

TOY GUN EXCHANGE:
DESIGN
PROJECT
IDEAS



DESIGN OPTION: 'WINGS'

DESCRIPTION:

This sculpture is created by positioning plastic pieces within a clay form. Molten aluminum is poured into the form, burning off the plastic and taking on the shape of the gun pieces. Once released from the mold, the wings are burnished. They can remain the color of the metal or be painted in colors and coated.

LOCATION:

Since this sculpture will be waterproof, the wings can be mounted on a wall, either inside or outside.

BENEFITS:

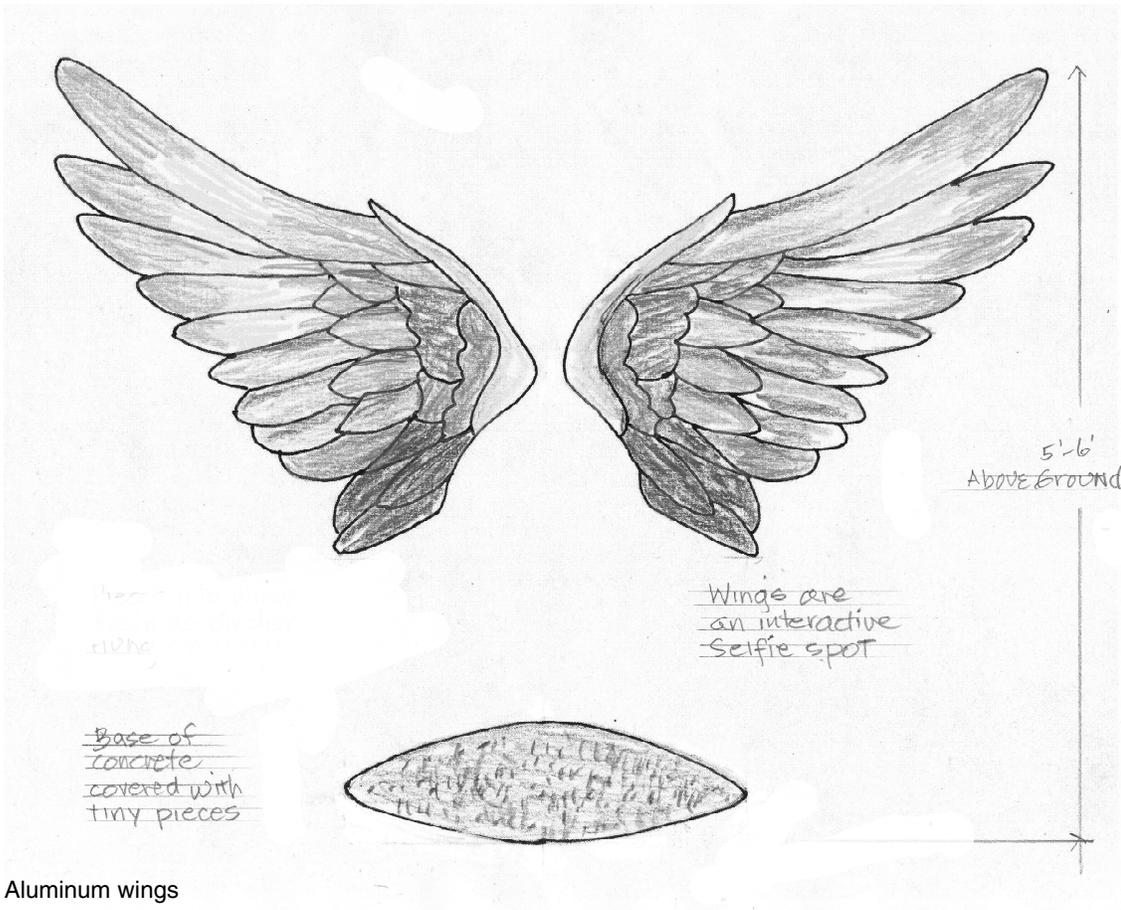
The design is a homage to the Peace Prints dove, symboling love rising above hate. It will function as a "selfie spot." Both kids and adults can step up to take their selfie and have wings at their back. Ideally, the wings should be in a public location where anyone can experience them (in the manner of 'Shark Girl' at the Buffalo waterfront. Examples: Merriweather Library or Tops Supermarket.

MATERIALS AND PROCEDURE:

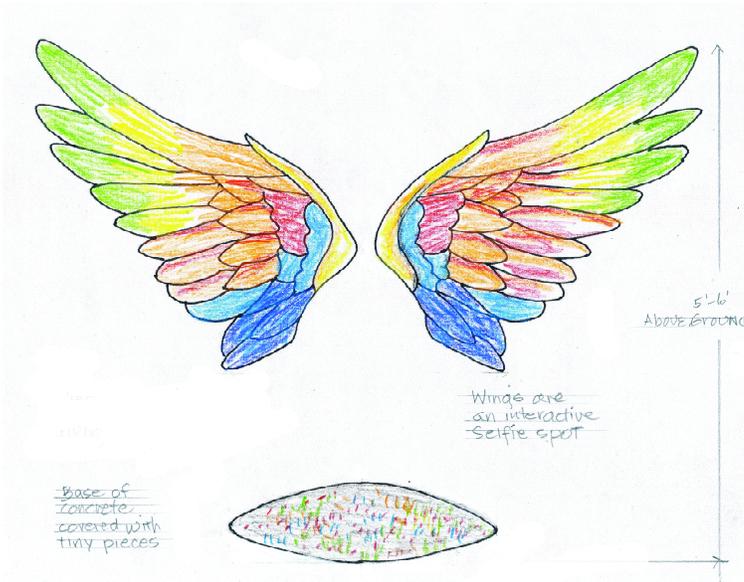
- Plastic pieces
- Clay and various forming material
- Aluminum for casting
- Access to a professional casting location
- Metallic paints and coatings
- Professional assistance

