

# Proposal for Interactive Gate Design

Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center, Los Alamos, NM

Meranda McDermott  
in collaboration with Art Fab Studio

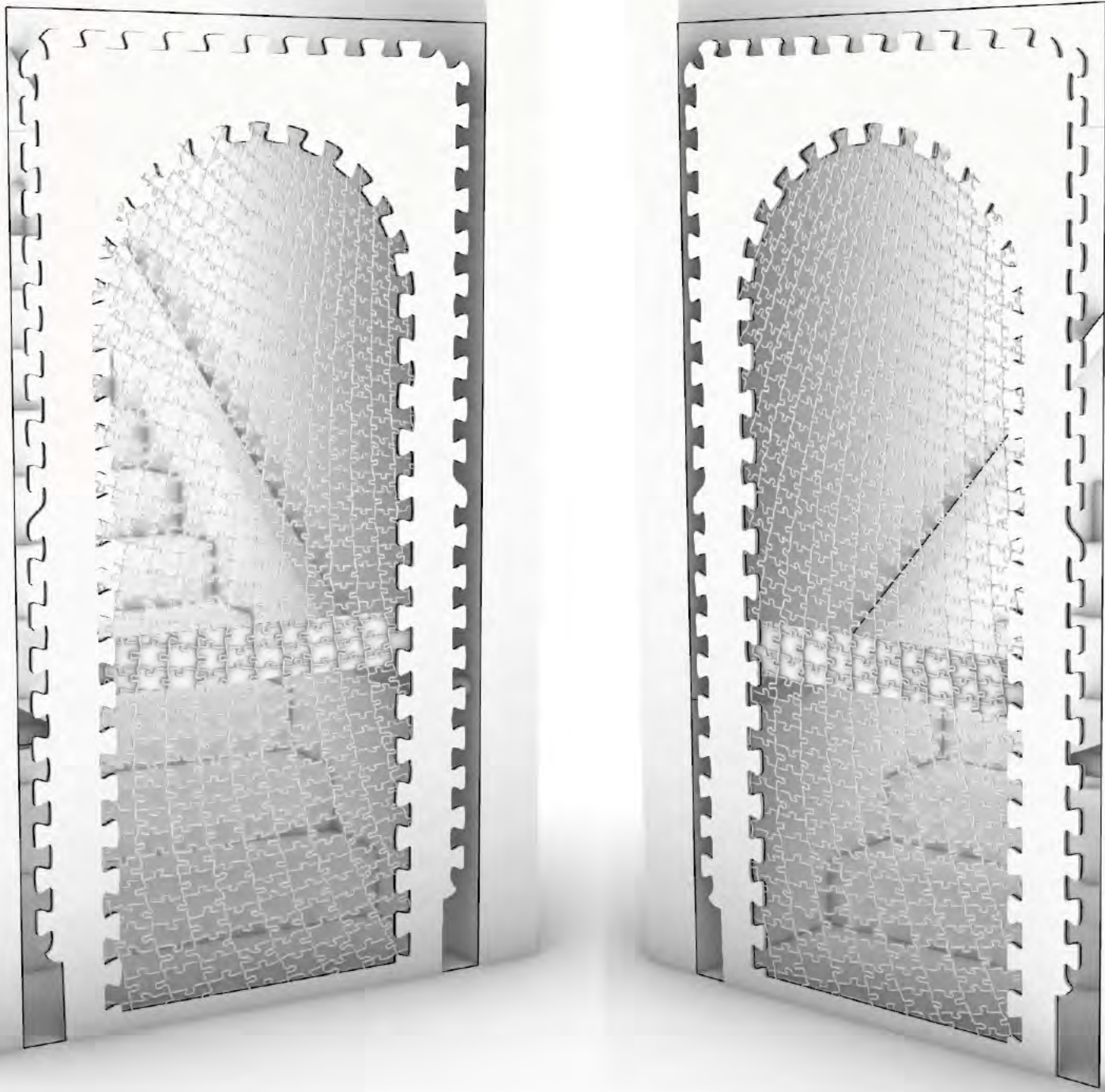
We are honored to propose a thoughtfully designed, functional gate that transforms the stairwell entrance at the Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center into a work of art—one that resonates with curiosity, connection, and play. Drawing inspiration from the transient nature of this space and the community it serves, the design explores how individuals can experience both a sense of belonging and joyful discovery through movement, light, and form.

