



Village of Dimondale • 136 N. Bridge St. • P.O. Box 26 • Dimondale, MI 48821 • 517.646.0230

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Dimondale Arts Commission/Iler artwork

The Village of Dimondale Arts Commission has announced the selection of the village's inaugural work of public art. St. Johns, Michigan artist Ivan Iler's sculpture "Bridge Between Banks" was chosen at the end of a lengthy search process.

Iler has been featured on the Netflix program "Metal Shop Masters." His works include "Portrait of a Dreamer" in downtown Lansing, "Keeping Time" in Charlotte, and "The Ledges" in Grand Ledge. Iler's works can also be seen in Michigan cities including Mason, St. Johns, Baldwin, and Big Rapids, along with Kenner, Louisiana.

The Dimondale Arts Commission conducted a search process that invited proposals from Michigan artists. Three finalists were chosen, and those artists were paid to create renderings of their designs. On November 15, the finalists presented their proposals to the commission, and members recommended Iler's piece to the Dimondale Village Council. The council approved their choice on Monday, December 13.

Iler's sculpture was inspired by the commission's desire that the first piece brought to Dimondale reflect the community's history and charm. Iler's piece will include three layers of ¼-inch steel, spaced apart to create a sense of motion as you walk or drive past it. Iler says he came across some old pictures from the early 1900's and was inspired by the bridge. "The structure of the bridge and the importance of the river to the growing community was really beautiful to me," he explains, adding that he set out to pay homage to that history in a way that he says "highlights the promising future of Dimondale."

"Bridge Between Banks" will be erected next year in Dimondale's pocket park at the corner of South Bridge Street and East Jefferson Avenue, not far from the bridge. A dedication is being planned for early summer, 2022.

"We're honored so many talented, high-caliber artists responded to our call to design Dimondale's first art installation. This piece will not only have a great impact on our community, it's going to set the standard for other public art in the future," shared Dimondale Arts Commission Chairman Camron Gnass.

After the village council approved the arts commission's recommendation to select Iler's project, an anonymous donor stepped forward to provide funds for a second installation. The village council then voted to add to the donor's funds. That sculpture, which was the runner-up in this search, is also expected to be installed next summer. Further details on the project will be released at a later date.

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