

FAIRPORT VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

6 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 105
FAIRPORT, NY 14450
PHONE: 585-377-6010 CELL: 585-943-2322
From: SCOTT WINNER

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Solaris Rises in Fairport **Public Art Installation Features Steel and Glass Sculpture** **Joint Effort Lead by Fairport Village Partnership Design Committee**

Fairport, NY: A new day in public art is about to dawn in Fairport. The steel and glass sculpture, known as Solaris, was created by world renowned artist and Honeoye Falls resident Michael Rogers. The work, rising more than 14 feet in Kennelley Park, will overlook South Main Street and Fairport's world-famous liftbridge.

The public art initiative was lead by the Design Committee of the Fairport Village Partnership, in conjunction with Fairport's Office of Community and Economic Development, which funded the project, and Village of Fairport Mayor and board of trustees which approved the installation in Kennelley Park and the use of Fairport Department of Public Works personnel to assist in the operation.

Design Committee Chairman Gian Paul Plane, a Fairport native and architect, said "This is the first in a series of exciting public art installations planned throughout the village. We expect that it will be the spark that actively engages members of the community in public art."

The work will be installed in Kennelley Park along Main Street on Monday August 5 at 1:00pm. It will arrive in two parts. The cast glass disc atop the sculpture is mounted upon a Corten steel tower much as a diamond is mounted in a ring. From its place on Main Street Solaris will command a view of a village that continues to thrive through nearly two hundred years of dramatic change.

"The tower pays homage to the architectural elegance of contemporary steel structures such as the liftbridge it overlooks. The disc, representing the sun, is a planetary reference. Its shape texture and color represent the colors one might see at sun rise or sunset. The combination of tower and disc creates a form representing a personage" according Rogers. "In one sense it serves the same type of role as ancient dolems, or totem poles, as it marks an important place at the heart of the community."

Rogers, who is currently Full Professor at Rochester Institute of Technology's School for American Crafts, previously spent 11 years in Japan as head of Aichi University Glass Department. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Suntory Museum in Japan, museums in Spain, Mexico, and Ukraine, as well as the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburg and the Corning Museum of Glass.

Formed in 2000, the Fairport Village Partnership is a nonprofit entity primarily created to: Strengthen existing Village businesses, promote the Village as a great place to live, work and invest, enhance the visual and aesthetic appearance of the Village's downtown business district and public spaces, and pursue land uses consistent with community objectives. It is a joint effort of the Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development, the Fairport Perinton Merchants Association, the Fairport Municipal Commission and the Village of Fairport.

There will be a brief dedication ceremony on Monday August 11, at 6:00pm. Artist Michael Rogers will be in attendance. It is open to the public.

For more information go to www.fairportpartnership.org or call Scott Winner at 585/377-6010

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