At its heart, this gate embodies the interwoven lives of the seniors, visitors, and children who pass through and gather at the center. Utilizing geometric forms inspired by children's foam puzzle mats and interlocking steel wires shaped into puzzle pieces, the artwork offers a subtle yet powerful metaphor: our lives are like puzzle pieces, distinct yet interconnected, constantly seeking alignment. As silhouettes move behind the gate, they animate the artwork, becoming part of the living "puzzle" and reminding us that people—and the spaces they inhabit—are shaped by presence and interaction.



**THE ART FAB STUDIO**

Meranda McDermott  
Kansas City based Sculptor



The gate design features a bold yet inviting archway at its center, symbolizing passage, connection, and growth. This form invites individuals to step through and interact with the artwork while also providing a practical and visually captivating gateway. The structure combines steel wire—bent and interlocked into puzzle-piece shapes—with a geometric framework reminiscent of foam puzzle mats. The materials balance strength and familiarity: the tactile memory of childhood play and the enduring quality of steel are brought together, bridging generations.

The puzzle pieces, while playful in nature, carry layered meaning. They speak to the importance of connection—how individuals complete one another, how lives fit together in both planned and unexpected ways, and how even gaps in the “puzzle” can hold meaning and curiosity. The visual interaction of people moving behind the gate brings this concept to life.

Standing at 106 inches tall and 55.75 inches wide, the gate creates a striking frame for those exiting the stairwell. This collage offers a glimpse of the view from outside, capturing the playful puzzle-piece design as it comes to life with movement and light.



## Technical Specifications & Installation Requirements

### Materials

The gate will be constructed primarily from steel sheeting and 3/32" stainless steel wire. Powder-coating will be applied for protection to ensure longevity, strength, and visual appeal.

### Hardware

The design will incorporate standard gate hinges and hardware compatible with the County-supplied panic/crash bar.

### Installation

The gate will be installed securely within the existing stairwell structure, with anchors and mounts specified for the material and location. We will coordinate with local contractors and Los Alamos County to ensure compliance with safety regulations and proper alignment of the panic bar.

Minimal site preparation is required. Any necessary modifications will be identified upon a site visit.

### Project Timeline

Contract Signature and Design Approval	2 weeks
Material Sourcing & Fabrication	8-10 weeks
Transportation & Installation	1 week
Total Project Duration: Approximately	11-13 weeks from approval.

### Maintenance & Safety

The gate will require minimal upkeep. An annual inspection for structural integrity and paint/coating wear is recommended. Minor cleaning with water and mild soap will maintain its appearance.

The gate will meet all safety codes, including emergency exit accessibility with the panic/crash bar. The design eliminates sharp edges and ensures smooth transitions between welded joints.

### Estimated Budget

The estimated cost range for the proposed artwork, including materials, fabrication, installation, and artist fees, is \$30,000

### Budget Breakdown

Materials: \$5,000  
Fabrication: \$10,000  
Installation: \$10,000  
Contingency: \$5,000



**Meranda McDermott, Artist**  
**Kansas City based Public Art Sculptor**

*Meranda McDermott is a sculptor and public artist who graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture. Believing in the transformative power of public art, Meranda designs sculptures that serve as tools for storytelling, encouraging viewers to reflect, engage, and connect. Her work spans a range of public art initiatives, from interactive sculptures for Kansas City streetcar stops to interactive work that encourages play and learning. Each piece aims to bring art into everyday life in ways that inspire and engage.*

**2024 Art in the Loop Streetcar Artist**

Designed and developed an interactive sculpture for a Kansas City streetcar stop as part of the Art in the Loop initiative, engaging the public with functional and visually striking artwork.

**2024 Parade of Hearts Artist**

Selected to create a public art piece for Kansas City's Parade of Hearts, contributing to a citywide celebration of creativity and community connection.

