

# Jefferson comes to Peninsula, at least on paper

By NANCY BUTTERFIELD  
Observer staff writer

ILWACO—Eight sets of drawings and models of a proposed commemorative monument to President Thomas Jefferson were presented to the public Friday at the Ilwaco Heritage Museum. More than 80 people came to view the designs. Sandy Stonebreaker, who coordinated the event, said she was "very pleased by the turnout."

The designs were presented by teams of University of Washington students working in the school's first-ever public art program, combining the disciplines of four departments—landscape architecture, industrial design, architecture and fine arts.

The eight designs were created for three locations at Fort Canby—North Head, Waikiki Beach and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. They ran the gamut from a 25-foot stainless steel arch to a 25-foot hand holding a quill pen.

Washington Parks and Recreation Commission, UW and the Pacific County Friends of Lewis and Clark collaborated on the one-of-a-kind project.

Five jurors have been named to decide on the final design—Barbara Goldstein, director of public art for the Seattle Art Commission; Chinook Tribe Chairman Gary Johnson; Barbara Kubik, president of the Lewis and Clark Trails Heritage Foundation; Don Striker, superintendent of Fort Clatsop National Monument; and Long Beach Peninsula resident Eric Wiegardt, a nationally known watercolorist. Ex officio judges are Friends chair Carolyn Glenn, Professor John Young, Professor Daniel Winterbottom, Kim Patten and Steve Wang of the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission.

Lewis and Clark historian Rex Ziak introduced the students and their projects, saying "today begins the process of honoring one of the most intriguing men in U.S. history, Thomas Jefferson. Why here, why now?" Ziak asked. "It's the connection," he said.

Ziak went on to compare Jefferson's vision of sending an expedition to the West to NASA sending a satellite into outer space. "Jefferson laid out a blueprint," he said. "Jefferson wasn't a simple person," he said. "He was complex." Ziak then read a sample of topics of letters written by Jefferson ranging from potash, freedom of the press, rabbits and rhubarb to worms and the Pacific Ocean.

Winterbottom said the nascent Jefferson Memorial would be a "destination point for national and international travelers," and called the project a "wonderful partnership. The public art program is a collaboration that will create a lasting legacy."

The eight designs were titled "Enlightenment," by Jennifer Hefferen and Clara Pang; "Gateway to the West," by Christy O'Hara and Beth Dodrill; "Reflection Point," by Justine Dewispelaere; "Thomas Jefferson Inscribed," by Sherry Wang; "Mounts of Vision," by Jada Takashima, Mam Suteethorn and Samson Ferrera; "124 Degrees 03'2"E, 46 Degrees 16' N: A Survey of Jefferson's Expanding Vision," by Daniele Spirandelli and Andrea Leuschke; "Confluence of People, Time and Space," by Minako Tada; and "The Golden Mean," by Laura Sanders.

The designs ranged from seven mounds placed along the north side of the North Jetty to a path along the meadow near the interpretive center tracing the expedition's journey to the West. "Reflections" includes a Room of Jefferson's Ideas and a Room of Jefferson's Legacies leading to an amphitheater and Forest of Prisms where observers may "contemplate how

Jefferson's ideas will transform into the future."

The students studied Jefferson and his role in the westward expansion as well as the expedition itself, and how art can fit into a natural landscape. The designs will be at the Ilwaco Heritage Museum for the next three to four weeks. The public may view the creations and make comments, which will be sent to the jurors for their consideration.

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Daniel Winterbottom  
Professor of Landscape  
Architecture,  
University of Washington

Friends member Jim Sayce said the presentations emphasized that "there are few connections to the West Coast in the early history of the country. By recognizing Jefferson here we make a connection back to the East Coast." He said the students attempted to "grapple with the concept of representing Thomas Jefferson in the West. They presented eight compelling concepts to focus people at two levels—how do we interpret Jefferson's vision of a westering nation and how the Lewis and Clark expedition relates to that vision. Some of the presentations represent Jefferson's interest in early civilizations and the struggles they had with respect to issues of quality of governance.

"The other striking thing," Sayce said, "is that the backdrop of the designs is the Pacific Ocean. You can't go any farther West. Because of that it forces the country to look at itself. That's probably the greatest message of the monument. It will force us to be introspective."

How to pay for such a grand design is now up to Parks. After the design decision is made, the department will display the final choice at Fort Canby State Park in 2004. For more information on funding the commemorative project, contact Steve Wang, parks interpretive supervisor, at <steve.wang@parks.wa.gov> or at 360-902-8611.



NANCY BUTTERFIELD photo  
University of Washington student Jennifer Hefferen describes the design she and Clara Pang created for a monument to President Thomas Jefferson at Fort Canby State Park. More than 80 people crowded into the Ilwaco Heritage Center last week to view eight designs for the monument by teams of UW students.