

**Center for Neighborhoods P.A.I.N.T. project proposal for
Crescent Hill Public Art Project**

“GOAT(desic) DOMES: Exploring our Connections”

**Billy Goat Hill Community Garden
Payne Street, Louisville, KY**



**ARTISTS: David Bibelhauser and Lauren Argo
CENTER FOR NEIBORHOODS LIASON: Hallie Jones and Kate Sowada**

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

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INTRODUCTION:

The Center for Neighborhoods P.A.I.N.T. program proposes a public art project “Goat(desic) Domes” by local artists David Bibelhauser and Lauren Argo. The project will include construction and installation of two geodesic dome structures at the Billy Goat Hill Community Garden in Louisville, Kentucky. This public art sculpture will be built in cooperation with the BGHCG members and the surrounding neighborhood residents.

GEODESIC DOMES:

A **geodesic dome** is a partial-spherical lattice shell structure based on a network of great circles (geodesics) on the surface of a sphere. The geodesics intersect to form triangular elements that add local triangular rigidity and distribute the stress across the structure. The geodesic dome is capable of covering more space without internal supports than any other enclosure. The geodesic dome is the strongest structure known in the architectural world because it becomes proportionally lighter and stronger the larger it is. The geometry of the dome creates a space that allows for proper circulation of ambient air with least amount of energy input.

The artists propose two domes to be assembled and installed at BGHCG. These domes will be aesthetically pleasing while creating the ideal space for BGHCG members to socialize, meditate, learn, or relax. These domes will create the largest usable space with the most efficient use of land and materials.

The **Upper Dome** will be located close to where the hoop house currently sits and will become part of the existing garden. This dome will provide partial shade with its painted canvas coverings and can be used as a place of rest and fellowship. It will serve the community in similar ways the hoop house does now.

The **Lower Dome** will be placed in the “lower field” near the lower exit of the woods’ path constructed by the Boy Scout volunteers. This dome will eventually be covered with living, climbing vines that will add a natural element to the sculpture over time. Uses could include: a meditation or reflection hut, a storytelling nook, and a gathering place to learn from your neighbors and fellow gardeners.

The ceiling height of both domes will be about 8 ½ feet. The domes’ footprints will be a circle, roughly 16 feet in diameter. The triangles that compose the domes’ structure will be almost 5 feet tall.

MATERIALS & MAINTENANCE

BOTH DOMES

- 3/4 inch galvanized steel conduit struts
- Steel stakes
- Galvanized nuts and bolts

UPPER DOME

- *Dome materials and*
- Triangular canvas pieces attached to areas of the dome’s top to provided a shaded cover. These will be painted using colors taken from the BGHCG logo.

LOWER DOME

- *Dome materials and*
- Native, non invasive climbing vines planted at the base, to create organic shaded cover over time.

How much maintenance of the project will be required?

On the “Upper Dome,” the canvas triangles will need to be removed before the winter season. This job should be completed by at least two adults and should be fairly easy.

The “Lower Dome” will require minimal maintenance of the climbing vines. They will need to be nurtured in the beginning, but may also benefit from a little guidance throughout the seasons.

What will it look like?

See accompanying illustrations.

What will it look like a year from now? Two years from now?

P.A.I.N.T. projects are temporary and are meant to last at to at least two years. Therefore, both domes will be constructed from durable materials, and should weather well for at least two years. However, the canvas portions of the “upper dome” may need to be painted or replaced as they weather with the seasons. The “lower dome” will increase in beauty over time. As each season passes, the structure of the dome will begin to disappear beneath the living organic structures growing around it. Over time, it will become more and more like its surroundings.

If *BGHCG* wishes to keep up the sculpture beyond the 2 year period, it will be up to the garden participants to maintain the structures soundness and remove it if necessary.

SAFETY

Because of safety issues, will children be able to climb on it?

As previously stated, the geodesic dome is the strongest structure known in the architectural world, and it should be structurally sound for climbing. However, the domes will not be easily climbable for children as the spaces between the struts will be nearly five feet tall.

TIMELINE

Timeline of completion (upon approval by *BGHCG* board, land owner, etc.)

- 6 weeks build out (artists creating the materials needed for installation/assembly)
- 1 Community Build Day
- 2011-2013: As part of P.A.I.N.T. guidelines, this project is intended to exist for at least two years depending on the needs of the community. Over that two-year period the artists are committed to assisting with any issues that may arise concerning maintenance and repair.
- 2013: After the two-year period, if *BGHCG* decides to keep the sculptures, the members will be responsible for all maintenance, repair, or removal.

MISSION & VISION

Billy Goat Hill Community Garden

MISSION-PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization is to build community understanding and support through operating community vegetable and flower gardens or other environmental projects using sustainable practices to improve the environment.

Activities will include but not be limited to education and awareness programs, maintaining a variety of garden types, bee hives, bird sanctuary, water conservation systems, walking paths, recycling, composting, and partnering or forming alliances with other groups to participate in sustainable projects and to improve the quality of life in the area.

Please explain to us how your project will match and complement the mission and purpose of our community garden.

When you think about standing inside something, you think about being away from nature. The opposite is true when you are inside these geodesic domes. You will feel the outside – you will feel the air... you will hear the birds chirping and the wind rustling through the trees. You will remain a part of nature... and you will still be connected to the community around you.

