

Public Art Advisory Board Meeting

April 16, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

Contact skerr@bentonvillear.com to request participation via Zoom.



AGENDA

Members

- 1 Elizabeth Miller
- 2 Allan Paulose
- 3 Sara Asplund
- 4 Catherine Bays
- 5 Anne Jackson, Chairperson
- 6 Clint Schaff
- 7 Tom Hoehn, Vice Chairperson

Ex Officio

- Beckie Seba, City Council
- Kalene Griffith, Visit Bentonville
- Alison Nation, Visit Bentonville
- Cynthia Post Hunt, Crystal Bridges/The Momentary
- Payton Wiedner, OZ Art

Staff

- Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager
- Josh Stacey, Deputy Director of Parks

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes * – March 19, 2026

OLD BUSINESS

3. Bentonville Bat Unveiling Event
4. Murals Discussion
 - a. Skate Park
 - b. Basketball Courts
 - c. Hello

NEW BUSINESS

4. Compton Sculpture *
5. Adult Recreation Center – Artwork Loan *

PROJECT UPDATES

5. J and John DeShields Roundabout

OTHER BUSINESS

6. Application deadlines:
 - a. Near the Pitch: April 29
 - b. Water Tower Rd Roundabout: May 27
 - c. America 250: July 15
7. Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

*Attachment

Public Art Advisory Board Meeting

March 19, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

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MINUTES

Member	Attendance	Ex Officio	Attendance
1 Elizabeth Miller	In person	Beckie Seba, City Council	Online
2 Allan Paulose	Absent	Kalene Griffith, Visit Bentonville	Absent
3 Sarah Asplund	Absent	Alison Nation, Visit Bentonville	In person
4 Catherine Bays	Absent	Cynthia Post Hunt, Crystal Bridges/The Momentary	In person
5 Anne Jackson, Chairperson	In person	Payton Weidner, OZ Art	In person
6 Clint Schaff	In person		
7 Tom Hoehn, Vice Chairperson	In person	Staff	
		Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager	In person
		Josh Stacey, Deputy Director of Parks	In person
		Baylea Birchfield, Planner II	In person

1. Call to Order

Chairperson called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes * – February 19, 2026

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from February 19, 2026; Elizabeth seconded. All in favor, motion passed 4-0.

3. Adoption of Amended Bylaws

Tom made a motion to approve the amendments and adopt the bylaws; Elizabeth seconded. All in favor, motion passed 4-0.

Action Item: Shelli will finalize the bylaws and send to Anne for her signature as chairperson.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Murals Discussion

Staff reported outreach challenges for the skate park mural and basketball-court touch-ups. The board proposed partnering with local classes at Thaden School and University of Arkansas for touching up the basketball courts. The skate park mural will be removed. Staff reported that Chance Snyder is interested in doing something with the *ColorFULL* piece but may be later in the year.

Action Items: Tom will reach out to Kenneth Siemens about Hello; Shelli will reach out to Olivia Trimble at the University of Arkansas to gauge interest in partnering on mural or student class projects.

5. America 250 Commemorative Project

The group reviewed the America 250 commemorative artwork parameters and decided to finalize artwork dimensions and IT file-storage requirements before issuing a call for artists, with IT/form capacity remaining an outstanding item. Shelli will reach out to the Mayor about possible installation on the exterior of the library instead of the north side of City Hall.

Action Item: Shelli will confirm server capacity for uploading high resolution artwork.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Extension of City Hall Tim Ernst Photography loan

Elizabeth made a motion to approve extending the loan from OZ Art for Roark Bluff and Hawksbill Crag for an additional year; Clin seconded. All in favor, motion passed 4-0.

Action Item: Shelli will forward to City Council for final approval of the agreement to extend the loan.

7. Bentonville Bat Unveiling Event

Josh reported the event will likely be a weeknight, possibly a Tuesday in April or May. For the Phillips Park Bentonville Bat unveiling, members preferred a modest event with media, possible NWA Naturals mascot or youth baseball participation in the unveiling, and baseball-card-style publicity materials.

Action Item: Baylea will begin working on baseball cards.

PROJECT UPDATES

8. J and John DeShields Roundabout

Tom announced the artwork installation would begin in two weeks, with sculpture installation the week of May 6 and completion timed to Crystal Bridges' expansion opening on June 6, 2026. The piece is 13'8" tall on a 3' platform. A challenge with the shadow element was deferred due to fabrication and site constraints. He also expressed appreciation to the Street Department for their quick response in relocating signs inside the roundabout to the exterior.

