

## **The progress of The Workers Monument**

In starting the process of selecting a new artist to do a different Monument. The Workers Monument Committee contacted Bruce Williams of the Iowa Arts Council. Mr. Williams in his position of Grants, Public Art, Operational Support had dealt with several Monuments on the Capitol Grounds. Mr. Williams assisted the committee in sitting up an Artist Advisory Panel to make recommendations to the committee on the selection of an artist.

Mr. Williams then sent out a request for qualifications (RFQ) from the Iowa Arts Council. Thirty-two artists responded to the RFQ with their bio's and pictures of their works. At the first meeting, the Panel reviewed the information sent in by the artists. The panel narrowed the list down to seven applicants. Mr. Williams then gave the members about a week to rate these artists with the objective of reducing the list to five. Mr. Williams coordinated this process by email.

The second meeting was held with the purpose of doing a telephone interview with the five finalists. At the end of the meeting members ranked each of finalists. Mr. Williams sent the results to members.

A third meeting was held the members present came to a consensus on an artist they would recommend to the committee.

The Workers Monument committee met and accepted the recommendation of Artist Advisory Panel.

Mr. Williams then suggested to the committee reference checks should be made. Mr. Williams provided a list of questions that should be asked of the references. Three individuals volunteered to do these checks. Three checks were made with responses from two of the checks. Of two responses, the references were excellent.

Michael Stutz ([www.stutzart.com](http://www.stutzart.com)) was selected as the artist by the Workers Monument Committee.

Mr. Williams then suggested to the committee that notify Mr. Stutz of his selection and make a proposal agreement to pay expenses for two trips to Des Moines and an amount of money to do three different sketches for both the panel and committee to select one.

Mr. Stutz came to Des Moines on January 4, 2007 and with members of both Artist Advisory Panel and The Workers Monument Committee. Mr. Williams was also present at the meeting. They discuss the message they wanted Monument to send to public.

The committee then asked Mr. Stutz to bring back two proposals to next meeting. One would be just Monument on the every north east corner of East and Grand. The Capitol

Planning Commission previously tentatively approved this site. The other proposal would be an expanded to include a wider area with several sculptures.

On January 5, 2007 Mr. Stutz met with Matthew O Carlile from Brain Clark + Associates, Dean Ibsen from DAS, and Bruce Williams to discuss some details needed and required by the Capitol Planning Commission.

Mr. Stutz will be turning to Des Moines the middle of April to meet with both Artist Advisory Panel and Workers Committee to submit his proposals for consideration. And if they approval one of his proposals, make a presentation to the Capitol Planning Commission.

To date The Workers Monument Committee has raised over \$270,000.00 is on deposit in the Iowa Workforce Department Foundation Account drawing interest.

It is the intent of the Worker Monument Committee to select a proposal based upon the monies in the Foundation Account.