

YOU CAN HELP BRING THIS UNIQUE SCULPTURE TO ELK RIVER  
AND BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING PUBLIC ART INITIATIVE.

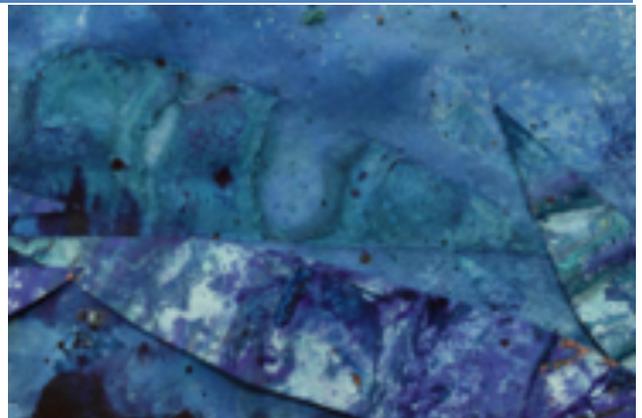


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### Introducing ... SLIPSTREAM

*A celebration of the highways of  
Charles Merritt Babcock  
and the Elk River community  
from which he came.*

A Proposal from Elk River's Public Art Committee



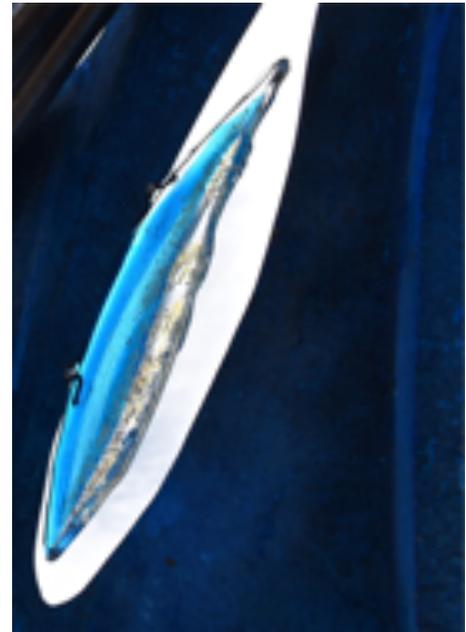
1: Sample of Ancient Irish Bronze Age Metal Casting to be incorporated in Slipstream

## THE SLIPSTREAM PROJECT

Slipstream is a sculpture comprised of bronze, steel, and kiln-formed architectural recycled glass, 10'(H)x 10'(W) x 4'(D), the sculpture will facilitate both communal and individual experiences. It can be “read” from afar, as it will have the form of a leaping fish or a river. Up close, one will see a community of diverse fish swimming along in two slipstreams, encircled with intertwining steel pieces representing highways, as Slipstream is in honor of Charles Merritt Babcock who developed the Minnesota Highway system. It pays homage to the rich history of the city as well as to the Mississippi River whose banks it will enhance.

It will be positioned on the intersection of Main Street and Parrish Avenue of the Granite Shores Plaza. Visible from Highway 10 and lit by solar power at night, the sculpture will welcome travelers along the highway and area residents to pause, to enjoy its beauty, to reflect on the history and natural resources of Elk River, and to explore downtown businesses.

Collaborating with the Great River Regional Library, we will have computers available to provide the story of the project. Art teachers Nicole Hahn and Damien Husen will educate students about the project. The Chamber of Commerce will assist with public event planning. Milligan Studios artists will present onsite workshops involving the community about bronze casting and engage community members in its construction and placement. Milligan Studios will also produce a video of their work which will be available to the public at home or at the library’s computer center. The city has entered into an agreement with Granite Shores about the site, and its management. They will also contribute the cost of the concrete base.