Action Item: Tom will reach out to Crystal Bridges about an event and the maquette.

9. Deadlines for Art Proposals

The deadlines for the calls for art are: Near the Pitch on April 29 and Water Tower Rd Roundabout on May 27.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. Tom and Anne attended a CACHE event and will share future events with the board.

11. The committee reviewed the 2026 strategic plan and agreed with the direction.

12. Tom reported that Visit Bentonville will be publishing a press release with the latest number of artwork in the public realm, which is over 300.

Action Item: Alison will reach out to Michael McCranie for a quote.

13. Tom asked about the future of *Double Slit Skyline*. Shelli will reach out to artist again and start identifying next steps.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom made a motion to adjourn; Clint seconded. All in favor, motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm.

“River of Life” Artists’ Statement

One of the greatest resources in the Northwest Arkansas area is the mighty Buffalo River. It’s sometimes surprising how few people realize the things we value can come down to an individual. The intention of this sculpture is to increase awareness of the man Dr Neil Compton, and his work to save the Buffalo. As a frequent visitor to your region, I’m all too aware of his impact. I want future generations to know that one person, with a goal and the help of others along the way, can move mountains, or in this case, save rivers. For this piece, I have chosen bronze as the medium. Like the river, bronze is timeless, and the message of preserving our resources will be one that is carried from generation to generation, like a story that is passed down. The process of the sculpture utilizes age-old processes that have been around for thousands of years. This permanence is not lost on me as I strive to capture the essence of Dr Compton so that the future has a face to the name.

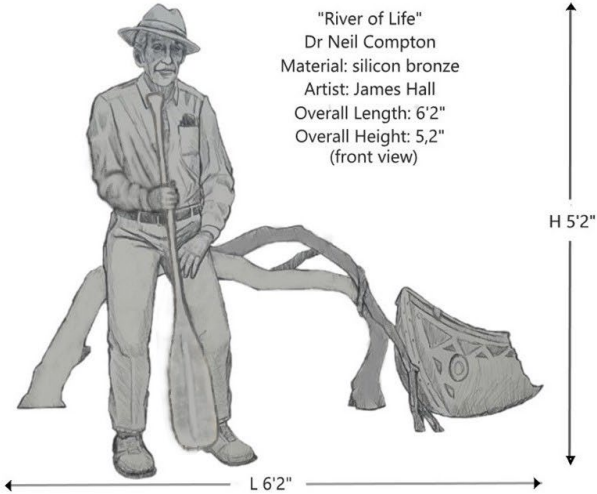
The sculpture components also have their own contributory meaning. The yellowwood, Compton’s favorite tree, is gnarled over into a crude bench that has seen the awesome power that the river possesses, enduring trials eternally. His trusty canoe is present as the means of locomotion on NWA’s most famous waterway. Finally, Compton himself, sitting on the tree bench, clutching the paddle that is the power behind his journeys.

He’s in a reflective pose, perhaps recounting his numerous adventures on the river, and why it was so important to preserve it. The entirety of the installation will have patina colors that reflect nature, a combination of greens and browns, hues of the Buffalo. I am very excited about this project and solidifying a legacy while making the person seem real to those that view it. I believe the work will encourage people in the future to aspire to great deeds, all starting within their own communities.

About the Artist

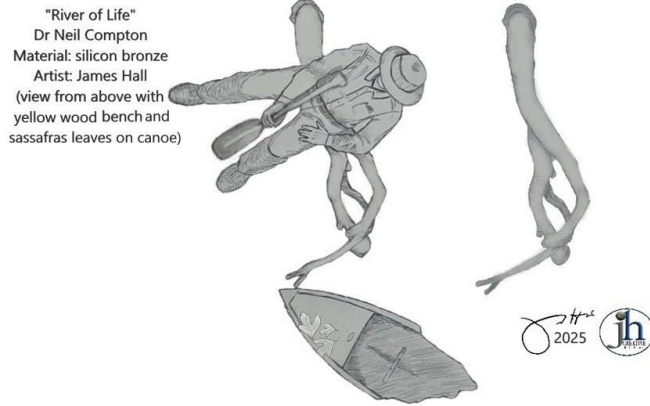
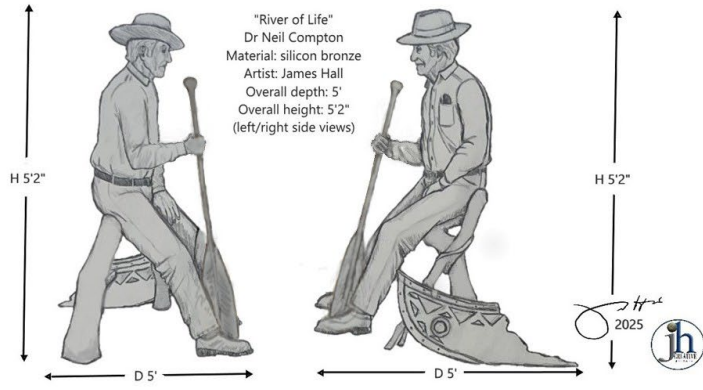
James Hall is a representational sculptor with over 30 years of experience in the fields of bronze, commercial, and natural history museum art. His passion is the “Art that Educates” and tells people the story of the world around them and the people that shape it. He is a graduate from Missouri State University majoring in 3-dimensional design. He has worked in the visual merchandising industry in addition to designing art pieces for public and private collections. Hall spent 10 years at Chase Studio, Inc fabricating zoological models for natural history and environmental science exhibits. James started JH Creative LLC in 2003 to create bronze and commercial sculptures for public institutions, corporations, parks, and museums. His works are worldwide and can be seen in Canada, Japan, Egypt, Germany, the UK, and the United States. He resides in Southwest Missouri.