The domes we would like to build with BGHCG are sculptures that will visually become a part of the community; and will bring the community together through limitless environmental and educational programs that could take place “within” them. You can teach about the connectedness of community by looking at the structure of the “upper dome.” Or you could have children collect an object from the trail and bring it into the “lower dome” for a closer study. You could invite a group to come for a nature hike, or to bat or bird watch. The domes could serve as your rendezvous point for these activities. The two domes will visually link the upper and lower fields, and will utilize the path in the woods that physically links them. They will likely invigorate excitement at the garden and could help foster alliances with outside groups by drawing them into the space.

Studying the structure of a geodesic dome itself is a story that speaks of the garden and the community: lending a hand and sharing the load with your neighbor. Each piece of the dome supports a part of the whole structure’s weight. If just one piece were to weaken or be removed, the entire structure would become unstable. It is a metaphorical commentary on working together. By studying the domes, we can find ***we are all connected***.

COMMUNITY BUILD DAY!

To install the sculptures, we would like to involve all surrounding communities in partnership. The Center for Neighborhoods, The Billy Goat Hill Community Garden, Sacred Heart Village, The Clifton Center, The Boy Scouts and others can all help to promote getting the community to be a part of this public art project. When you involve the community in creating a piece of art, its members are more connected to the work and are more likely to make it part of their lives.

On *Community Build Day*, we will bring all parts, prepped and ready, to be assembled. We will outline and implement a relatively simple plan for assembling the domes. This assembly will be lead by the artists and a few assistants, but can involve anyone who is able to work with the

materials. Once the domes have been installed, other groups can help to add the painted canvas triangles to the upper dome and the climbing vines to the lower dome.

We would like to discuss further the idea of including additional activities for children and seniors to participate in build day. Some ideas for activities include a station where people can build smaller versions of the domes using mini marshmallows and small wooden sticks. At another station, people will pot flowers or vines to take home as a memory of the day and to inspire them to bring a part of the garden to their own home. We will try to get some or all of these materials donated by area businesses along with some refreshments for the build day participants.

BUDGET:

(Project to be funded by a grant from the Center for Neighborhoods)

Dome Materials:

80-- Sticks $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 10' Galvanized conduit	\$400.00
60-- $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ " Galvanized bolt	\$60.00
60-- $\frac{3}{8}$ " Galvanized nut	\$20.00
60— $\frac{3}{8}$ " Galvanized washer	\$20.00

Canvass Covers (upper dome):

Canvass	\$200.00
Paint, grommets, thread, etc.	\$200.00

Plants (lower dome):

Misc. native noninvasive vines, etc.	\$200.00
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Tools and consumables:

Arbor Press	\$100.00
Drill press	\$200.00
Drill bits	\$60.00
Sand paper, jig materials, paint brushes, grommeting tools, etc.	\$100.00
<u>Landscaping cloth</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>

Subtotal **\$1760.00**

Labor **\$5740.00**

Total **\$7500.00**

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

DAVID BIBELHAUSER

David Bibelhauser is a sculptor living and making art in Louisville, KY. He uses a variety of media including plastic and metal, as well as cast bronze, concrete and plaster, to further explore human emotion through the idea of "universal facial expressions", other forms of nonverbal communication, and cause and effect human interaction. He recently completed a large 3D public window mural for Whitney Young Elementary School at 35th Street and Mohammed Ali Blvd. His cast concrete sculpture *The Sleeper* is part of Louisville Downtown Management District's Sculptural Bike Rack Project and is located at the corner of Fourth St. and Mohammed Ali Blvd. in downtown Louisville. A second sculpture from the series, *Day Dreamer*, was commissioned by The Crescent Centre Apartments and is installed on South Third Street in downtown Louisville. His work is also held in numerous private collections. Bibelhauser has managed his own business building custom bike racks and sculpture since 2005.

LAUREN ARGO

Lauren Argo is a Cynthiana, Kentucky native, working in Crescent Hill in many artistic mediums, including performance, installation, photography, sculpture, and collage. Her study of feminine beauty, reality vs. fantasy, memory, and Southern cultural and consumerism remain a constant thread in her work, asking: 'How has our individual and communal understanding of Southern culture shifted over generations? What is Southern now? How will the death of the traditional South affect all living organisms?'

Recent work

Miss Argo won the Norman Kohlepp Merit Award at Louisville Visual Arts Association's 2011 Regional Water Tower exhibit for her sculpture, *Southern Tea for two*.

The recent solo show, *Farmer's Daughter Cycle* (Lexington Art League, Downtown Arts Center Gallery, Land of Tomorrow Gallery, Louisville) represented life after the death of the small tobacco farm. Shifting between dream and reality, visual and performance, *Farmer's Daughter Cycle* combines memories of time and place to create a new fairytale of birth and decay. Using sound, smell, touch and taste to summon visceral emotions as a response to fading/disintegrating Kentucky heritage, the relations of organic and man-made textures to the body are common thread uniting the elements of this piece and the current work of the artist.

Miss Argo gained National recognition as a Kentucky artist for her public performance piece, *Life As Art: 21 Days in 21C* where she lived in an 8X5 storefront window for 21 days with a web cam. This project gained over 60,000 online viewers around the world and brought performance art in Kentucky to the world's stage. Exploring ideas of communication, public and private, reality and presentation and observer and performer she lived on display for over 550 hours.

Other Work: How to be PRETTY, The Faun, (21c Museum), *Flour, Dirt & Dreams* (Kentucky Girlhood Project), *Will I Be Pretty?*, *Who I am and Who I am Not*, *Fingerprints* (University of Kentucky), *METTA* (Philadelphia Fringe Festival), *Compartmental Memory* (Lexington Arts & Cultural Council), *Inventing Beauty, One Of Everything* (Kentucky Women's Writers Conference).