

Outdoor Art Piece for the Backyard Garden

The Backyard Garden is looking for an artist to submit designs for an outdoor art piece to be installed at the Backyard Garden. We would like to see 2-3 options from each artist that fall within our guidelines and budget listed below. In addition, we would like to receive all responses, including mock-up designs and pricing by November 30, 2019, if possible.

The Backyard Garden was established in 2005 on approximately 2 acres at the Kansas State Horticulture Research and Extension Center located in rural Olathe, Kansas. The objective of this garden is to provide an educational and interesting display garden featuring vegetables, herbs, fruits and native plants created with the backyard gardener in mind, thus the name "Backyard Garden." This garden provides visitors with many diverse crops that are grown utilizing research-based techniques that can be applied to any home garden.

In addition to operating as a display garden, the Backyard Garden provides educational opportunities to local area students and adults. We host a variety of student field trips during the year where we teach children about growing vegetables and fruits, caring for the soil, and propagating plants in support of the horticulture programs offered by area schools. We also host events for adults such as tomato tasting trials and flower arranging. Education has become an important area where we continue to build new programs to reach the public.

Art Installation Overview

The Backyard Garden volunteers are looking to install an art piece to honor the founders of our garden space. Our founders were artists themselves, longtime gardeners, and an inspiration to all of us that volunteer there. We hope this art piece will not only honor their memory but also enchant and delight visitors to our garden, inspiring them to continue and expand their own gardens.

We are looking for a large piece, approximately 4-6 ft tall, 2-3 ft wide to be either an entry way to the garden or a focal point within the garden. We would like the piece to be bright, colorful and have movement if appropriate in the design. Below are some specifications as well as some photos to give you some idea of components that we like.

Theme

We have 3 ideas for a theme:

- Children playing in a vegetable garden or a teaching aspect with children and vegetables or plants
- Birds, butterflies, and/or insects among flowers. Both of our founders had a love of mixing flowers in with vegetable gardens and one of them painted our water barrels with sunflowers.
- Kansas grasses that are colorful and/or have movement.

Location

We have 3 potential locations/structures:

- A garden inspired gate. Our current gate is simply just two 5x6 foot panels. See the photo at the end of the document of our current gate.
- An arch above our current gate – this could even be combined with a new gate piece. The distance between the 2 posts that support the gates is 128.5 inches and each post is 82” tall. See the photo at the end of the document of our current gate.
- A stand-alone piece that we place somewhere in the garden as a focal point or an object which people move towards when strolling the garden.

Material

We are thinking wood and/or metal but most importantly the piece needs to have low to no maintenance. Depending on its size, we may be able to move it inside our shed for the winter but it will mostly likely need to remain outside sustaining cold, wet winters, hail storms an hot summers.

Budget

We have a budget of \$2500-\$3500. It’s possible we could raise additional funds above \$3500 but that would take us several months of additional work that we have currently not planned on doing.

Pictures



These pictures represent the theme of birds, flowers, and nature. We would not want a single flower but maybe multiple flowers at different heights and colors with potentially some local KS birds or butterflies or dragonflies included.



These pictures probably speak to us the most. We love the idea of having joyful sculptures of children but would prefer them playing with or interacting with plants and vegetables. In addition, we'd love some way of incorporating the message of our mission to teach and educate in this piece.

Finally, here is a picture of our current gate (10 feet wide).

