

Letter of Interest

Attention: City of Sebastopol

Re: Sebastopol South Entrance Public Art Project

Sebastopol has been my home since 2012 when I purchased my home on Occidental road. I quickly fell in love with the land and the rich culture in this hidden gem of Sonoma County.

Art has been a part of my life since as long as I can remember. At San Rafael High School, I landed a spot at an art exhibit with a castle I made out of clay and glass, *The Mystic Mote and the Forgotten Fortress*. While pursuing an education at College of Marin for real estate, I discovered welding and it quickly became my passion.

When I moved to Sonoma County, I transferred to the Santa Rosa Junior College and obtained my welding certification under the instruction of Ben Whitaker. I quickly left my career as a Real Estate Agent to pursue my career as a welder. Since then, I've worked at various locations building stainless steel coffee roasters, stainless steel wine tank bases, private art projects and as a nuclear certified welder at an industrial shop in Santa Rosa. I recently left my job to care for my one year old son and to pursue a career as a metal artist. At the end of 2023, I made a collection of stainless steel hanging spiders, *Legs*, that I sold to various friends of mine and to a small kite shop in Bodega Bay. More recently, I put together a stainless steel octopus with a prism inside of it, *Tentacle Prism*.

Admittedly, I'm in the beginning of my career as a metal artist. My understanding of metal, and the processes by which to weld it together, are some of my qualifications for this project. The three years I spent as a nuclear welder vastly improved my ability to interpret blueprints, work closely with engineers, and to thoroughly understand the process from design to build on an industrial level. I also have a background in construction. My father was a general engineering contractor when I was younger. We still have a dump truck and an excavator that I plan to use in the building of this project to help keep my installation costs at a minimum. Working on job sites since I was a kid has made me very well versed in safety on a job site as well as in a shop setting and building a structure in a public space that will not pose a safety hazard to the general public. I hope to apply my knowledge and experience in these areas to build art for my community that will stand tall for generations to come.

## Art Description

### Stainless Steel Gravenstein Apple Tree

When I think about Sebastopol, I think about the Gravenstein Apple. I think about the parade and Apple Blossom Festival that excites the entire town when spring has arrived and our trees are blossoming. I think about the apple fair in all its glory and winding down another summer with our community. I think about the apple orchards sprinkled all over West County and how they bring us all together throughout the seasons.

My vision for this project is a ten foot tall Gravenstein Apple tree made entirely out of stainless steel with a portion of the leaves and apples fastened in such a way that allows them to sway in the breeze. A shimmering metal apple tree that will stand the test of time in the center of town.

The apple tree will be sixteen inches in diameter at the base for structural integrity. Each leaf will be individually welded and fastened to allow a portion to move freely with the wind. It will be mounted to the ground using anchor bolts tied into a subterranean concrete footing. Ideally, preserving the ground surrounding the apple tree as the dirt and grass it currently is. I would also like to incorporate at least one new bench into the site for pedestrians, cyclists, joggers, and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy, should the current bench need to be removed, to allow for the construction of this piece.



## **Timeline/ Schedule for Fabrication and Installation**

One month for collection of materials.

One month for fabrication of leaves and separate parts of the sculpture to be assembled

Three months for assembly and welding.

One month for construction of the mounting base, transportation and installation of completed piece.

Six months total.

# Budget

A. Artists fee \$500. I've been researching this project for two weeks, 2-3 hours per day.

I do not believe this project needs structural engineering

B. Materials, Equipment, production costs.

- Materials \$13,000. This includes over 150 feet of stainless tubing, stainless sheets for leaf fabrication, the flange at the bottom of the tree for mounting, and the materials needed to mount the sculpture.
- Equipment \$2,250. This includes MIG welding wire and gas, TIG welding wire and gas, polishing and grinding equipment, and a protective coating to preserve the metal.
- Production costs \$2000. This includes the time I will spend welding the piece ,transporting materials, and manufacturing the sculpture.

C. Studio fees \$1000. I have a shop on my property and would only need to cover the cost of PG&E.

D. Transportation \$1,500. I have a dump truck, excavator, and trailer I can use to transport the piece to the site. I also plan to use this equipment to install the mounting equipment. I need to register and insure my dump truck for the year in order to complete this project.

E. Installation costs \$250. I will need to cover gasoline for the dump truck and diesel fuel for the excavator.

F. Lighting costs. Not applicable.

G. Insurance. \$4,500. The general liability policy costs approximately \$900 per year for five years as outlined. Please see attached quote.

H. Taxes. A W-9 will be provided to allow the city to file a 1099 for Sabrina the Welder. Taxes will be itemized and paid according to current tax guidelines for a small business.

I. Documentation. I did not find this call for artists until after the deadline to ask questions. I did not contact any city officials for clarity for fear of being disqualified for the project. As a result, I'm unsure what documentation is needed. I have provided a separate attachment with my Fictitious Business Name Statement and welding certifications.

Total cost of project \$25,000.

# Sabrina Roncancio

Metal Artist

## CAREER OBJECTIVE

**Create a variety of fine metal art for exhibition, continually growing a network of clients and connections.**

## EXHIBITIONS

**2002** High School Art Exhibition, Artisans Mill Valley, CA

## COMMISSIONS

**2021** Michael Fuchs, *Custom Metal Pantry*, Three custom metal frames to repurpose historical Hotel Petaluma metal and glass elevator doors, San Anselmo, CA

## PROJECTS

**2006** *Liberty*, Metal sculpture depicting freedom of speech and expression.

**2023** *Legs*, Stainless steel metal spider.

**2024** *Tentacle Prism*, Stainless steel metal octopus with glass prism mounted inside the piece.

## EDUCATION

College of Marin 2006  
Beginners Welding

Santa Rosa Junior College 2012-2017  
Advanced Welding

## RELEVANT SKILLS

Structural Welding Certificate  
Shielded Metal Arc Welding  
Dual Shield 2012

Nuclear Welding Certificate  
Shielded Metal Arc Welding  
Dual Shield 2021, 2023

Nuclear Welding Certificate  
Gas Metal Arc Welding  
MIG 2021, 2023

Nuclear Welding Certificate  
Gas Tungsten Arc Welding  
TIG 2021, 2023







Legs 2023

Sabrina Roncancio





*Tentacle Prism 2024*

Sabrina  
Roncancio