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“Circle Of The Waters” Sculpture To Be Set And Dedicated in Downtown Branson

BRANSON, Mo. – At 9 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2, an important piece of Branson’s public art will be back on display beside the Downtown Branson Main Street Association’s office and across from Branson City Hall.

The 13-foot diameter “Circle of The Waters” metal sculpture will be set in place by a crane and dedicated by the artist in its new home on the “island” on Bus. 65.

Metal sculptor Lee Robertson created the sculpture in 1995 and with the support of the City of Branson and the Branson Arts Council, “Circle” was placed on Lake Taneycomo 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 2002.

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

Recently, another piece of public art—“Legend of the Ozarks,” which also had been moved from the lakefront into storage—was placed near where Circle will be located.

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 Bus. 65 from “Circle of The Waters.”

Robertson's work also may be seen at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church at 203 Vaughn Dr. His sculpture of "The Good Shepherd" is located outside the church beneath the bell tower. Inside the Gathering Space is his statue "The Blessed Virgin Mary." The public is welcome to view that piece during office hours at the church.

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.