DESIGN FOR "RIVER OF LIFE" BRONZE SCULPTURE



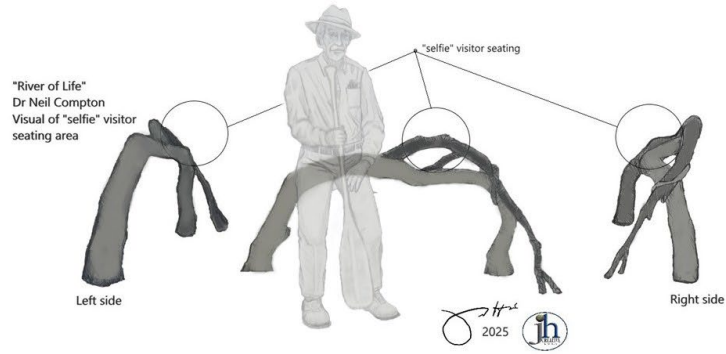
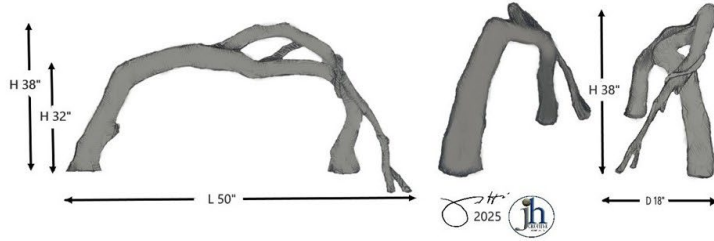
James Hall
2025

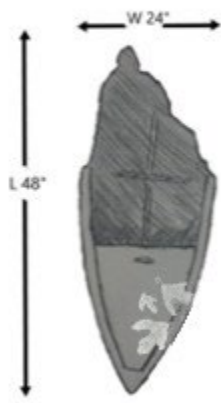




"River of Life"
yellowwood branch component
Material: silicon bronze
Artist: James Hall

Length: 50"
Height: 38"
Depth: 18"