2: Fused architectural glass and steel, components in Slipstream

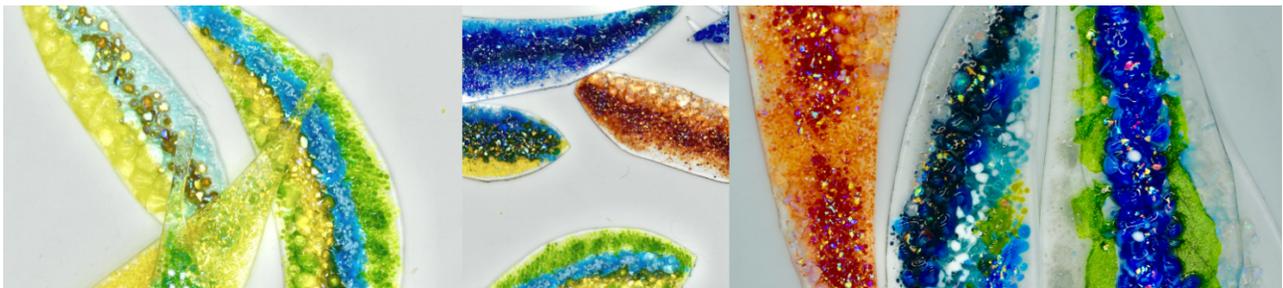
## THE ARTISTS

The Milligan Studio artists are very capable and experienced and have pieces located throughout the country and internationally. They have broad experience working with schools in Minnesota and have produced successful curriculum for students.

Irish Sculptor Alan Milligan makes it a practice to offer community-wide Umha Aois (Ancient Irish Bronze Age) metal casting workshops, as an introduction to the some of the techniques used to make sculptures.

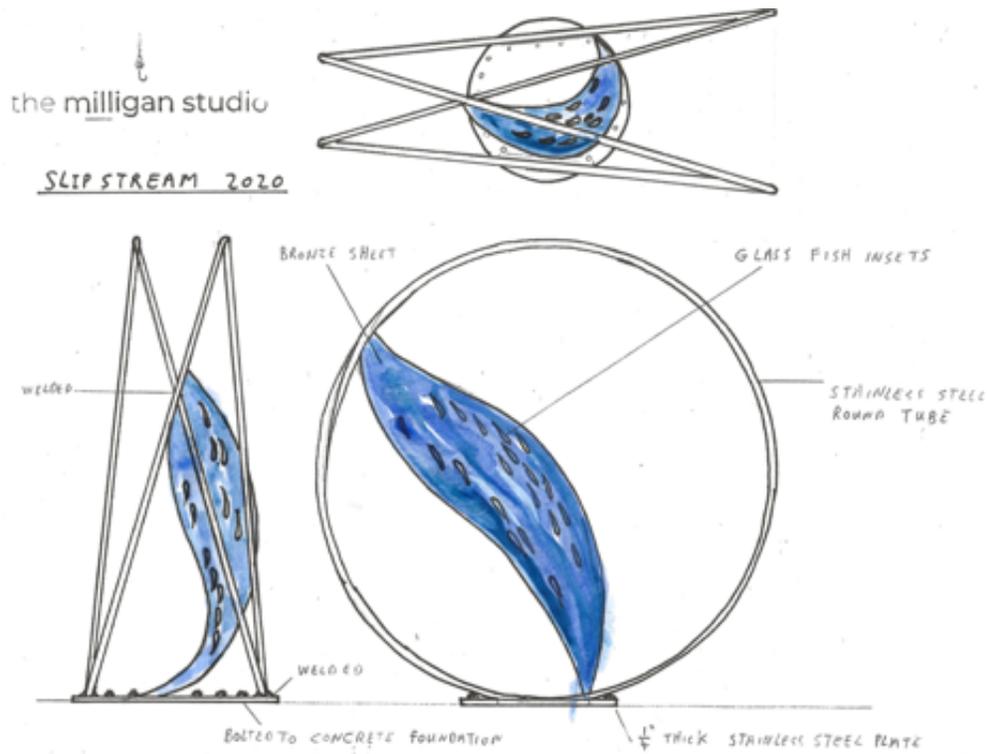
Dr. Nicole Mary Milligan (who also writes novels as New York Times bestselling author N.M.Kelby) creates a narrative webpage and photographs every step of the build to tell the story of the sculpture as it is being fabricated.

Examples of such work, like the recent piece, Cloud Horse, can be found on their website [themilliganstudio.com](http://themilliganstudio.com). The Milligan Studio offers many ways to enhance the artistic, cultural and educational values of viewers through art experiences.



