

Smith+Associates Architects Place Corner Stone in Downtown Sculpture Garden

ROCHESTER, NY., October 5, 2010 — Ken Smith of Smith+Associates Architects is helping to revitalize downtown Rochester with his commitment to a sculpture garden located at his office at 263 Central Avenue, the old city Dog Pound. The first of five major installations has been completed and is on display at the rear of the building where Cumberland Street intersects Central Ave. It can be easily seen from the St. Paul Inner Loop exit and the Joseph / Clinton Avenue Inner Loop exit corridor.

The five-ton stone sculpture entitled “Trailway” was conceived by Smith’s creative director and nationally renowned artist, RIT graduate Scott Grove. “Trailway” is a gigantic cairn, which is usually a small stacked pile of stones often used as a trail marker in the wilderness. Grove’s cairn is considerably larger, used as a marker or way-finding sign for Smith+Associates Architects’ office.

“The significant scale and out of context situ brings attention to the piece, its location, the building behind it and curiosity derived from the viewer,” Grove notes.

In addition, the stone was salvaged from the new Trailways bus terminal, giving a green sense. “I enjoy using salvaged material, not only as a responsible approach to creating but to give old materials a new life and a new story,” Grove added.

Ken Smith’s dedication to the arts is evident throughout his office. Each of his employees has a portrait painted by local portrait artist Chris Kolupski and everywhere are creations, many made from salvaged material. “This city has a wealth of creative people; supporting its local artists and displaying public art adds to the rich fabric of Rochester,” states Smith.

The piece immediately received attention from Rochester’s School Without Walls, as its students are also making cairns for an art project. The students insisted they visit the new work and find out more. “Any opportunities we allow students to engage in their learning through the community and hands on experiences only enhances a lifelong process of learning,” said teacher Kathleen Klein.

“The cairn represents a guide for life’s journey during difficult times,” Grove told the students during the impromptu tour. As an avid hiker, Grove related some stories to the students. “I have had to rely on cairns many times to help me stay on the right path when I thought I was lost. Your teachers can help you do the same.”

Smith’s hope is to inspire the community at large through the addition of these works. “I enjoy smithing, or forging creations out of raw talent,” he added.

Future works planned for the Smith+Associates Sculpture Garden are a 12-foot set of ribbons entitled “Support,” and a large origami dog made from recycled appliance sheet metal.