"River of Life"
Canoe detail
Material: silicon bronze
Artist: James Hall

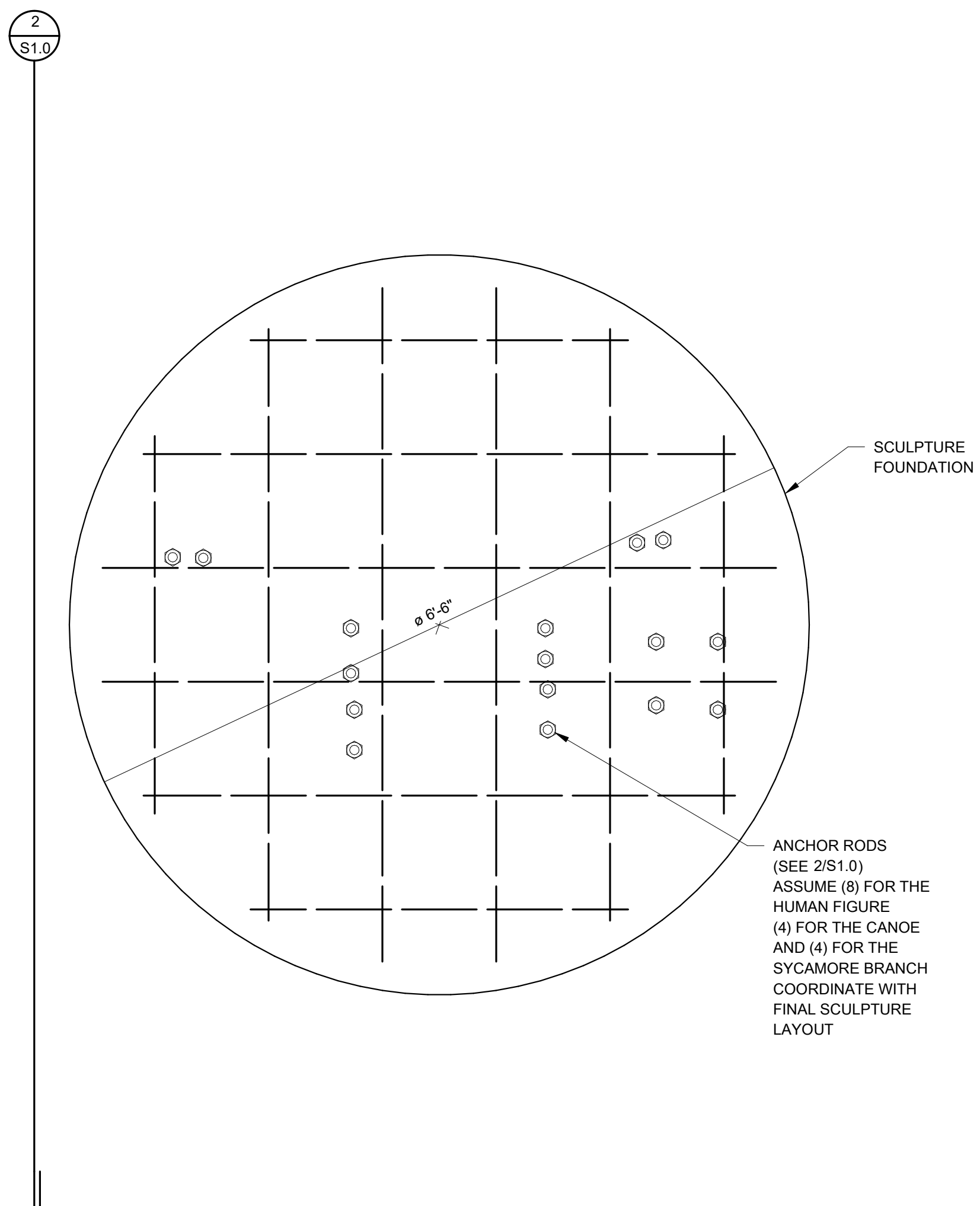
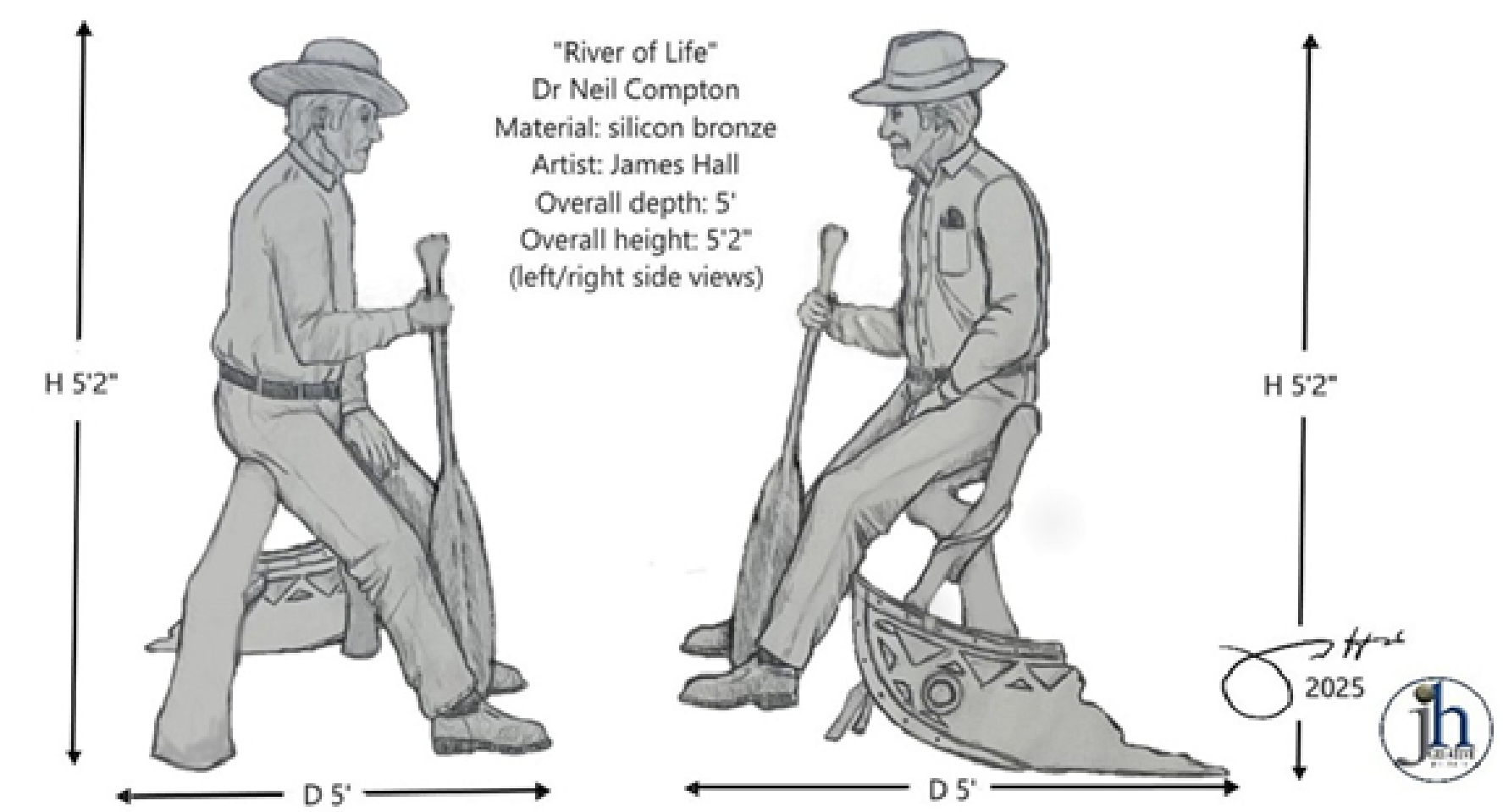
