



## FARRIS WHEEL STUDIOS

DESIGN • COLLABORATION • FABRICATION

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913-827-7200

From: Farris Wheel Studios artists Amie Jacobsen and Jake Balcom

Date: February 10, 2024

Subject: Letter of Interest - Welcome Art for the Town of Castle Rock

Dear Town of Castle Rock Public Art Commission,

We are writing to express our interest in creating the Welcome Art for the Town of Castle Rock. Applying as a collaborative team, Jake Balcom and I are both experienced public arts, sculptors, and metal fabricators.

As owner of Farris Wheel Studios, and acting as team lead, I have nearly a decade of design, fabrication and public art experience, completing twelve public art commissions throughout the US in the past 5 years including "Still Wild" for Castle Rock in 2023. My teammate, Jake Balcom, boasts a distinguished career spanning two decades, with extensive experience in public art and metal fabrication. His portfolio features 25 public art installations and over 100 private commissions in sculpture, lighting, and architectural projects. Each of us have extensive experience working with engineers, architects, designers, art committees and municipalities.

Jake and I are interested in this project because, first, I love my home state of Colorado and feel connected to the culture there. Having grown up just 30 minutes south in Colorado Springs, I feel that Castle Rock is an extended part of my hometown "backyard". Furthermore, we are confident in our ability to create a captivating and meaningful artwork for that aligns with the community's goals and celebrates the unique identity of Castle Rock.

Thank you for considering our application. We are confident that our collaborative approach and commitment to community connection will allow us to deliver a remarkable artwork for the Jeremy Ranch Roundabouts.

Amie Jacobsen and Jake Balcom

# Amie Jacobsen

Farris Wheel Studios, LLC  
info@farriswheelstudios.com  
www.amiejacobsen.com

## Professional Experience

May 2017-present  
Owner/Operator

**Farris Wheel Studios, LLC  
dba Amie Jacobsen Art and Design**

Design+build studio specializing  
in sculpture, public art  
and artisan furniture, including  
5000sq foot fabrication shop  
and showroom space.

March 2015\_May 2017

In-house Designer and Resident Artist

**Machine Head, Kansas City, MO**

3D design and fabrication assistant for all  
projects from concept to completion.

June 2006-March 2015

Illustrator and Graphic Designer

**Amie Jacobsen Art and Design  
Overland Park, KS**

Freelance Illustration and Graphic Design  
specializing in children's book illustration.

## Academic Experience

Aug. 2006-May 2014  
Professor of Illustration

**Savannah College of Art and Design,**

painting and technical illustration courses  
for undergrad through graduate level  
students. Authored 3 eLearning courses  
for online degree program.

\*Instructional Technology Council's  
2009 Distinguished eLearning Educator

## Education

2006, MFA Illustration  
Savannah College of Art and Design

1997, BA Studio Art  
Western State College, CO

## Public Art Commissions and Installations

- 2023** **Spirit of the Brook, Echinacea Umbrellas, and Over the Rainbow**/Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department Public Art Program/ Shawnee Mission Art 9, Shawnee, KS/(scheduled install March 2024)
- Wild Contemplation**/Creative Alliance Manitou Springs/Manitou Springs, CO
- Still Wild**/Castle Rock Public Arts/Castle Rock, CO
- New Growth**/City of Blue Springs Public Art/Blue Springs, MO
- 2022** **Gateway**/Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department Public Art Program/ Prairie Village, KS
- Trails of Gunnison Valley Mural and Sculptures**/Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association/Gunnison, CO
- 2021** **The Flame of Inspiration**/City of Fremont 1% for the Arts/Fremont, CA
- Damsel in Blue**/City of Roeland Park/Roeland Park, KS
- Native Color at Unity Square**/City of Bartlesville/Bartlesville, OK
- 2020** **Give them Wings**/City of Coral Springs/Coral Springs, Florida
- 2019** **The Spirit of Crested Butte**/Town of Crested Butte/Crested Butte, CO
- 2018** **Ripple Bench**/City of Overland Park/Overland Park City Hall/Overland Park, KS

