

## Come as You Are

We are honored to present our design for the Four Corners Gateway, entitled **Come as You Are**. It is intended to be a communal welcome to ALL residents and visitors of Coeur d'Alene who pass by this active thoroughfare.

Six larger-than-life stylized human figures come together in community around a large table-like boulder.

We use the concept of people coming together as a nod to the Coeur d'Alene tribe and their history of gathering with other regional tribes in this area, which they sometimes dubbed *The Gathering Place*.

It was important for us to convey DIVERSITY through these sculptural figures. We started with a mix of genders. Then we designed the figures using a variety of:

- ❖ Body shapes
- ❖ Ages
- ❖ Colors\*
- ❖ Unique Offerings\*: each figure is sharing an offering with the group

Equally as important as expressing DIVERSITY is affirming the spirit of ACCEPTANCE & INCLUSION of these differences. We symbolize this openness in several ways:

- ❖ **An OPEN Circle Formation:**
  - Together the people form a circular shape, but the circle is open on one end, symbolizing a gathering where all are welcome. A closed circle might convey exclusivity.
- ❖ **Orientation:** The two figures at the opening of the circle are facing outwards, ready to welcome others.
- ❖ **Hand and Arm Gestures:**
  - We added artistic arms to these otherwise pillar-like "busts" that harken ancient art. By adding arms in an array of beckoning and/or offering gestures, the artwork becomes quite welcoming and meaningful.
- ❖ **Offerings\*:** Each figure is offering something to share with the group, i.e. bringing something to the table.
  - One figure is holding a fruit basket to share the bounty. Her arms are reaching out as if to welcome or even hug someone.
  - One figure has a shield, as if to offer safety & protection. But his shield is lowered, suggesting an easing of arms because there is no threat. Peeking over the top of the shield is a trio of flowers. The shield is decorated with three linked circles. The center point is darkened, signifying that despite our differences, we share important commonalities at our core.
  - An elder figure is holding a walking stick. The arms are the shape of feathers, which offer a myriad of symbolism and meaning, and also serve to honor the Coeur d'Alene tribe.\*
  - A child is offering the elder a flower.
  - One figure is holding a dove-like bird above his head, symbolizing Peace.
  - One figure has branch-like arms on which three butterflies perch, conjuring themes of nature, beauty, and transformation.
- ❖ **Table:** a large boulder will become a table in the middle of the gathering, as a place to share.
  - Our hope is to connect with someone from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to see if they are open to being part of the process by helping choose a boulder from a local quarry. Perhaps there is a type of stone that is especially meaningful to the tribe. We love the idea of this type of community participation.
  - We would arrange to have the boulder etched with **Come as You Are** in large lettering.

- ❖ **Interactivity** – The artwork is designed so that people can walk in and around the circle and around each figure. It would be wheelchair accessible. In this way the artwork is welcoming for the public to view, contemplate, and become part of the gathering themselves.