



News Release

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“Circle of the Waters” adds To Branson’s public art

A significant piece of Branson’s public art is once again on view after several years in storage. On Thursday morning, “Circle of the Waters” was mounted atop a pedestal in an island on Business 65 in front of Branson City Hall and near the Downtown Branson Main Street Association’s office.

Sculptor Lee Robertson, who created “Circle of the Waters” in 1995, said it was good to see it restored. “Circle” was initially placed on the Lake Taneycomo lakefront near the end of Main Street. After the lakefront property was purchased for the future site of Branson Landing, the piece was put in storage by the city in 2003.

This spring, art supporters sought a new site for “Circle of the Waters,” and asked for help from city and Downtown Main Street staff.

“After a lifetime of making stuff, it’s a fun day,” Robertson said.

The 13-foot diameter stainless steel sculpture weighing about 1,200 pounds was lifted into place by a crane and attached to a concrete column. The final touch will be a planting of tall grasses surrounding the base, designed to resemble water rippling in a breeze. A plaque recognizing the work is to be mounted next to the sidewalk in front of the Branson Post Office.

Robertson created the sculpture with the support of the City of Branson and the Branson Arts Council. In 1996, “Circle of the Waters” was selected to be included in the Smithsonian Institution’s National Survey of Public Sculpture. It is listed in “Show Me Sculpture: A Guide to Missouri’s Outdoor Sculpture.” The guide was funded by the National Museum of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property.

This fall, Robertson is one of eight craftsmen whose work is featured in “A Craftsmen’s Reunion” at Silver Dollar City during their National Harvest Festival. Robertson participated in the park’s fall festival for many years.

Robertson, a California native, moved to Stone County where he has lived and worked creating metal sculpture since 1970. His work is in galleries, private collections and public spaces in cities including New Orleans, Los Angeles, Bay St. Louis, Washington D.C. and Kansas City.

Among his other works in Branson is “Summer Rain,” a copper fountain with water over trees created in 1999 and located on the north side of Branson City Hall across Business 65 from “Circle of the Waters.”

Robertson is a versatile artist, also working in oil paintings, mobiles, glass and wrought iron. And he is a published poet.

For more information, call the Downtown Branson Main Street Association at 417-334-1548.



*Sculptor Lee Robertson with his
Circle of the Waters*