## Select Private Collections

- 2023** Dandelion Puffs 2  
**Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta, GA**  
(scheduled install December 2023)
- Damsel in Gold*  
**Barbi Benton's Copper Palace, Aspen, CO**
- Blue Moon*  
**Barnett Residence, Springfield, MO**
- 2022** *Sunflower Series, Agricultural Building, Denver*  
**Colorado State University, CO**
- Prairie Ballet*  
**Bowlus Art Center in Iola, KS**

# Amie Jacobsen

Farris Wheel Studios, LLC  
amie@farriswheelstudios.com  
www.amiejacobsen.com

## Recent Shows and Galleries

2023 Sculpture in the Park, Loveland, CO

Fall 2022, Alumni Solo Exhibition  
Western Colorado University

2022, Blue Springs "Regenerate"  
Sculpture Exhibition

Eva Reynolds Fine Art Gallery  
Overland Park, KS

## Select Private Collections Cont.

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- 2021** *Dandelion Puffs*  
**Hagedorn Residence, Waldron, MO**
- 2019** *Indefatigable Soul*  
**The Boutique Retirement Club of Ironhorse,  
Leawood, KS**
- 2017** *Branches and Flame*  
**Summers Residence, Vail, CO**
- Tempest Ballet  
**Genesis Hospital, Davenport, IA**
- Vivacious  
**Trozzolo Residence, Leawood, KS**
- 2016** *Wheels of Progress*  
**Embassy Suites, Olathe, KS**

## Other Accomplishments

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**2024 Design KC Award Winner**

### Illustrated Book Publications

- 2011** Spenser's America, Simple Fish Book Co.  
Spenser Loves America, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2010** Spenser Goes to El Paso, Simple Fish Book Co.  
Spenser Loves Savannah, Simple Fish Book Co.  
Spenser Loves El Paso, Simple Fish Book Co.  
Spenser Loves St. Louis, Simple Fish Book Co.  
Spenser Loves Portland, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2009** Spenser's Savannah, Simple Fish Book Co.  
Spenser Goes to St. Louis, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2008** Spenser Goes to Portland, Simple Fish Book Co.
- 2006** Scampering Through Savannah, OnWords  
Publishing
- 2004** The Quest for Elloshidii, Granite Publishers and  
Distribution

# Jake Balcom

1519 Cherry ST  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
402.730.6282

<http://www.jakebalcomsculpture.com>  
jakebalcomsculpture@gmail.com

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## Selected Public Art

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2023	"Iron Leaf" – Shawnee Mission Park, Shawnee, KS – IN PROGRESS
2023	"Vita Nova" – Buffalo Creek Art Center Sculpture Garden, Gardnerville, NV
2023	"Interplay" – MRI Global, Kansas City, MO
2023	"Rising Phoenix" – Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, GA
2022	"Lily No. 1" - Blue Springs, MO – Colonial Gardens
2022	"Buffalo Blome" – Buffalo Creek Art Center Sculpture Park, Gardnerville, NV
2022	"Alpine Bloom" – Ketchum, ID
2021	"999" – Kansas City, MO – Law Enforcement Memorial Garden
2020	"Marlborough Blomes – Kansas City, MO
2019	"Riverside Rest Stop" – Riverside, MO
2019	"Money Blomes" – Omaha, NE
2017	"Mountain Blomes" – Cheyenne, WY
2016	"In Plume" – Gladstone, MO - Downtown
2016	"Alley Blome" - Marion, IA - Downtown
2015	"Dandebloome" - Blue Springs, MO - Downtown
2014	"Triple Blome" – Kansas City, MO – Swope Park Soccer Complex
2011	"Duel Aspirations – Blue Springs, MO Adams Dairy Landing
2010	"Stile Di Famiglia"- Omaha, NE - Little Italy Neighborhood
2010	"River Flight" - Yankton, SD Riverwalk
2010	"Four Seasons" - University of Nebraska at Lincoln
2010	"Ascension" - Omaha, NE Dundee-Memorial Park Rose Garden
2008	Bobcat Mascot - Lincoln, NE - Beattie Grade School
2008	Rose Vine Panels and Fence - City of Lincoln Rose Garden
2007	Nature Themed Sculptures(4) - Lincoln, NE - Pioneers Park Nature Center
2015	"Modern Respite" - Kansas City, MO – Washington Park
2011	"Ripple Affect" – Yankton, SD - Juried Annual Riverwalk Exhibition
2011	"Reclaimed" Art Show, Lux Center, Lincoln, NE - Group exhibition
2010	"The Traveler" – Yankton, SD - Juried Annual Riverwalk Exhibition

