

Tell us about the creation of your piece.

We carved the stone outside our home in Grand Junction. This is very hard stone, and required the use of diamond tools. We removed about a quarter of the stone. The stone came to us full of mud, so it had to be sandblasted and power washed to start with. It was filled with surprises.

We played with the number of boulders to use. It took some time to decide what would make the best “creature.” Ultimately, we settled on five.

The formation of the piece took a long time. The real challenge was to make the seating comfortable. I used different sized boulders to allow for different seating. I wanted children and their families all to have a special place. You will see that the tail of the piece is especially for the smaller visitors.

The boulders themselves were trucked to this site from Grand Junction and assembled in the line you see them in here. I'd like to mention that as we were installing the boulders a citizen named Bob told us we needed to reconsider what the most important view is. We did and we now refer to one of the rocks as Bob's Boulder. He was right! I carved each of them separately at home, and had never seen them sitting in a row until they were finally installed. It was a real treat to see them put together.

How do you think your piece reflects its site?

This is a place of quiet repose. My piece doesn't detract from the vista, it doesn't scream to be noticed. You have to be aware that it is here to appreciate what it really is. In some ways, it is similar to the site itself. You can live here and sometimes not tune into this wonderful panorama as you drive by. With this piece, you first realize that they are stones, and then realize they are a place to sit, then, quietly and subtly, the form of the dinosaur takes shape. It changes with the variation in light. Sometimes you see the face very obviously, and sometimes not.

What do you hope the Broomfield community will take away from an encounter with your piece?

I have two main hopes for the experience with my piece. First, I would like it to be functional. I would like it to be a comfortable place to sit. Second, I would like people to understand that art can bring life to things. It can convey a sense of the living in items we don't normal think of as alive. People generally don't give credit to the life in stones, and I would like them to see that here. I want this piece to be a comfortable integrated part of this environment.

What does the term “Public Art” mean to you?

It has been proven that a community that is involved in the arts is healthier mentally and emotionally.