

FROM:

Gwen E. Owen, 937-496-8901
External Relations Dept., Dayton Metro Library

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

Chuck Duritsch, 937-496-8586
Manager, External Relations, Dayton Metro Library

Artist's Proposal Selected for Electra C. Doren Branch Library

(July 7, 2014) -- The Dayton Metro Library and The Dayton Art Institute have selected Artist Darren Kall's proposal for an original art installation at the Electra C. Doren Branch Library in Old North Dayton. This is the first piece commissioned by the *ReImagining Works* project, coordinated by the Library and the DAI, which will incorporate original artwork at each Dayton Metro Library location.

The Electra C. Doren Branch, located 701 Troy Street, is the oldest in the county-wide system and the first to undergo renovation in the \$187 million "Libraries for a Smarter Future" project, approved by voters in 2012. The Library is currently operating at a temporary facility, 359 Maryland Avenue, while construction takes place at the historic Troy Street building.

The *ReImagining Works* project suggested several pieces from the DAI's permanent collection for reinterpretation at the Electra C. Doren Branch. By public vote, the painting *Stacks in Celebration*, by Charles Sheeler, was selected. In his winning proposal, artist Darren Kall reimagines the painting as a sculptural steel fence surrounding the new outdoor reading terrace at the Library.



The fence will be comprised of eight steel cutout panels depicting notable Dayton architecture, particularly the buildings of Albert Pretzinger, designer of the Electra C. Doren Library, Memorial Hall and other buildings in Dayton. The fence panels "invite you to contemplate their patterns and inspire you to be part of Dayton's industrial spirit," says Kall in his proposal. "Their vibrant reflections, solidity and playfulness are letting you know that the Dayton spirit of making things is still alive."

"The sculptures I create will be touchable for the visually impaired," says Kall. "Patrons of the Library will be invited to touch the sculptures so that they can build a tactile image of [them]."

The number of sculptural panels and what they depict may change as construction at the Library continues. The community may be invited to help select the images to be depicted.

"I believe that the community is the consumer and customer of the artwork, so gaining their insights, interpreting and making sense of their goals and preferences allows me to design appropriately for that audience," says Kall.

His project will use raw materials from Dayton steel suppliers, laser cutting and finishing from local manufacturers and local workers for fitting and installation.

Kall is a Dayton-based artist with a BA from Rutgers University in studio art, specializing in sculpture. He has done private and public commissions in both painting and sculpture, among them the bas-relief tiles in the portico of Oakwood High School, 1200 Far Hills Avenue.

The *ReImagining Works* project is made possible by an anonymous bequest intended to integrate original art and innovative programming at the 17 new or renovated Dayton Metro Library buildings. The public recently voted for artwork to serve as inspiration at the Main Library, the new Northwest Branch Library and the Miami Township Branch Library.

For more information on the *ReImagining Works* project, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org.



Caption: "This sketch illustrates what one of the eight panels might look like. In the final sculpture, what is black in this sketch will be steel. The white spaces will be open space allowing light to pass through creating the foreground and background of the image." - Darren Kall

"The two inspirations tie together nicely. They share an inspirational historical time, when grand visions of the future and the promise of industry were strong cultural motivators," says Kall. "The E.C. Doren Branch, having been designed by Pretzinger, represents the distinctive personality of its time, and makes a perfect setting for other Dayton architectural icons," he says.

ReImagining Works is a project that will put original works of art into each new or newly-remodeled Dayton Metro Library location. Local artists, inspired by existing works in the Dayton Art Institute's permanent collection, will create artwork. Eventually, each Library will display a new piece of art which is a result of collaboration among the Art Institute, the Library, Library users and artists in our region.

"Libraries and museums are both places of discovery," said Tim Kambitsch, Library Executive Director. "*ReImagining Works* provides a unique partnership which benefits two community treasures - The Dayton Metro Library and The Dayton Art Institute. With potentially new audiences, this collaboration lends itself to future art-related programming in our new hands-on activity spaces."

The first *ReImagining Works* project is for the E.C. Doren Branch Library. Six options from the Dayton Art Institute's collection are offered as inspiration for a new piece which will be placed in the newly added outdoor terrace at the Library. The artwork options can be viewed at the Library's website, DaytonMetroLibrary.org. Public voting for which piece should be reinterpreted is open through May 9 online or in person at the E.C. Doren Branch Library's temporary location, 359 Maryland Avenue. Different art options will be presented for future re-interpretation projects.

ReImagining Works is made possible by an anonymous bequest intended to integrate original art and innovative programming at the 17 new or renovated Library buildings.

Read more about *ReImagining Works* at DaytonMetroLibrary.org.



Sea Change, by Helen Frankenthaler. This painting is another option for re-interpretation for the E.C. Doren Branch.

###

ABOUT DAYTON METRO LIBRARY

The Dayton Metro Library is one of the oldest and largest public library systems in Ohio, consistently ranking among the best in the nation. The DML consists of 20 branch locations in Montgomery County, Outreach Services and the Main Library in downtown Dayton. In order to fulfill its mission to inform, inspire and enrich the community, the DML offers programs, materials and services for all ages and stages of life. It is funded in part by a portion of the state income tax and local levy support.

Specialized services and resources are available for schools, small businesses, nonprofit organizations, literacy providers and job seekers. The library houses a unique collection of local history materials. Computers are available free of charge for public use and computer instruction is available at many library locations.

In November, 2012, Montgomery County voters passed a \$187 million bond issue to fund new construction and renovations for the DML. Highlights of the multi-phase, multi-year project include consolidating branches from 20 to 16, establishing an offsite operations center and completely renovating the Main Library. When the project is complete in 2017, library users will enjoy modern, efficient facilities providing superior services and technology for the 21st century. Progress on the project is posted regularly on the DML website at DaytonMetroLibrary.org.