspiration Center

Peter Davidson (founder, director)

Arts Energy Collective - coordinator

BLANKET SOUND. ANDROS ISLAND. BAHAMAS

www.maritimearts.com

DESIGN CONCEPT

“Indigenous” is that which belongs. It assumes a rightful place. The city of Gainesville has a rich history of movement and change. Its’ people are proud to be progressive and political, educated and athletic. The University of Florida is held in high regard throughout the world. I have traveled across the globe and constantly see peoples quest for indigeneity. Identity is an issue of crucial importance to the world. Wars are being fought and allies made over nationalistic and religious struggles. History and origins are ever furcating with the advent of travel and technology. Who is really a native? Cultures are no longer associated with place. When asked of my origins abroad, I reply Gainesville Florida. I then add “the Gators” and get a nod and a smile. What right do I have to this place? I was born in Vermont. It is my place. I create a nostalgic romantic vision of my involvement in the community and the university as many other alumni do. I am a gator. I walk up to strangers with the iconic gator logo on their clothes and ask. Why do I do this? Did I buy into the propoganda? It is more than that.

Rastafarians seek a return to the ideology of a pre-colonial Africa. Wellington, New Zealand has a large population of Polynesian descendent Maori people wearing dreads and the red, black and gold. The iconic Rasta identifiers mean a shared experience and a cultural commentary. A Rasta of any origin is a “culture man”. We are a culture of gators tied to the place and its experience.

The Triangle pocket park is a redevelopment project seeking to highlight the deep bonds between the city and the university. As I rewound the film of my experience at this location, I could not submerge the iconic gator image. A subtle emerging eye alludes to the unseen mass of the body crossing the road to the university. This animal is truly ancient and awe inspiring. Paine’s Prairie to the south and Lake Alice to east prove this to many visitors.

“Indigenous” will be a celebration of the animal and the human settlement of this region. Its surface will be patinated, worn and dark like a bronze. It will be easily identified, as the eye of a gator but closer inspection will reveal a vibrant visual material history in the spirit of Louise Nevelson. The gathering of materials will itself bring the community into the project. The work is proposed in the name of the **Arts Energy Collective** but at this early stage is a personal vision. If selected I would bring in many of the communities talented students and residents to work on the project as a collective. A large portion of the funds generated would go to setting up a space for continued operations.



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Indigenous proposal changes in form

Materials will remain the same as original proposal

- The frame will be built of welded steel using reclaimed railroad as the main structural support (along eyes into the earth).
- All artifacts will be fastened with reinforced steel and tied to the internal structure.
- The skin will be a free stone masonry form with embedded antiques and artifacts (to be collected).
- The area around the eyes will be brazed copper.



