

FAIRPORT VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

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Solaris' Time in Kennelley Park Nears an End Popular Sculpture's Lease Has Run Out Effort underway to keep it in Fairport; Funding, donors sought

Fairport, NY: The steel and glass sculpture known as Solaris, which has graced the Main Street entrance of Kennelley Park since August of 2008, may soon be moved to a new home. The question is where.

Created by world renowned artist and Honeoye Falls resident Michael Rogers, the work, rising more than 14 feet in Kennelley Park, has been embraced by many as a welcome addition to the public art landscape in the village of Fairport.

Intended as the first in a series of "rotating" exhibits, the piece was selected by the Design Committee of the Fairport Village Partnership and leased through funding made available by the Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development.

Now, the 18 month term of the lease has expired and Design committee members would like to make it a permanent part of the community's public art collection. The committee is considering other locations within the public corridors of the village for enhancement with public art.

In the near term the artist has agreed to leave the work in its current location. But with the lease expired the art is on the market and funds, approximately \$10,000, must be raised in order to retain it permanently in the village.

The Design Committee is in the early stages of establishing a public arts program for the Village, which will include the formation of an arts commission that will generate a long-term plan and administer public arts programming. The program will be crafted with the participation of community members, artists, architects, and educators, with guidance from professionals involved in Rochester's thriving University Avenue/Artwalk projects, and modeled after successful programs in cities and towns across the nation. There are more than 350 public arts programs in the United States, and the Design Committee believes that Fairport, as a growing tourism economy, should be one of them.

In the meantime, this foray into commissioned public art needs financial assistance. "We think that the piece is one worth keeping to help us build the public art base in this community" said Design Committee Chairman Gian Paul Piane. "When you do the math it comes down to about \$1.70 per person living in the village, a cost, we think, well worth the investment."

Those interested in public art or have ideas about funding or programming can contact the Fairport Village Partnership at 585-377-6010 or at info@fairportpartnership.org