**2024 Installer at Kansas City Pet Project, Roger Stoller Studios**

Collaborated on the installation of large-scale public artworks, ensuring precise execution and attention to detail in high-traffic environments.

**2024 Art Handler, 21 C Museum Hotel**

Oversaw the professional handling, transport, and installation of diverse artworks for exhibitions, maintaining a high standard of care and presentation.

**2023 Freedom School Hallway**

Partnered with Blaque KC to conceptualize and execute a public art installation in a local school, fostering creativity and cultural engagement within the community.

**2022,2023 Intern, Studios Inc**

Assisted mid-career artists with studio operations, project planning, and resource management, gaining hands-on experience in professional art practices and logistics.



**David Naisuler, Design & Installation Director,  
Art Fab Studio**

David Naisuler, Studio Director at ArtFab, brings a wealth of experience in metalworking and engineering. Inspired by generations of craftsmen in his family, David's career in sculptural media began at 15 and has included roles as a design assistant and fabrication lead in various art and furniture studios. He holds a BFA in Sculpture with a concentration in Industrial Design. David has collaborated with Roger Stoller since 2000, designing, fabricating, and installing numerous public and private works nationwide.

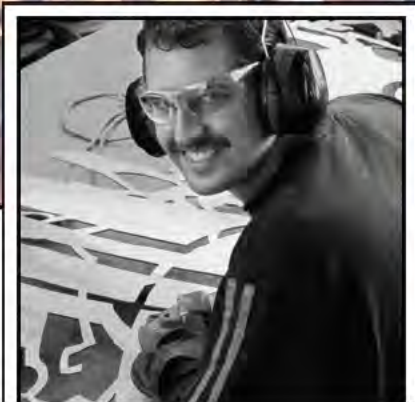
**Collaboration with Roger Stoller:** Designed, fabricated, and installed numerous public and private works nationwide since 2000.

**Advancement of Studio Facilities:** Played a key role in developing the studio's stainless steel media and bronze/glass casting capabilities, ensuring production timeliness and quality.

**Expertise in CAD/CAM and Materials Science:** Contributes to the Studio's creative and technical processes with a strong focus on innovation and durability in both materials and design. Manages all engineering and site integration aspects of public sculpture.

