Winged Aspirations

In the late 1970's L.E. "Gus" Shafer produced a series of images in wood and wax as models for a monument to hope and the future. Although visually different from his western art images these elegant wing-like abstract forms pull the viewer's eye upwards like a finger pointing towards the sky and toward infinite possibilities. We feel it is appropriate to make material Gus Shafer's vision as a public sculpture which will link the Barton campus grounds with the interior spaces of the Shafer Gallery and the Fine Art Building. The sculpture continues the gallery's mission of promoting the Shafer legacy while creating an inspiring entry experience to the Fine Arts building and Shafer Gallery.

The sculpture *Winged Aspirations* with its allusion to flight connects the aspirations and hopes of Fine and Performing Arts students with our regional attention to the skies and the winged migrations of waterfowl. Its feather-like extension pointing towards the future functions as a concrete reminder that the goal of Barton Community College is to equip students to soar beyond their circumstances and to attain success and fulfillment beyond their present horizons.

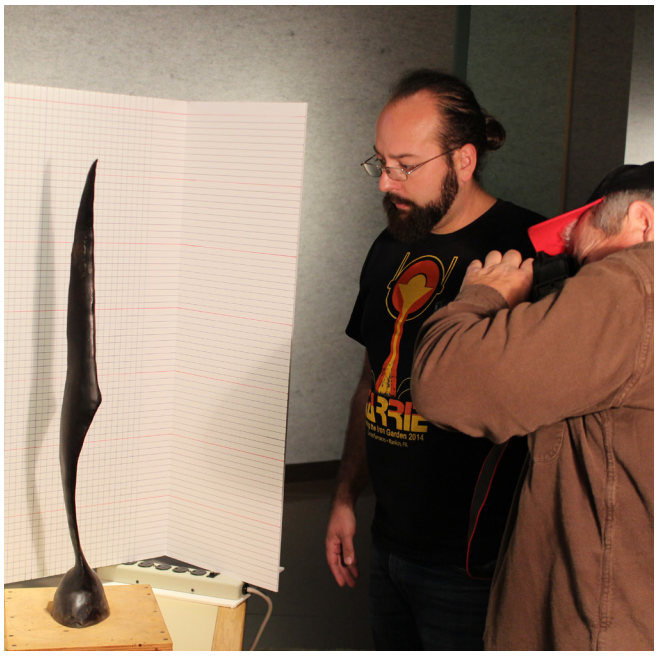
A limestone base and an array of limestone blocks will be designed to include the word ASPIRE carved into the stone at various locations.

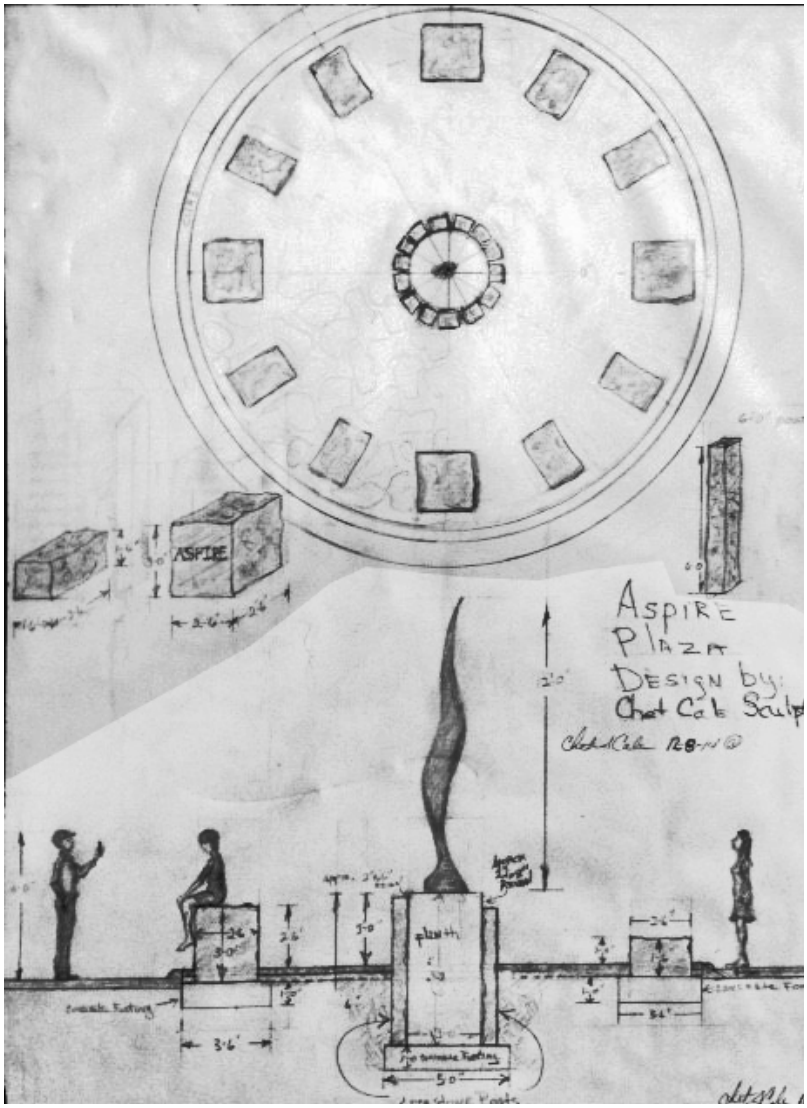
Ellinwood Kansas sculptor Aaron McCaffery has been contracted to fabricate a 14 ft bronze rendition of Shafer's piece. Great Bend sculptor Chet Cale will design the base. The funding for this project is coming from funds donated to the Shafer Gallery via the BCC Foundation by longtime friend and supporter of the arts Bill McKown.

Winged Aspiration

SHAFER ART GALLERY

A time to Soar





Aaron McCaffery of Sentinel Ironworks was selected to fabricate the large bronze sculpture. Chet Cale was selected to create a base and landscape design. Both artists are working to make the finished piece a reality.

Using a 3-D scanner to provide accuracy, Aaron crafted a large model from foam. The scanner allowed him to create sections that could be cut out and glued together.







After the model was fabricated the mold was made. Fine sand was mixed with epoxy in a mixer. Then the sand was quickly put over the model and allowed to set. The model could then be removed leaving the vacant mold behind. Due to the large size of the sculpture, Aaron decided to create sections which could be assembled after the bronze pour. The sculpture is not solid bronze but a shell with a hollow interior. In order to achieve this, Aaron and his team needed to make a “core” which would be slightly smaller than the model. Thin pieces of foam lining were inserted in the molds to create a barrier. Then more epoxy sand was mixed and “rammed” into the molds. “Sprews,” channels for the bronze to flow into and ventilation, would be added.

After the bronze was poured, the core and sprews are removed. The bronze pieces are now ready to be welded together and smoothed.

Winged Aspiration

DESIGN BY L.E. "GUS" SHAFER

FABRICATED BY AARON MCCAFFERY

BASE EXECUTED BY CHET CALE

THIS ABSTRACT FORM PULLS THE VIEWER'S EYE TOWARDS THE SKY AND INFINITE POSSIBILITIES. IT IS A REMINDER THAT THE GOAL OF BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS TO EQUIP STUDENTS TO SOAR.

THIS PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY THE LEGACY OF

FRIEND OF THE SHAFER GALLERY AND PATRON OF THE ARTS

BILL MCKOWN

2015