



STATE OF UTAH CAPITOL PRESERVATION BOARD

Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., Chair
David H. Hart, AIA, Executive Director

April 2, 2009

The Sculptural Work of Lena Toritch at the Utah State Capitol

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter, to be used in its entirety or in part, recommending the work of Lena. I also write in support of the artist herself.

In my capacity as Curator of the Utah State Capitol, I have had the opportunity and great pleasure to work with Lena on several projects. The most recent and commendable was her selection to sculpt the bronze statues for the new Utah Law Enforcement Memorial located on the grounds of the Utah State Capitol. She was selected as a finalist, which meant she had to produce clay maquettes to scale with ideas for three figures. As soon as she brought her work through the door for the interview, we knew she had 'hit a homerun' as it were.

Lena went above and beyond the suggested number and complexity of the proposal, knowing full well it would not likely increase her fee if she won. The vote was unanimous in her favor. Lena created five figures (one being a glorious German shepherd police dog). Each figure's passion and compassion was enough to make us weep. She had considered line and mass with great care. She made the figures emotive evocations of the tragic losses faced by peace officers' families, friends and colleagues in the service of community and state.

With each review of the project, she entertained with patience and good will police officers, artists, architects and anyone who cared to see the works in progress. She was extremely knowledgeable about the laborious work of casting in bronze. She researched each part of the uniforms with great care and attention to detail. Her understanding of subtleties was remarkable.

A working relationship between artist and commissioning groups is absolutely critical to the success of the project. Lena will rise to that challenge no matter who the clients are. I find Lena to be a woman of wonderful intellect and creative capacity that will do whatever is necessary to provide a lasting, relevant and beautiful work of art for any project.

Please feel free to call and discuss her work ethic, fees, and/or artistic vision with me anytime. Anyone who makes a contract with Lena will be extraordinarily well served.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith McConkie".

Judith McConkie, MFA, PhD
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