

IN THE NEWS

Lottery

Powerball	Hot Lotto	Pick 3
3 7 13 34 47 30 x5	5 14 18 26 34 14	5 5 2

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Sculptor David Nunneley works Tuesday on a sculpture that represents mentoring children for Rotary Club of Tulsa.
MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

Statues speak of Rotary's service

▪ The artwork will adorn a plaza to honor 100 years of the Tulsa group's aid to the world.

BY ALTHEA PETERSON
World Staff Writer

The Rotary Club of Tulsa will celebrate its centennial year in 2015, but its first project to commemorate the occasion is well under way.

The Rotary Centennial Downtown Project will feature five sculptures in a plaza depicting different aspects of Rotary's philanthropy projects across the world, said Bob Lengacher, Centennial project chairman.

The goal of the project is to depict the importance of volunteerism and show why Tulsa is "America's most gen-

erous city," he said.

"Each conveys a specific message and illustrates the great avenues of service that Rotary is involved in," Lengacher said.

While the sculptures have an international theme with people from various ethnic backgrounds, the sculptors themselves are local professionals.

Tulsan Jay O'Meilia, whose works include the Jason White Heisman statue on the University of Oklahoma campus, was the lead sculptor for two of the pieces.

These pieces show a Rotarian mentoring a student from Celia Clinton Elementary School and a girl discarding her crutches after recovering from polio, O'Meilia said.

"It's a real honor for us ... when you think of all they've accomplished internationally," O'Meilia said.

The sculptures will eventually be bronze, but are currently still in a planning phase where they have base models made of Styrofoam, wax and clay, said David Nunneley of Broken Arrow.

Nunneley is the lead sculptor on the globe sculpture and two others, although Nunneley and O'Meilia said they have had help from many others. Nunneley's works include the bronze statue of Medal of Honor recipient Ernest Childers in Floral Haven Memorial Gardens. His sculptures for the Rotary's project depict a foreign exchange student and a Nicaraguan woman retrieving water from Rotarian-built wells.

"The creative process was to show the way they were before the Rotarian wells, so the research is the fun part of it," Nunneley said. "It's been a very interesting project and

the Rotarians have been great to work with."

While the project has been in the planning and creative stage for about two years, one thing is still uncertain: location. Project architect Charles Ward said the plaza will likely be somewhere downtown, but exactly where it is could change some of project's plans.

However, the Tulsa City Council approved the project in January 2008 and city leaders including Mayor Kathy Taylor have been extremely supportive, said Rotary past president Tim Colwell. He said he hopes area residents will also embrace the volunteer spirit behind the plaza.

"The Rotary is all about giving back, and this is a tremendous tribute," he said.

Althea Peterson 581-8361
althea.peterson@tulsaworld.com

BY THE NUMBERS

12 feet

The height of the largest sculpture planned for the plaza, which will stand on a 6-foot pedestal, making its total height 18 feet. Each sculpture will feature plaques about various Rotary projects.

80 inches

The average height of four surrounding sculptures depicting Tulsa Rotary philanthropy projects from around the world. The width and depth of each sculpture is about 3 feet by 3 feet.

40 feet

The planned diameter for the round plaza area. The exact location of the plaza is still undetermined, but it will likely be in downtown Tulsa.

\$650,000

The estimated cost of the entire plaza project. Around \$710,000 has already been committed by Rotarians in pledges and paid contributions.

2010-11

The project will done by 2010, possibly 2011, according to project leaders. That's in plenty of time for the Rotary Club of Tulsa's Centennial year, 2015, which the plaza commemorates.