## THE SLIPSTREAM DESIGN

Milligan Studios has submitted the following design proposal.

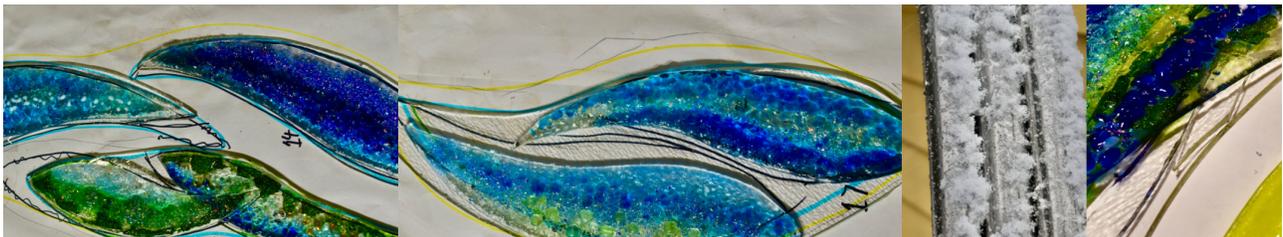


### Slipstream

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Sheet bronze patinated in shades of blue would form the “highway” in which the diverse fish of Slipstream school together. The metal rods represent the highways.

For more about the artists and studio visit [themilliganstudio.com](http://themilliganstudio.com).



## THE TIMELINE

1. Research Elk River, its history and its people (completed).
2. Site visit (completed).
3. Create model and drawings based on the idea of community as diverse fish in a slipstream. Incorporated solar light collaboration, as we were impressed with the innovations of the community in that area and felt we could learn from working with these civic leaders. (Model completed, solar light collaboration in progress).
4. A series of site visits scheduled to meet stakeholders to and talk through expectations. October 2020. City staff, building staff, Milligan Studios will be in attendance to walk through the placement of the art and installation logistics. (completed)
5. Create community event and host it. This generates publicity and allows the engagement of the city in the process November 2020 Creation of the event will happen in November, with the Milligan Studio taking the lead on this as they have hosted and facilitated these events in the past. Promotion would be made through the Milligan Studio and the city and its partners. Planning in progress with COVID regulations in flux.
6. Build Project web page with photos, plans, etc. October/November 2020. Is on Milligan website.
7. Begin build. Should take about 6 weeks.
8. Install by June 30, 2021 with celebration.

## THE BUDGET

<b>Project Cost</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
Grant from Central Minnesota Arts Board	5,000
City of Elk River's Economic Development Authority	10,000
Granite Shores (In kind preparation for base)	
Grant request submitted to Three Rivers Community Foundation – May 1, 2021	
Additional requests for funds pending from area concrete companies.	

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

This opportunity to provide Elk River with a beautiful sculpture, and to engage the community in paying homage to our natural resources and rich history, and to enrich the lives of students in our district. This is a unique opportunity to enrich the cultural lives of the community and to draw people into the downtown business area. We trust you will give our request for a donation thoughtful consideration. You will receive public recognition for your generous contribution.

To contribute please contact:

**Colleen Eddy, City of Elk River – Economic Development Specialist**

13065 Orono Parkway, Elk River, MN 55330

Phone: 763.635.1041

Email: [ceddy@ElkRiverMN.gov](mailto:ceddy@ElkRiverMN.gov)

**The City of Elk River's Public Art Subcommittee is comprised of the following members.**

- Colleen Eddy, Project Manager and Economic Development Specialist
- Dan Tveite, Economic Development Authority President
- Jennifer Wagner, HRA, EDA and City Council Commissioner
- Cal Portner, City Administrator
- Ann McCormick, Retired school principal and teacher
- Michael Niziolek, Elk River Park and Recreation Commissioner and retired Science Teacher
- Sharon Tracy, Retired Humanities teacher, Arts Alliance Director, member of the Central Minnesota Arts Board, Minnesota Citizens for the arts Board member.

The Public Art Committee has already completed one successful sculpture project, the Whimsical Windmill by Minnesota Artist Carl Zachman located on the Elk River Library grounds. We are eager to present our second project, Slipstream, which will enhance the eastern entry to downtown Elk River.