

Transforming Uncertainty Sanctuary

Public Art Proposal

Susan Togut
2024

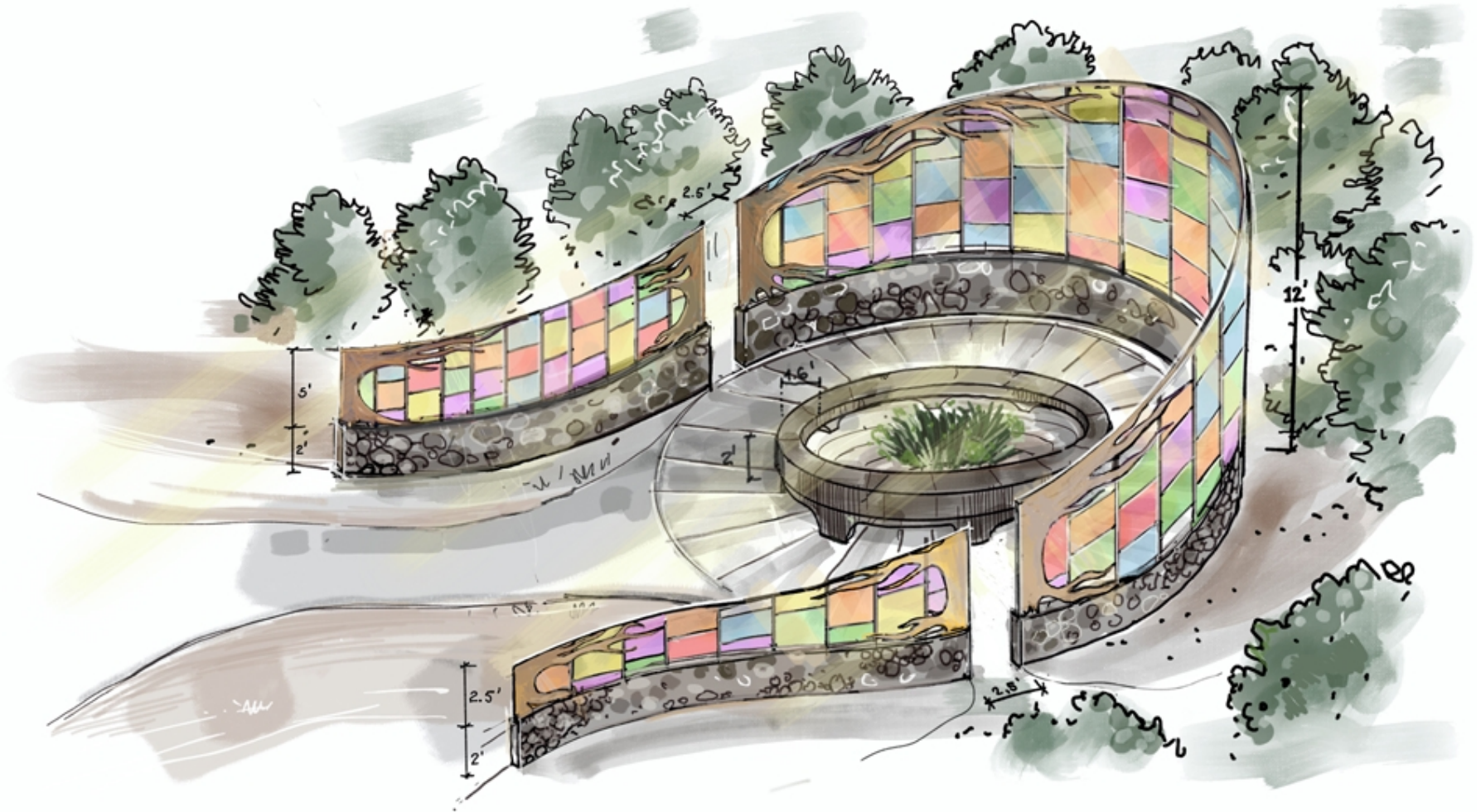
H/S 845-679-6752 Cell 518-965-1127
stogut23@aol.com
www.susantogut.com

This PDF features a proposal for a *Transforming Uncertainty Sanctuary* that will become a public sitting place. An undulating wall, composed of illuminated images and text, will form a contemplative space with seating, central plantings and/or a water feature. Creative contributions from community members will be the raw material for many art components, reflecting the experiences, thoughts and feelings of diverse groups and individuals dealing with the uncertainties of contemporary life. Participant drawings can be professionally painted on the art components. Or participants will create their own hand-painted, illuminated images. The many diverse components that express uncertainties, including fear, frustration, hope, reciprocity and resilience, will be unified on the Sanctuary scaffolding.

The main structure is an undulating wall that changes in height from 2' to 12', designed in an asymmetrical shape, symbolizing change and uncertainty experienced through life's challenges. Many diverse art components inspired by community members will be installed into a lattice aluminum structure, set into a bluestone base. Bluestone pathways, resilient plantings and possibly, a water feature will complete the environment. A full project description is provided below the drawings and visual plans for the contemplative space. Two approaches are depicted in the renderings, one more formal than the other.