BUDGET:

\$20,000



Aluminum wings



Aluminum wings with paint and coating

DESIGN OPTION: 'PEACE QUILT'

DESCRIPTION:

A 'quilt' of plastic pieces, loosely designed to mimic the quilts of the underground railway. These classic geometric patterns offer a template for positioning the primary colored blocks of cut plastic and producing a strong design.

LOCATION:

The finished 'quilt', approximately 60"w x 72"h, would be hung on an interior wall. Because it is relatively light weight it could travel to many locations as part of its teaching mission. Churches, libraries, galleries and even supermarkets could all exhibit the quilt for a time.

BENEFITS:

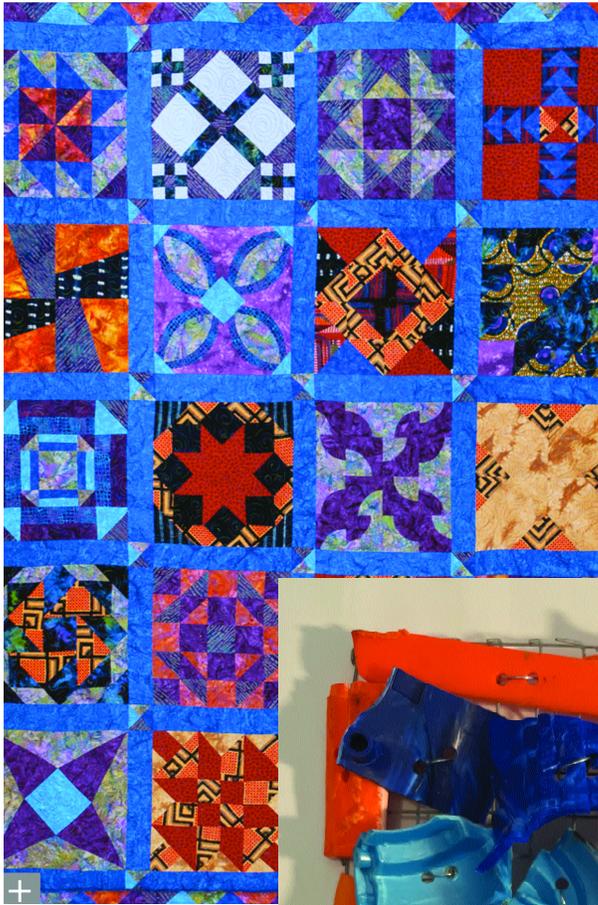
This could truly be a community project in the spirit of old-fashioned quilting bees, Teenagers (with adult guidance) could each be involved in putting together a square of the quilt. Acrylic paint would be used on the latch hook canvas base (in advance of the 'bee') to indicate guidelines for tying on the plastic pieces. Then each square is wired together into the complete quilt. Once finished and hung, it would provide a discussion point for guns and violence,

MATERIALS AND PROCEDURE:

Plastic pieces, cut in the 1.5 - 2" range, each drilled with 2 holes
Latch hook canvas
Clear plastic twist ties
Fine gauge wire
Acrylic paints
Various pliers and scissors
Metal rods for top and bottom with wires for hanging and display
Packing material and container for travel and storage
Refreshments for 'quilting bees'

BUDGET:

\$1500



Example of an Underground Quilt

Detail of Latch Hook Canvas



One square of plastic pieces

DESIGN OPTION: 'PEACE DOVE'

DESCRIPTION:

This design uses the 'PeacePrints' dove and interprets it in plastic gun pieces. The construction technique is based on the 'Plastic Muskie' display at the Buffalo Zoo by Elizabeth Leader. A wooden base is painted and then individual plastic pieces are drilled and screwed in place to complete the image. When finished, it is encapsulated in a three inch deep shadow box.

