

August 7, 2009

Art In Public Places Trust  
Short List Committee/ Public Works Administration Expansion

Dear Committee Members:

I am a Florida metal artist who specializes in custom artistic gates, fencing, and lighted three dimensional outdoor wall sculptures. The primary material used in my projects is powder coated aluminum. My subject matter is taken from the world around me and reflects the uniqueness of Florida.

As a native to this great state, my artistic approach reflects the unique and natural character that is our state. Like the natural beauty of Florida, I believe art should be an everyday experience. This is what led me into the field of creating unique and durable outdoor sculptures that can be enjoyed in the outdoor environment most residents spend their time in. For me, it's an opportunity to create a work of art that can be experienced by both the client as well as those who pass by the piece. Working in aluminum has allowed me to create unique and lasting pieces of art that can withstand the harsh Florida elements.

I started my company over ten years ago, creating custom works of art both functional and non-functional throughout Florida and the rest of the country. My work has been show cased in galleries, national magazines such as Coastal Living and at the larger art shows throughout Florida including Gainesville Spring Arts, Artigras, Sunfest, Beaux Arts, and Gasparilla Fine Arts Festival. My client list is extensive and available for references. It includes large scale outdoor works totaling tens of thousands of dollars each. Prior to starting my own company, I spent years working in local government, administering grant programs, overseeing budgets and directing large scale public improvement projects. I feel that this experience has given me a great understanding of the scale and scope of civic improvement projects. I combine artistic ability with hands on experience in the public project realm.

Sincerely,



**Artist Information:**

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### **General Design Concept Theme**

I work in large scale outdoor sculpture, LED lighted sculpture, residential and commercial applications of artistic gates and fencing all made to withstand the outdoor elements that exist in a climate of weather extremes. My artistic style is one that reflects the Florida lifestyle of natural beauty and funky human kind characters that make up this great state. I believe that art should be an everyday experience. Outdoor sculptures and one of a kind functional fencing provides a wide range of people with an everyday opportunity to experience art on their way to work, waiting for a bus, going to pay their garbage bill or participating in their day to day errands. I believe that my work allows for an everyday art experience for a large number of people. By creating art that is made to hung outside, my work reaches people who aren't normally exposed to art on a regular basis.

For the Public Works Administration Building, I envision large scale aluminum wall sculptures, the theme involving figures representing the men, women and machines involving public works. These large scale sculptures would be mounted onto the exterior façade and interior two story atrium of the new public works expansion building. They would be made of solid aluminum construction, primed and powder coated in a weather resistance finish and have rear mounted programmable LED lights behind each sculpture. This would allow for a "24 hour" viewing experience, one that is beautiful as well as energy efficient. My sculptures are all cut from full 1/8" aluminum sheeting and I utilize 2" X 2" aluminum square tubing as backing material to provide both strength as well as a hold off for the LED lighting.

I envision sketching large scale on site of the current public works building and polling customers as they enter and leave the facility. I would seek their input of their favorite public works features, what public works figures are the most recognizable to them and what public works means to them as citizens of Gainesville. I would use this input in determining the overall design of the large scale sculptures.

Construction drawings would be prepared within 4 weeks of the award notice for submittal to the committee for conceptual approval. Design fees, coordination and site design, insurance, construction drawings and sales tax would not to exceed 40% of the proposed budget.

I started my company -- Hot Metal Mama, Inc. over 10 years ago and I am the sole owner and employee.

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## **Gainesville Public Works Expansion Fabrication and Installation**

All my sculptures are designed with a "hold off" built into the backing of each piece. This is generally a 2" spacing which allows for the placement of lighting on the rear of each piece. Most sculptures are hung by stainless steel threaded rods which are mounted into the surface face of the display area. I put coordinating holes in the sculptures so that they can slip over the rods and are then tightened down with a color coordinated stainless cap. This allows for secure mounting but also for removal if necessary in the event of a hurricane or other approaching natural disaster.

My wall sculptures are cut from a full 1/8" sheet of solid aluminum. Backing pieces are 2" X 2" aluminum tubing welded behind the piece. I generally hand draw the work directly onto the aluminum sheeting. Construction drawings can also be converted into a CAD file for laser cutting if the client does not wish the artist to draw and cut the works by hand. The weather resistant powder coated finish is an industry accepted standard coating for aluminum and comes in a wide variety of colors and textures. The LED programmable lights are applied to powder coated finished piece with a two part epoxy and are programmed using either a hand held remote or a computer and a compact remote controller. I envision as part of my responsibilities the coordination of the powder coating and application of the LED lighting.

**Teresa L. Thompson**  
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**Education:**

University of Florida, B.S. 1986  
University of Central Florida, M.A. 1988

**Professional Experience:**

**1999 to Current - Hot Metal Mama, Inc.** Metal artistry company creating one of kind custom metal works of art:

- \*Artistic functional gates, large automated driveway gates and fencing
- \*Indoor and outdoor sculptures
- \*Custom commercial installations such as restaurant wall art, lighting, functional art screens

**1994- 1999 – West Star Development, Inc.** Custom home building including design, construction, budget oversight and job management.

**1986 – 1994 – City of Ocala, FL.** Downtown Redevelopment Director. Responsibilities included but not limited to:

- \*Creation and management of the local Community Redevelopment Area (CRA)
- \*Business Recruitment and Retention
- \*Facade Rehabilitation
- \*Public Improvement Projects
- \*Grant Writing and Administration
- \*Parking Division

**Art Shows Participated in:**

- \*Gainesville Spring Arts
- \* Artigras - West Palm Beach, FL
- \*Beaux Arts - Miami, FL
- \* Sunfest - West Palm Beach, FL
- \* Gasparilla Fine Art Festival - Tampa, FL
- \*Naples National Art Festival - Naples, FL

**Work Featured in The Following Publications:**

- \*Coastal Living Magazine
- \*Lexus Magazine
- \*Miami Herald
- \*Welding Fabricator

**Gallery Representation:**

- \* Clay Gallery - New Smyrna Beach, FL
- \* The Art Bar - Key West, FL
- \* First Street Gallery - Neptune Beach, FL
- \* Artists on the Metro - Ormond Beach, FL

**References: (Phone Numbers Available Upon Request)**

- \*Dr. & Mrs. Steve Holmes, Islamorada FL
- \*Nelson & Heidi Cambata, New Smyrna Beach FL
- \*Jane Watkins, Miami, FL
- \*Ann Reeves, Wilbur By The Sea FL
- \*John Crisp, County of Volusia, FL