Transforming Uncertainty Sanctuary

Artist Rendering #1



Sanctuary, with square/rectangular art components, will embody diverse expressions from community members. Symbolic trees will be painted on the lexan components as well

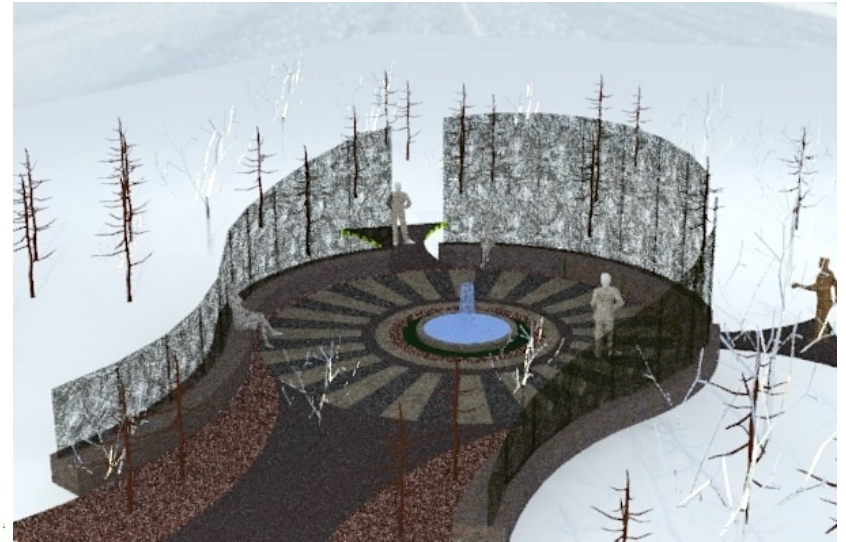
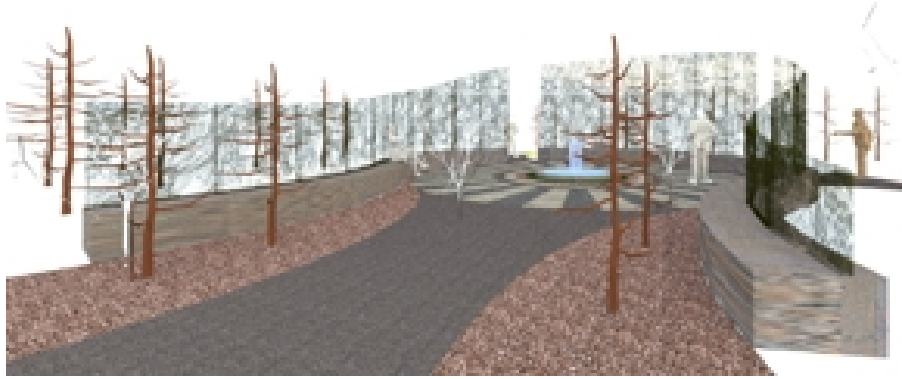
Transforming Uncertainty Sanctuary

Artist Rendering #2

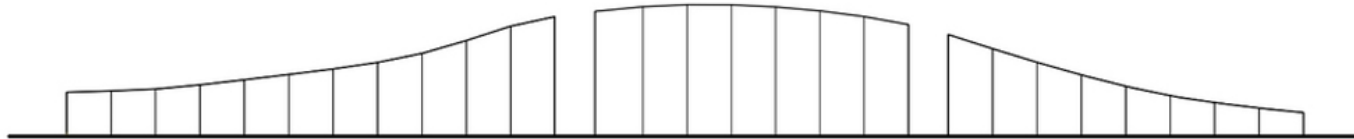
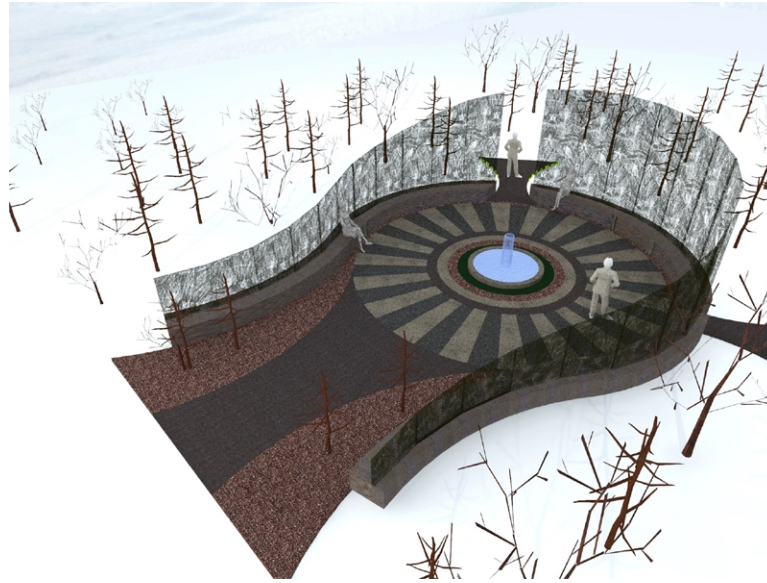


Sanctuary with asymmetrical art components.