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## Selected Private Commissions

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2023	Moose Sculpture – Kansas City, MO – IN PROGRESS
2022	Anna's Place - Chandelier and Custom Lighting – Indigo Hotel, Omaha, NE
2021	"Tension" - Lighting - Chartreuse Saloon, Kansas City, MO
2020	"Cubic Tangles" – Lighting – Drastic Measures, Shawnee, KS
2020	"Square Root Spiral" – Chandelier – Drastic Measures, Shawnee, KS

## Jake Balcom

2017	“Steampunk” – Chandelier – Swordfish Tom’s, Kansas City, MO
2017	“Octopus” – Chandelier – Swordfish Tom’s, Kansas City, MO
2017	“Cog” – Chandelier – Swordfish Tom’s, Kansas City, MO
2016	“Rebar 7” – 3 Landmark Center, Lincoln, NE
2013	Rye Restaurant’s Rye Grass Inspired Fire Pit Screens
2013	Willeke Rail - “Windswept Grasses”
2013	Frank Lloyd Wright Inspired Gazebo Trellis with Custom Art Glass
2012	Drijber Craft Period Deck Rail
2012	Drijber Stainless Steel Stair Rail
2012	Sleepy Head Beds Trophy Concept – “Reaching the Stars”
2012	Copper Tulip Fountain No. 1 – Private Residence - Lincoln, NE
2012	Lomax Craft Style Railing
2012	Plush Reception Desk
2011	Bella Floral Signage
2011	Dionisopoulos Tree Branch Railing
2011	Teten Art Nouveau Chandelier “Discovery”
2010	Rhoman Curved Staircase
2010	Henning Tree Sculpture – “Reaching Home” – Lincoln, NE
2010	Duncan ArtDecoBronze Railing and Gate – “Flourish” – Lincoln, NE
2009	Wanamaker Gates and Fence – “Geometrix”
2008	Teten Gothic Arch Inspired railing
2008	Goranson Forged Shutters
2008	Daize Craft Period Railing
2008	Harris Rail -“Hammered Elegance”
2008	Christ the King Church - Brass Altar Panels- “Release” – Lincoln, NE
2007	Devries Railing “Wave” – Lincoln, NE
2007	“Turbulence” Synergy Series Coffee Table

## Honors/Awards

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2023	Buffalo Creek Art Center Residency
2022	Buffalo Creek Art Center Residency
2021	Pinwheel – Restoration and Repair of Ken Snelson’s “Triple Crown” sculpture
2016	Arts KC “Inspiration Grant” Recipient.
2012	Sleepy Head Beds Trophy – “Reaching the Stars”
2011	Peoples Choice Award for “River Flight” at Yankton River Walk
2006	City of Lincoln Downtown Impact Award - Cursive inspired railing “Script” for Dish Restaurant

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**Relative Work Experience**

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2010-Current    **Jake Balcom Sculpture** – Public Art Sculpture Design And Fabrication  
2019-2022      **Machine Head Fabrication** – Custom Sculpture And Metalwork Fabrication  
1999-2013      **Mettle Design** – Architectural Metal Design And Fabrication  
                         -    Owner, Designer, and Fabricator

