

Artists Statement in Public Art Process

Committed to making art accessible to the public, I work closely with the community and neighborhood to ensure their involvement, acceptance, and transfer of ownership. Often the brainstorming sessions, with community groups seeking their input and ideas for the development of a sculpture, lead to new insights and conclusions. Collaboration and openness at every level of a commission process ensures a multi-faceted and rich outcome of which everyone is proud.

All my public art commissions begin with discovery of the particulars of the space and its history. I peel back all the layers of a place to reveal the culture of prior inhabitants and the site's physical properties. A successful artwork acknowledges who we were, who we are now, and who we aspire to be. A public sculpture can be a lens revealing the heart of the community. Each of my pieces is a unique creation for the site, for the community, and the commissioning agency. I do not repeat my work or transfer it to another location. Expanding the scale and magnitude of possibilities, I believe a three-dimensional public light sculpture should have both a **daytime** and a **nighttime** presence, with timeless universal qualities that transcend the dated particulars.

My desire is to provide the viewer with a sense of awe. I wish them to marvel. I want them to have an arresting moment with the opportunity to contemplate beauty. I incorporate light as the formal material in many sculptures for its universal quality to evoke wonder. Light provides a daytime piece with a 24-hour presence.

John David Mooney