The Lotus Flower: Art Blooms on O’Neill Plaza

A symbol of culture, art and reflection, the Lotus Flower has been chosen for this year’s form for the Arts Festival Collaborative Sculpture Project. Lotus flower is a symbol of enlightenment and purity of the mind. As the lotus grows out of the still water and mud of the pond it leaves the mud (worldly existence) behind to emerge straight toward the sky, appear clean on the surface (purity) and blossom into a beautiful flower (enlightenment). Groups will bring their perspective and thoughts as they share their purpose or story on a lotus flower. All performing, literary, visual and cultural art groups are invited to reflect and bring their sculpture to life: O’Neill Plaza will be blooming with art!

Adopt a Lotus Flower and make it your own. Embellish it! Paint it! Bring it to Life!

Professional sculptor and Fine Arts professor Mark Cooper will build the basic sculpture, and your organization can design and embellish it to promote your group’s mission. Once completed, the sculptures will appear in buildings throughout campus and will come together to form an exhibition on O’Neill Plaza during the Arts Festival. This is a great opportunity to promote your organization on campus and to the community using your collective creativity. You could even win prize money!

For questions, please contact the Arts Council office at 2-4935 or arts@bc.edu.
Applications are due Monday February 1st by 5:00 P.M. to Devlin 434 or email.

Explore your creativity! Promote your organization! Reveal to the community your message!
Production:

Basic Sculpture Description:
Fine Arts professor and artist/sculptor, Mark Cooper, will design and produce the sculptures. The basic shape will be built with a wood frame and covered with a heavy-duty canvas. The structures will vary from 4-6 feet tall and 1-3 feet thick, so they will fit through a standard door frame. Photos of a sculpture prototype will be available in early January. The basic form will be an open book that can be stood upright or laid down on its spine. Books will have a 140-150 degree opening.

Participants will have the opportunity to view all of the sculptural variations in advance and request the one they prefer. As in the past, various unique surfaces will exist for embellishment and decoration. Each year, students comment that the sculpture and its surfaces are larger than they imagined – be prepared.

Decoration
Decorate it! Sparkle it! Paint it! Add to it! Your creativity is the only limit! When adding to the sculptures with more than paint, paper, and glue, be sure to consider the dimensions of a standard door frame. If you choose to add to the sculpture in such a way that the sculpture will not fit through a door frame, make sure that it comes apart and can get put back together easily. Mark Cooper will run a seminar to help organizational leaders explore ways to decorate, collage, or transform their sculptures. The times/dates will be announced in February.

Remember that the sculptures will spend 4-5 days outside in all sorts of weather conditions. Be sure to use materials that will stand up to weather – consider wind and rain. Professor Cooper will advise organizations on how to “weather-proof” their sculptures for the short term. Artists should plan to check on their sculptures periodically both in the (indoor) marketing and (outdoor) exhibition phases to make any needed repairs.

*It is expected and required that all decorative messages adhere to Boston College’s code of respect for others and appropriate language and images. Obscene and inflammatory statements and/or images should be avoided; remember that the sculptures will be on public display on the O’Neill plaza, including during a day of children’s activities. The content of the sculptures must be “family-friendly.” Otherwise, decorative schemes are limited only by your imagination!*

Studio Space
Organizations will need to find their own secure location to work on their sculptures and are responsible for **OBTAINING THE APPROPRIATE PERMISSIONS** for working in that space. It is imperative that all appropriate care be taken to prevent any damage from paint spills or glue. Your group may be held responsible for any damages. In the past, artists have used dorm rooms, office spaces, and other facilities associated with their groups or departments. (Please note that no space in Campanella Way can be used.) The Arts
Council will make all arrangements to move the sculptures to/from these declared locations, however, we cannot make arrangements to move sculptures off-campus. Groups will receive the sculptures right after spring break and will have approximately three weeks to complete them.

**New Opportunity for Studio Space**
If you cannot provide your own space to work on your sculpture, please contact Kristie Loncich, exhibition coordinator, at loncich@bc.edu.

**Competition**
A panel of judges will evaluate the sculptures during the Arts Festival exhibition.
Organizations with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place sculptures receive cash prizes donated to their clubs.
Criteria for the competition: form, concept, clarity of the message, and overall creativity.

**Funding**
The Arts Council will select applicants to fund by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Please note that priority will be given to relevant, innovative, thought-provoking proposals.

*Organizations not selected for funding, but accepted as quality applicants, may buy a sculpture with their own funds.* Sculptures will cost $550 each to build. If you can offer partial funding for the sculpture, please let us know - it will expand the number of sculptures that can be funded and improve everyone’s chances. Funds MUST be received by the Arts Council by February 26.

Organizations are responsible for their own supplies to transform the sculpture (paint, glue, photos, collage materials, etc). The Arts Council will provide a tarp to put under each sculpture while under “construction” and make all arrangements to move them to and from their various locations. After the festival, the sculptures will be discarded; however, groups may keep them by picking them up from the O'Neill Plaza themselves within 24 hours of the festival’s end.

**Application Information:**
1. Organizations may consider completing a joint application and making a statement about how they will work together to express a joint mission/theme.
2. We encourage you to submit sketches, designs and/or any other documentation about your organization that you think would be helpful to the committee.
3. **Please strongly consider whether or not your organization will be able to follow through on this project.** If your organization is selected and a sculpture is built, you must follow through with a quality product – or risk the opportunity to participate in the future.
4. We expect strong competition for the project, so priority will be given to applications that are on-time, complete, creative, and have well-organized, developed design concepts.
Sculpture Project Timeline 2010

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit Application to Arts Council</td>
<td>Monday, February 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Council announces selections</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizations Receive Sculptures</td>
<td>Thursday and Friday, March 11th &amp; 12th (or earlier by arrangement)</td>
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<td>Complete Sculptures: Arts Council panel will review sculptures to approve them after Easter Break.</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 6th</td>
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<td>Marketing Phase: Sculptures appear around campus in various buildings (determined by Arts Council)</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 20th</td>
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<td>Exhibition Phase: Sculptures moved to O'Neill Plaza</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 28th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Festival</td>
<td>Thursday, April 29th, 30th and May 1st</td>
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**PROJECT STAFFING:**
Chair, Arts Council  
Jeffery Howe; Professor, Fine Arts  
Art Festival Director  
Cathi Fournier Ianno  
Sculptor  
Mark Cooper; Adj. Assistant Professor, Fine Arts  
Exhibition Coordinator  
Kristie Loncich

**Arts Council Office**
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