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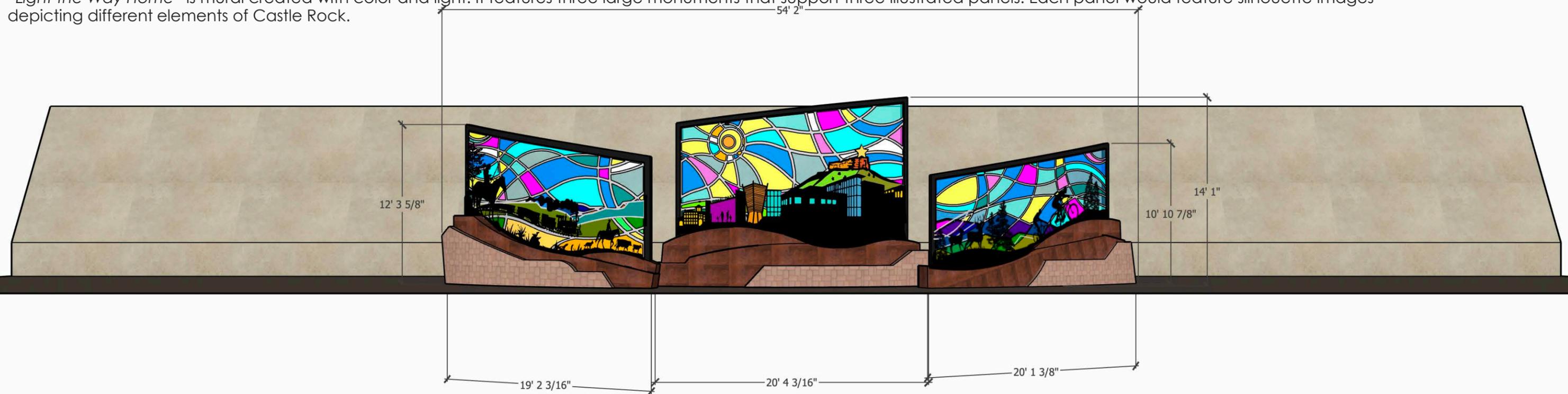
**Education/Training**

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2005              **Blacksmithing Training**  
                         Loken forge, Omaha, Ne  
1999-01          **A.A.S in Welding Technology** with highest distinction  
                         Southeast Community College-Lincoln, Ne  
                         GPA 4.0/4.0  
                         Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society  
1994-96          **Architecture**  
                         Architecture design classes  
                         University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
1988-94          **B.S. Biology** with double minor in Math and Latin American Studies  
                         University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
                         GPA: 3.377/4.0  
                         Golden Key Honor Society

# “Light the Way Home”

“Light the Way Home” is mural created with color and light. It features three large monuments that support three illustrated panels. Each panel would feature silhouette images depicting different elements of Castle Rock.



Panel 1 would depict images from the Castle Rock's history, and could include Native American history, ranching, mining and the railroad.

Panel 2 would depict images from the modern, thriving town of Castle Rock.

Panel 3 would depict images of outdoor recreation and the natural environment.



\*NOTE! The design shown are for concept only. For sake of time at this stage, much of the imagery was borrowed from clip art and on-line sources, including Castle Rock's own town website. Final designs with original illustrations will be developed for the panels if the this concept is chosen to move forward.

\*\*A community input session could be included to help come up with desired imagery.