**Extensive Experience Collaborating With Outside Artists And Civic Stakeholders:**

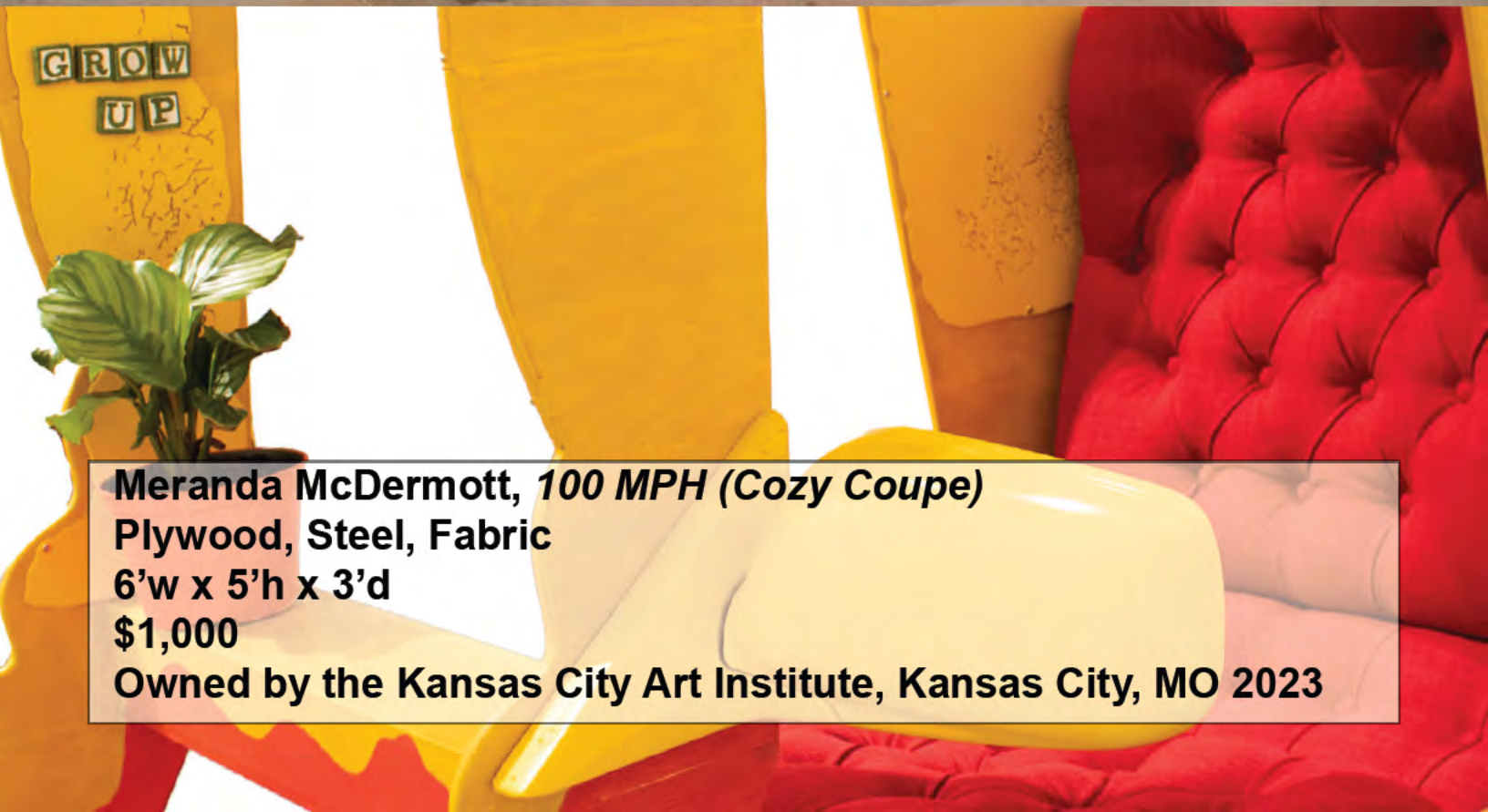
Past and current contract clients include Anne Vought, Artik Art & Architecture, Brimstone Inc, Bocci Memorials, Cypress Granite, Chabad SJ, City of Los Gatos, City of San Jose, City Of Richmond, Drue Kataoka, David Brenner, Empire Seven Studios, Eric Powell, Guzik Inc, John Bass, Kathy Aoki, Ken Matsumoto, San Jose State University, Steve Durie, Various private residential clients, Vicki Scuri.



**Anthony Teixeira, Fabrication Director and Owner,  
Art Fab Studio LLC**

*Anthony Teixeira is a proficient fabricator and the current owner of ArtFab. With a robust background in metalworking and sculpture, he has managed and produced high-quality artworks for various public and private projects. Anthony's leadership at ArtFab and dedication to quality craftsmanship are essential to the success of the studio's endeavors.*