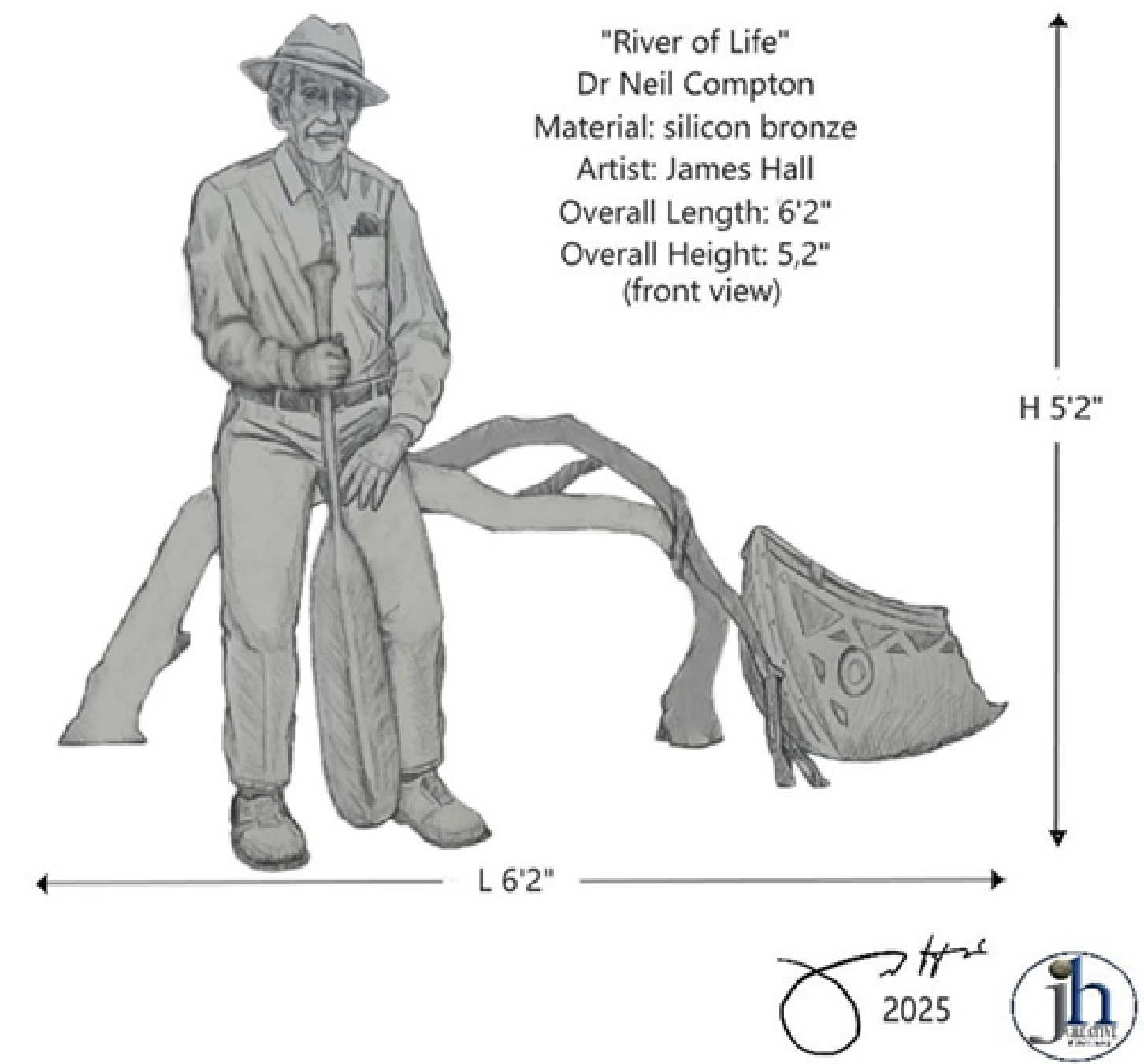
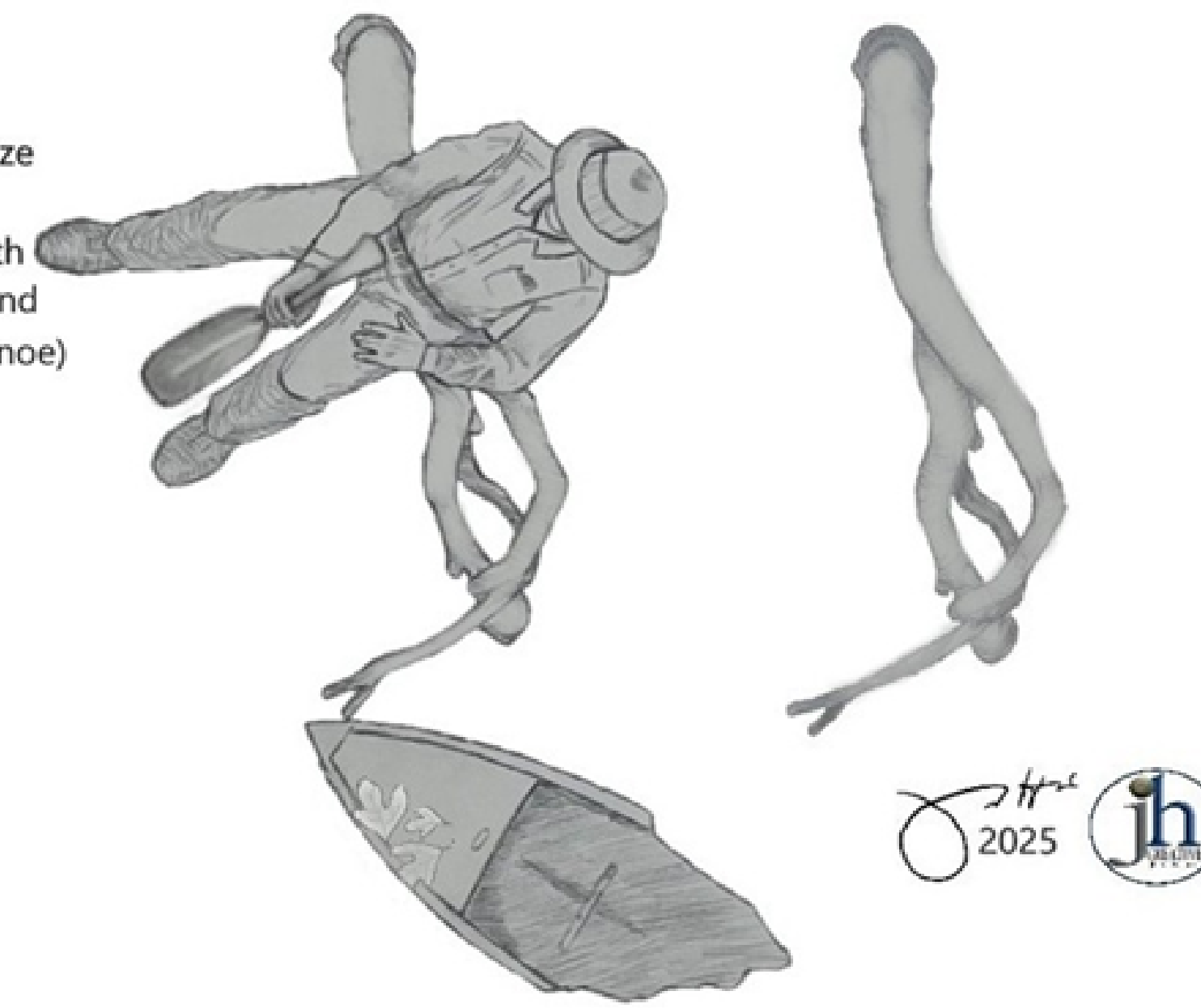


