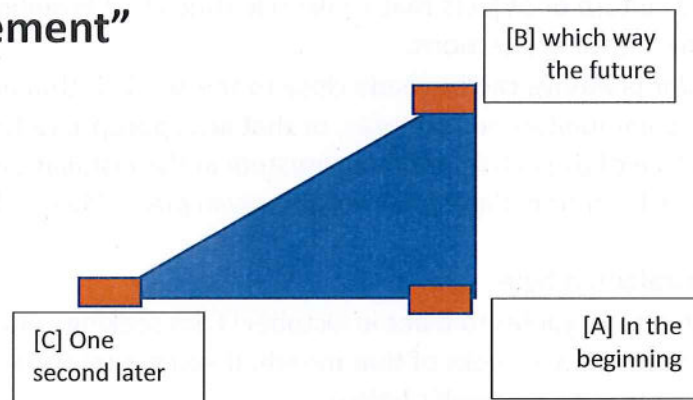


Your Collaboration Sought for an Art Project!

Our world rotates and moves in space, the seasons proceed, carbon pushes into the atmosphere and is pulled back to Earth. Life cycles through. An installation, “Units of Measurement,” is planned for the Land Institute to celebrate this, and it can be richer with your input.

Units of Measurement will be three collections of simple sundials, placed in three stations on The Land. Each station will itself be made of three dials – simple flagpoles, angled towards celestial north. They’re a special length and separated by a special distance.

“Units of Measurement”



The above-ground LENGTH of each flagpole is 15 feet, representative of the root/shoot length of Kernza, on which The Land Institute, and all of us, have such hopes.

The stations are separated by 1,190 feet (AC) which is the DISTANCE the earth rotates in one second at the latitude of the Land Institute, and 723 feet (AB), which is the DISTANCE necessary for the shadow of the sun dials at “which way the future” to at the summer solstice’s dawn, point directly to “one second later.”

Thus the major design for Units of Measurement. Pretty simple – nine metal sticks, the sun – painting with light, and its absence over time.

This installation will be placed in The Land Institute’s Marty Bender Nature Area, located just one mile north of The Land Institute’s main campus. The area includes mixed grass prairie along with woodlands and river views for a diverse range of native landscapes. In the future, the nature area and its walking trail will be open for public hiking and community engagement.

I want this installation to make us more aware of where we are, who we are, and how we are . . . in relation to the earth, to what we grow, and to what nurtures us.

And I invite you to help me make it more so: more meaningful for you, and for those you know.

Request for design ideas

- The flagpoles can be painted. I'm leaning toward two, or three-toning them, as Kernza reaches its full root/shoot size in two or three years. Have any considerations on palette choices? Let me know. I'll also be bringing some color swatches when I arrive, and we can take a second look then.
- The hour line and the declination line can be marked, and with elements that have significance for you, representative of a group with which you identify, or significant because of a seasonal event. For instance, I will be marking the dawn shadow when the carbon flux goes from negative to positive in the Northern Hemisphere's atmosphere, or as close as I can get it, perhaps with pieces of dichroic glass. Alternatively, objects of interest can be used to mark hours – pieces of antique machinery representing Kansas farming culture or objects that evoke scientific plant breeding, affection for others, etc. I appreciate your suggestions.
- Particular plantings can be made close to the sundials that are meaningful to various human communities and cultures, or that are appropriate to help with the ongoing restoration of the native prairie ecosystem in the installation site; we could also mark or label nearby prairie plants that are already in place. Please share any ideas.

Request for installation help

- I've got nine flagpoles to plant in October! I am seeking volunteers for the installation during the last two weeks of that month. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to me: my email's below.

About me

- I'm a painter and a director of software art projects. I've exhibited throughout the United States, and my paintings are in collections in this country and abroad. To see more of my work, visit: <https://www.eyesvoice.com>. I lived in San Francisco for many years and have supported the Land Institute since the 1990s. In addition to painting, I have been a senior executive in businesses from a variety of industries, from banking and high tech, to non-profits and food. I currently live in Minneapolis. I have travelled widely, but this will be my first time in Kansas.

How to get in touch

- Best to email me at owenbrownartist@gmail.com.

When will I be at the Land Institute:

- The last two weeks of October 2018. I hope to have a convening on arrival, to further explain the project, its timeline and tasks, elicit input, and just meet everyone. There will be an announcement of the when's and where's soon, but please come!

Contacts at The Land Institute

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