- 2023**
- "Roger Stoller: *Sheltering Wing*,"** San Jose, CA: 8' x 18' stainless steel spiral sculpture at Heinlenville Park Plaza.
  - "Bill Gould and Elise Ordorica: *Wings*,"** Los Altos, CA: 100' cable weave and sculptural frame with over 1,800 glass and metal hangings.
  - "Roger Stoller: *Public Works Helix*,"** Frisco, TX: 8' x 14' stainless steel spiral sculpture for the Public Works Department.
- 2022**
- "Roger Stoller: *ToLAH*,"** Los Altos, CA: 8' x 14' stainless steel spiral sculpture for Parks & Rec.
  - "Jaden Hochroth: *Donor Tree*,"** San Jose, CA: Managed design, collaboration, and installation of a 13' x 8' aluminum, glass, and brass Donor tree.
  - "Roger Stoller: *Oak Screen*,"** Los Altos, CA: Finished and installed an 8' x 8' steel screen.
  - "Roger Stoller: *Uncommon Friends*,"** Spokane, WA: 8' x 14' stainless steel spiral sculpture for Wilson Elementary.
- 2021**
- "Bill Gould: *Milpitas POC Prototype*,"** San Jose, CA: Fabricated prototype for pedestrian bridge.
  - "Roger Stoller: *MoBird 2*,"** Portola Valley, CA: Cast, welded, finished, and installed a 300 lb. bronze sculpture.
  - "Roger Stoller: *Passage and Flow*,"** Solano, CA: 8' x 14' stainless steel sculpture for Solano Transportation Authority.
- 2019**
- "Roger Stoller: *Wing Helix*,"** Dixie State University, St. George, UT: 8' x 18' stainless steel spiral sculpture.
  - "Roger Stoller: *Century Tree*,"** Texas A&M, College Station, TX: 22' x 8' stainless steel wall sculpture.
- 2018**
- "Roger Stoller: *Kindred Spirits*,"** Tucson, AZ: 31' x 15' stainless steel wall-mounted sculpture for Pima Animal Care Center.



**Meranda McDermott, *100 MPH (Cozy Coupe)***

**Plywood, Steel, Fabric**

**6'w x 5'h x 3'd**

**\$1,000**

**Owned by the Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO 2023**



**Meranda McDermott, *The Blue Marble (Parade of Hearts)***

**Acrylic paint, Thermo Plastic, Marble Run Components**

**5'w x 5'h x 2.5'd**

**\$2,000**

**Kansas City Charity Auction for ownership : August 2024**





**Meranda McDermott**  
**Community project for the KC Streetcar, *Threads of Convivencia***  
**Lazerjet Prints, Vinyl, Participant Photographs, Thrifted Sleeves**  
**10'w x 9.5'h**  
**\$1,500**  
**Facilitated by KC Streetcar and Ride KC, MO, 2024**





**Art Fab Studio for Boris Renski, *Renski Gate***  
**Bronze and Corten Steel**  
**4' w x 6'h**  
**Private Commission**  
**Owned by Boris Renski, *Redwood City CA***



**Art Fab Studio for Roger Stoller, *Tetra Con Brio***

Bronze, Steel, GFRC Concrete

12'h x 13'w x 8.5'd

\$250,000

Music Center at Strathmore Bethesda, MD 2006





**Art Fab Studios for Roger Stoller, *Tetrahelix***  
**Cast Bronze, Structural Steel, India black Granite**  
**22'h x 5'w x 5'd**  
**\$150,000**  
**Google/ALZA, Mountain View, CA 2002**

**Art Fab Studios for Roger Stoller, *Oceano***

**Bronze, Granite**

**9.5'h x 3.8'w x 2'd**

**\$75,000**

**Allen Public Library, Allen, TX 2009**



**Art Fab Studios for Roger Stoller, *Coastal Helix***  
**Stainless steel, Artisan boulders, Native planting**  
**17'h x 6.5'w x 6.5'd**  
**\$125,000**  
**Pacific Coast Hwy., Carlsbad, CA 2014**





**Art Fab Studios for Roger Stoller, *Kindred Spirits*  
Stainless Steel, Corten Steel Wall  
31'w x 15'h x 8"d  
\$150,000  
Pima Animal Care Center Tucson, AZ 2018**







**Art Fab Studio for Roger Stoller, *MoBird (2)***  
**Silicon Bronze, Basalt**  
**4'w x 4'h x 4'd**  
**\$75,000**  
**Private Commission, 2022**

**From:** [Meranda M](#)  
**To:** [Ashcraft, Chelsea](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Proposal for Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center Gate  
**Date:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 3:25:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [Meranda McDermott and Art Fab Studios Los Alamos Senior Activity Center Security Gate.pdf](#)

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Dear Chelsea,

Thank you so much for your time and guidance throughout this process. My collaborators and I truly enjoyed ideating for this proposal and exploring creative ways to bring a playful yet functional design to the Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center.

Attached, you'll find our completed proposal. Please let me know if there's anything further we can provide or clarify. We appreciate the opportunity and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Warmly,  
Meranda McDermott