James Hall
2025 

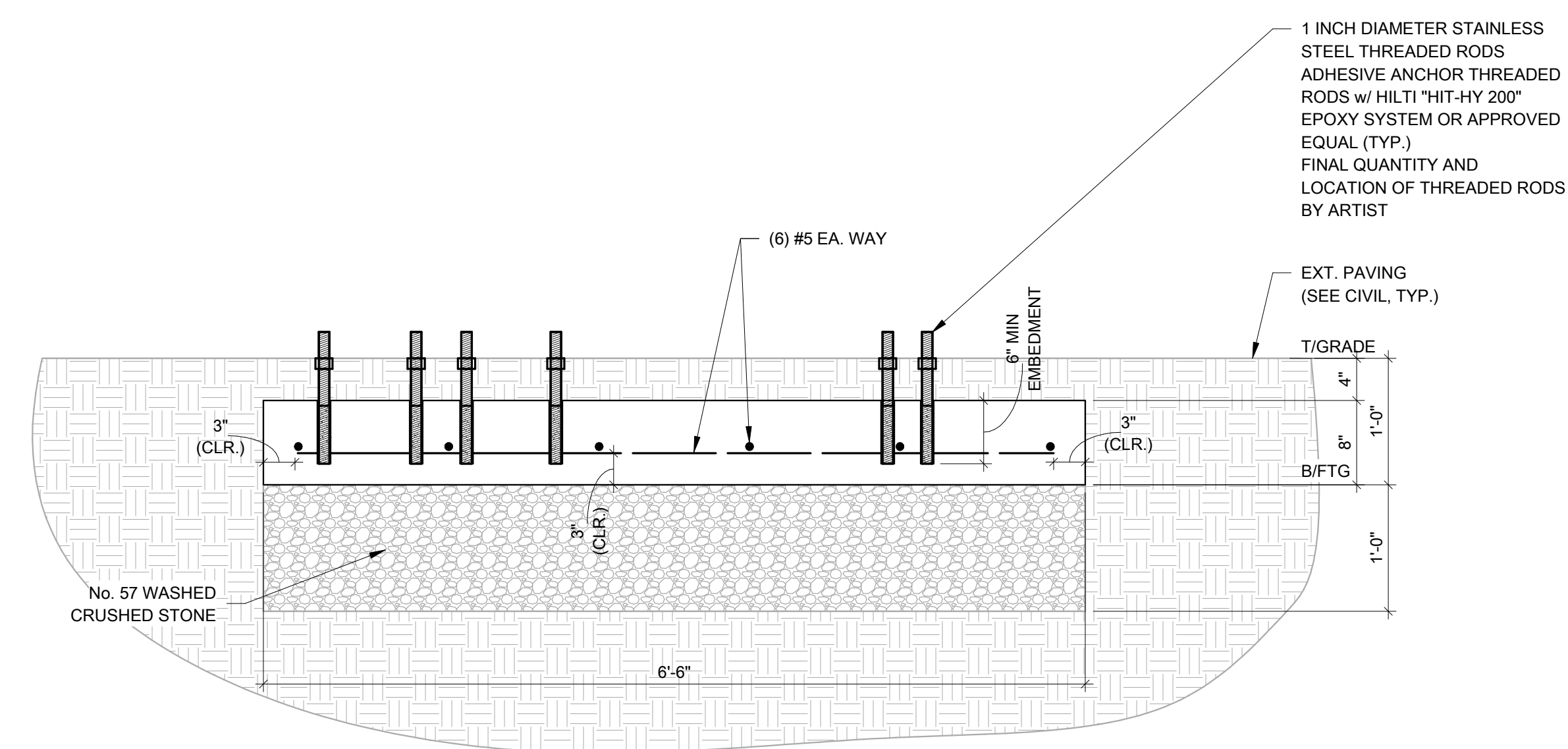
DESIGN LOADS	
DEAD LOADS:	WEIGHT OF THE STRUCTURE
GROUND SNOW LOAD	Pg: 15 PSF
WIND SPEED	Vult: 101 MPH Vasd: 78 MPH
RISK CATEGORY	I
WIND EXPOSURE CATEGORY	C
WIND LOAD	Fult: 0.493k
SEISMIC IMPORTANCE FACTOR	Ie: 1.0
MAPPED SPECTRAL RESPONSE ACCELERATIONS	Ss: 0.153 S1: 0.089
SITE CLASS	C
SPECTRAL RESPONSE COEFFICIENTS	Sds: 0.183 Sd1: 0.143
SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY	C
BASIC SEISMIC-FORCE-RESISTING SYSTEM	G. CANTILEVER COLUMN SYSTEMS DETAILED TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR: 2. STEEL ORDINARY CANTILEVER COLUMN SYSTEMS
(PER TABLE 7-10, TABLE 12.2-1)	
DESIGN BASE SHEAR	V: 0.13W
SEISMIC RESPONSE COEFFICIENT	Cs: 0.13
RESPONSE MODIFICATION FACTOR	R: 1.25
ANALYSIS PROCEDURE	EQUIVALENT LATERAL FORCE METHOD
CODES:	2021 ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE A.C.A. 12-80-101 ET. SEQ. (ARKANSAS STATE LAW)