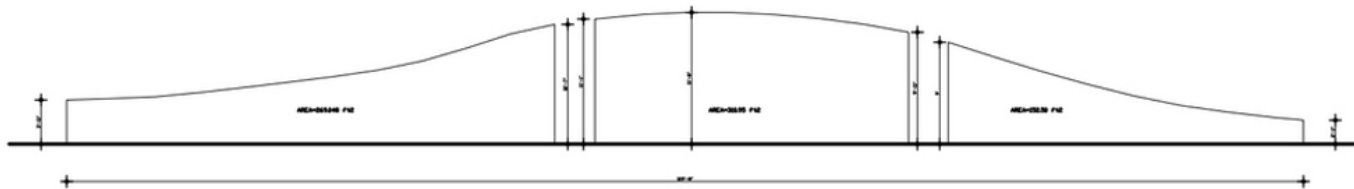
Alternate Exploration of the *Transforming Uncertainty*
Sanctuary Concept



Alternate Exploration of the *Transforming Uncertainty Sanctuary* Concept



DEVELOPMENT OF LEXAN WALL PANELS



DEVELOPMENT OF LEXAN WALLS - total area 269.048+310.95+152.50=732.50 Ft2

Lexan Wall Rendering (these measurements may vary slightly from the artist renderings)

Project Description

Introduction

This *Transforming Uncertainty Sanctuary* will be an outdoor contemplative sanctuary. If possible it will face a vista to offer beauty, peace, respite and contemplation for community members and visitors. This project involves the design and building of a public place, as well as a process through which intergenerational community members create art and text about their experiences in navigating uncertainty. Complex expressions of fear, frustration, hope, reciprocity and resilience will become the raw material for illuminated images and text, to be installed into the Sanctuary scaffolding.

Structure

An undulating wall will form an interior and exterior space. The wall will be 12' high at its center with one side 5' high and the other 2.5' high. The changing heights of the undulating wall symbolizes the changes and challenges of life. Since nothing is predictable, this structure is intentionally asymmetrical. It rises and falls like the movement of waves. The shape symbolizes difficulties and uncertainty rather than perfection. The horseshoe shaped wall will have a lattice scaffolding, fabricated out of aluminum, set into a two-sided stone base.

Art Components

Hand-painted, simulated stained glass components will be installed into the scaffolding. Importantly, images and text upon these components will be synthesized from a plethora of art expressions created by intergenerational community members of all backgrounds and experiences. I will orchestrate a series of community workshops for the creation of this raw material. Following the workshops I will synthesize content to achieve a chorus of expressions. These can be professionally fabricated or community members can create the actual art components that become the sanctuary walls.

The art components will be painted on non-breakable lexan, with transparent paints and leading. The paint is strengthened with special mediums and a UV varnish to create the stained glass effect and to insure longevity against the elements. I have successfully created numerous outdoor environments with these materials that have been very resilient, long term. As a living Sanctuary, new lexan art components can be created over time to keep this public place fresh and changing. Alternately or in combination, components can be fabricated out of Dalle D'Veve, one inch thick glass, cast in epoxy. This very strong and beautiful stained glass, intended for outdoor settings, is expensive to fabricate. Over time it may be possible to fund Dalle D'Veve stained glass through grants, donations and other means.

Project Description

Ground Plan

This part of the proposed design will be developed further based on site specificity. In the center, plantings and/or a water feature, will be included. The plantings should be low maintenance, symbolic of resilience. They may be pollinating varieties, inspired by industrious bees. They may attract insects and birds, symbolic of reciprocity and resilience. Research will be done to determine specific varieties. The wall will be stabilized with a two-sided stone base. A circular stone bench will be included in the center. Alternately, there can be one large bench following the inside perimeter of the wall or there can be separate benches. The paving can be thermal bluestone, which is more formal and flatter or natural cleft bluestone which is more organic with a rougher texture. There are three entrances planned, but these can be reduced. At least one will be wheel chair accessible.

Conclusion

This project embraces a public art tradition that involves direct participation of diverse community members, joining art and life. The Sanctuary will embody form and content that seeks to create comfort in the face of uncertainties experienced by all. The rich array of images and text will be illuminated by changing sunlight, daily and seasonally, creating ephemeral, holographic effects. Unifying the expressions of diverse community members, this Sanctuary will symbolize mutual support and reciprocity to stay positive, resilient and proactive during the most challenging of times. Through its asymmetrical physical structure and multi-vision art components, the sanctuary will become a deeply meaningful and beautiful public place.