LOCATION:

The finished shadow box must be hung on an interior wall. Since the final box would be over 50lbs., it should be placed in a permanent location at the discretion of F.A.T.H.E.R.S

BENEFITS:

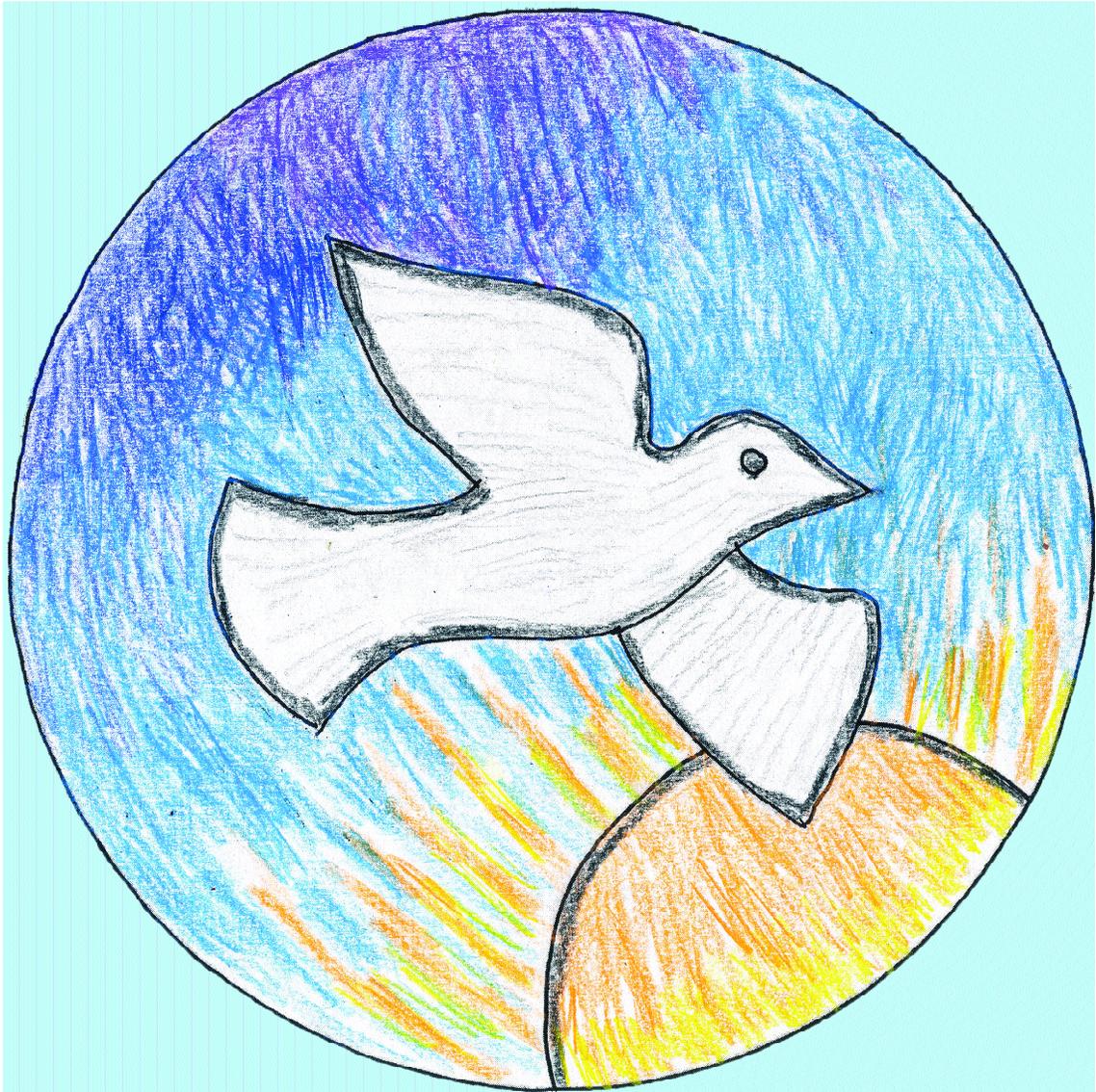
This permanent display is a tribute to the long legacy in Buffalo of rising above violence with love. It shows the kids who turned in their toy guns for healthy toys that their sacrifice had value. The dove is always a starting point for talking about guns and violence.

MATERIALS AND PROCEDURE:

Plastic pieces, cut in various sizes
Reinforced MDF board
Acrylic paints
Various screws and hand tools
Wooden shadow box with Plexiglass cover
(professionally constructed)

BUDGET:

\$2500 (Based on cost of zoo display)



Dove interpreted in plastic pieces



"Plastic Muskie" display at Buffalo Zoo created for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper from plastic trash collected in local waterways

DESIGN OPTION: 'STEPPING STONES'

DESCRIPTION:

Concrete stepping stones approximately 3" deep and either in circular, square or rectangular shapes. Small bits of plastic gun debris are embedded in the top surface. The steps can be walked on.

LOCATION:

Outside, preferable as part of a memorial garden or children's' park.

BENEFITS:

Crushing the guns and having them underfoot makes a strong anti-gun statement. The stones honor the children who exchanged their guns for healthy toys and they can be part of other memorial projects that may be in the planning stage. The process is inexpensive and since there is so much small debris, these stones can be made in addition to any of the other design ideas

MATERIALS AND PROCEDURE:

- Plastic pieces
- Quikrete concrete mix
- Plastic or metal tray shapes at least 3" deep (ex. cake pans)
- Chicken wire for inside reinforcement
- Various tools for mixing and cleaning
- Glazing material

BUDGET:

\$1000



Cement stepping stone in mold



Cement stepping stone experiments