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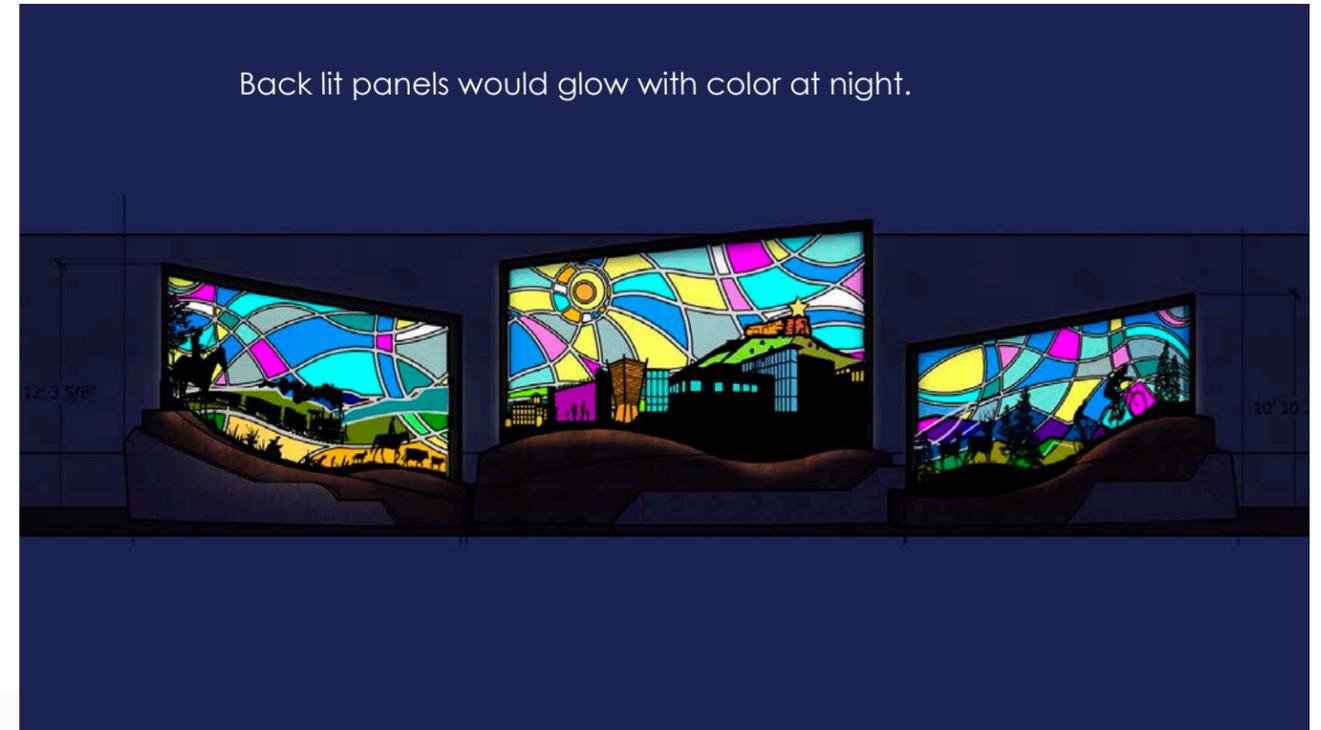
913-827-7200

info@farriswheelstudios.com

# Materials and Lighting



Each monument would be slightly curved and arranged in a semi-circle.



View approaching from the north, looking south.

Steel tube frames support the panels

Silhouette images cut from painted steel panels

Stone clad bases representing the history of rhyolite mining in the area.



Colored designs would be created from acrylic sheets, framed in stainless steel

View approaching from the south, going north on Wilcox Street.

Corten steel giving the pieces a rustic "old west" look.



Light the Way Home Budget			
Artist fee			\$20,000.00
Materials			\$36,000.00
	Stainless Steel 3/16" plate/laser cutting	6,500	
	Acrylic Sheet, laser cutting	8,000	
	Steel tubing/structural supports/	4500	
	Stainless steel hardware	2,000	
	Corten Steel	10,000	
	Lighting	5,000	
Fabrication	4 months fabrication time		\$52,500.00
Installation	equipment rental and insall time		\$6,500.00
Transportation/delivery			\$10,000.00
Engineering Cost/study			\$5,000.00
concrete footings			\$60,000.00
Stone/stonework			\$10,000.00
			\$200,000.00