



Contact : Loretta Carroll
Carroll Communications
402-871-3710 cell/ 402-393-2991

CREATING AN INTERSTATE GATEWAY TO COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA ODYSSEY MEDIA GUIDE

August 5-August 20

Introduction

This week, the Iowa West Foundation's public art initiative (IWPA) launches installation of a magnificent interstate gateway to be experienced by millions of people nationwide every year. Albert Paley's Odyssey is the eighth major public art installation in the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa. The foundation's efforts are guided by a public art master plan and an art selection panel. As Council Bluffs' national reputation for its contemporary public art collection grows, we welcome your interest and your questions.

Installation Overview

The installation of Albert Paley's Odyssey on Interstate 80 at the S. 24th St. Bridge is a precise operation. Four sculptures will be mounted on plinths using 120 ton and 80 ton cranes to lift them over the designated plinth and lower slowly into place. The mixed-metal sculptures consist of stainless steel, weathering steel and bronze plate. Each contains up to 15 individual elements with weights ranging from 46,000 pounds to 70,000 pounds. Upon completion, the largest sculptures will tower about 100 feet over the highway.

Media note: Fabrication for each sculpture started last January in a large facility in upstate New York. Upon completion, each piece was pre-assembled and then dismantled for the transport to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The sculptures will be erected in sections. After unloading approximately 13 flat bed trucks at the work site, the first two days of the installation will focus on placing the lower sections of the sculptures on base plates on the plinths. Grouting of each base begins immediately after the base plates are set – once complete, it takes 24 to 72 hours to cure. (note: this will happen over the weekend)

With the exception of some spears on Sculpture A, the bases installed Thursday and Friday are relatively simple. Photographers/videographers won't see the addition of the more dramatic elements --spears, ribbons and bronzed parts – until Monday. The installation team will focus on finishing one piece (order: A, D, C, B) before moving to the next. Generally, we anticipate at least three days per sculpture.

A crushed gravel area with ample parking has been established for news media under the S. 24th St. Bridge. See rough schedule below with directions for parking and understand that weather and work pace may require changes.

Rough Timetable & Location

Work hrs. 6am-6pm

Wed. Aug 4	Equipment deliveries on-site
Thur. Aug 5	Trucks with parts for Sculpture A and B on south side of the S. 24 th St. Bridge will unload. Bases will be set. (See diagram – page 4). Media parking/access: From north side. Use construction access road on the I-80W onramp at S. 24 th St. Exit left on gravel road. (From Omaha: take I-80E to 24 th St. exit to S. 24 th St. Loop around to 24 th St. I-80W On ramp).
Fri. Aug 6	Trucks unload for Sculpture C and D on the north side of the bridge. Same process followed by grouting. Media parking/access: From south side. Use construction access road on I-80E on ramp. Exit left onto gravel road. (From Omaha: take I-80E to S. 24 th St. exit. Cross over 24 th St. to I-80E on ramp.)
Sat. Aug 7	Limited activity. Overflow day only
Mon. Aug 9	Crane in position to finish Sculpture A (SE side). Media parking/access: From north side. Use construction access road off the I-80W on ramp at S. 24 th St. Exit left onto gravel road.
Tues. Aug 10	Weather permitting, promising visuals with final pieces placed for Sculpture A. Media parking/access: From north side. Use construction access road on I-80W on ramp at S. 24 th St. Exit left onto gravel road.
Wed. Aug 11	Sculpture D—followed by C and then B.

Traffic Note: I-80 traffic will not be disrupted. Starting August 5, there will be lane closures on S. 24th St. starting with the outside northbound lane.

Media Process

1. Please call Loretta's cell phone 402-871-3710 the day before if you would like to position live trucks under the bridge.
2. Please call Loretta's cell phone 402-871-3710 at least one hour before you plan to go on site.
3. Depending on progress, media parking/access will be changing. Make sure you know the designated parking area before you arrive to avoid getting into space needed by the installation team.
4. Once you exit the designated on ramp, please stop at the media check-in area. Project Manager Greg Peterson will provide safety vests if needed. Please be patient and wait a few minutes if he is busy.
5. The designated media area under the bridge provides excellent visuals.

Photographers/videographers will be allowed to get closer but must have a hard hat and be escorted by either Project Manager Greg Peterson or Installation Manager Ted Hobin. Anyone requesting closer access to the work site must be wearing closed toe shoes.

6. If you wish to arrange interviews with the installation manager and Iowa West Public Art representatives, coordinate through Loretta. The installation manager will be focused on the installation but can be available at designated times to talk about the challenges of such a large installation, progress to date and next steps. Thursday August 5 and Friday August 6, the designated times are 10am and 2pm.

SAFETY REMINDERS

- ☐ No parking on interstate shoulders
- ☐ Absolutely no stopping on I-80
- ☐ No stopping on the on ramps – use designated parking area for that day
- ☐ No shooting on S. 24th St. – lane closings will make this hazardous
- ☐ Stop at the media check-in to pick up safety vests if necessary
- ☐ Request an escort if you want closer access to the installation site

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*please use cell phone once installation has started

Looking East