- NOTES:
- SITE PLACEMENT OF SCULPTURE BY OTHERS.
 - CONCRETE STRENGTH, $f_c = 4,000$ PSI w/ 5% AIR ENTRAINMENT
 - ALL REINFORCING STEEL SHALL BE ASTM A615, GRADE 60
 - CONTRACTOR TO PREPARE SUBGRADE AND VERIFY IN FIELD PRIOR TO POURING FOOTINGS.
- * TOTAL ALLOWABLE LOAD BEARING PRESSURE USED IN DESIGN = 2,000 PSF
* ULTIMATE COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION TO RESIST LATERAL LOADS = 0.3

"River of Life"
Dr Neil Compton
Material: silicon bronze
Artist: James Hall
(view from above with
yellow wood bench and
sassafras leaves on canoe)



1 PLAN VIEW
1" = 1'-0"



2 SECTION
1" = 1'-0"

PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DR. COMPTON'S CANOE
Bentonville, AR

ECI
101 Parkwood Street, Suite B
Lowell, AR 72745
Phone No. (501) 376-3752
Fax No. (501) 376-3754
ECI JOB No. 252475

CHECKSET

4/3/2026

REVISIONS

SHEET TITLE

PLAN AND
DETAIL

S1.0



TIM ERNST
Richland Creek Maple,
 2016
 Photo on canvas
 30.125 x 40 x 1.375 ",
 framed: 31.25 x 41.25
 x 2.125 "



TIM ERNST
*Maple Trees in the
 mist,* 2016
 Photo on canvas
 20.25 x 40 x 1.375 ",
 framed: 21.25 x 41.25
 x 2.125 "



TIM ERNST
Last Color 2013, 2016
 Photo on canvas
 30.125 x 59.875 x
 1.375 ", framed: 31.25
 x 61.125 x 2.125 "



TIM ERNST
*Tea Table Rocks on
 Home Valley Bluff,*
Newton County,
Arkansas, 2016
 Photo on canvas
 24.25 x 47.875 x 1.375
 ", framed: 25.5 x 49.25
 x 2.125 "



GEORGE DOMBEK
Grant County, 2014
 Watercolor
 20 x 20 ", framed:
 31.25 x 31 x 1.75 "



GEORGE DOMBEK
Jackson County, 2013
 Watercolor
 20 x 20 ", framed:
 31.125 x 31.125 x 1.75
 "



GEORGE DOMBEK
Lee County, 2014
 Watercolor
 20 x 20 ", framed:
 31.125 x 31 x 1.75 "



GEORGE DOMBEK
Ouachita County, 2014
 Watercolor
 20 x 20 ", framed:
 31.125 x 31.125 x 1.75
 "



GEORGE DOMBEK
Poinsett County, 2014
Watercolor
20 x 20 ", framed:
31.125 x 31.125 x 1.75
"



GEORGE DOMBEK
Washington County,
2015
Watercolor
20 x 20 ", framed:
31.125 x 31 x 1.75 "



MONICA TAP
Charles' Tree, 2018
Oil on canvas
46 x 41 "



MONICA TAP
*Amnesia Garden: The
Stars Are Out*, 2018
Oil on canvas
51 x 51 "