

## **FIRE STATION # 8**

### **Proposal by: Eric McGehearty**

### **Front Yard Sculpture**

#### **Description**

The front yard sculpture will consist of a collection of old fashioned firefighter's boots also known as "three quarter boots" (fig. 1). These boots would be cast out of bronze at life and a half size making each boot about 27" tall. The collection will contain 18 pairs of boots setup in 4 rows of 5 pairs per row (fig 2). These bronze boots will be placed on an 18" tall raised concrete pad. In addition, the sculpture will be lit for night viewing.

#### **Justification**

A firefighter's boots are an important part of their equipment, moreover the firefighters themselves use the word "boot" in several significant ways. "Old Boots" means a firefighter with a lot of experience; similarly the phrase "Black Boots" refers to a firefighter who has fought so many fires their boots have turned black from the ash. Also the phrase "Pull Up Your Boots" come from a classic firefighter's boot called a three quarter boot which has protective material that is pulled up to cover three quarters of the leg (fig.1). The "three quarter boot" is no longer used, but it is the classic style. After speaking with the firefighters at Station #8 they expressed that they wanted the art to be considerate of their historic roots.

The arrangement of the boots will give the viewer the impression of standing figures, because the boots are standing in the same direction, it also gives the feeling of a united purpose.

It is impossible to think about public art at a fire station in today's times, and not think about September 11. I do not want this piece to be about September 11 but it is important to be conscious of 9-11. This sculpture references the saying, "United We Stand" on that day firefighters showed the American people the meaning embodied in those words. The firefighters of Station 8 exemplify this very spirit; they are committed to serving their community and each other.

From a more formal perspective it should be noted that the piece has a contemporary edge because of its formatting and presentation, but still retains the ability to draw in and communicate with a large public audience.

### **Tower Windows**

#### **Description**

The windows will be changed to a solid pane of glass to create a clear canvas. Each window will have a word placed on it in large font. The font used will reference the font on classic fire trucks; according to the firefighters at Station 8 there is a font that is associated with fire trucks. After some research I have found (fig. 4), the firefighters can help to confirm this choice.

The simplicity of the presentation leaves room for a more eye catching material choice. With this in mind, the idea for a prism like material that would change

color as the viewer moves past is appealing. A material called: *Holographic Diffraction Grating Film* (fig.5) will be an ideal material to create such an effect. Finally, the windows will be lit appropriately to display them to their best effect.

### **Justification**

After considering several options in the windows a simple approach seems best. Because the work will be on a 40' tower and the primary audience will be motorists, the idea of using complex imagery in the windows did not seem effective. On the "call for proposals" for this project three words that the firefighters came up with were mentioned "courage, commitment, and vigilance" by writing one word in each window a passerby will see a clear and distinctive message. According to one of the firefighters Station #8 has a mantra: "Go Hard Every Time" this may be a good choice for a window. After speaking with the firefighters again we will decide which choice of words best expresses Station 8.