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## MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

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To: Mayor and City Council Members  
From: Marjie Veeder, City Clerk  
Through: Erin Reinders, City Manager  
Date: January 25, 2022  
Re: Funding Request for Memorial to Fishermen of Unalaska

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**SUMMARY:** Mr. Karel Machalek has proposed a memorial to the fishermen of Unalaska, in the form of a life-size public art piece which he has designed and will construct. Mr. Machalek is requesting city-owned land on which to place the memorial as well as a financial contribution from the City of Unalaska.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** Council has taken no action on this request. On September 14, 2021, Council heard a presentation from Mr. Machalek about the proposed memorial. Mr. Machalek also left a model of the memorial at City Hall for several months for perusal by Council and the public.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Machalek provided an updated brochure about the project as well as a report on the status of the memorial, copies of which are included with this memo. Mr. Machalek is available this evening to respond to Council questions.

Council may consider inquiring about the following questions:

- Itemization of total cost of the memorial (\$500,000).
- What funding amounts have been committed by other contributors?
- Installation: Is the assistance of the City to install the memorial anticipated? What ground work and preparation will be needed?
- Electrical: Will lighting be installed to illuminate the memorial, or to power the lights built into the memorial?
- Maintenance: The documents provided indicate maintenance will include hosing and brushing of the memorial. Is the assumption that the City will provide this maintenance if placed on city property? What about repairs due to vandalism?
- Ownership/Insurance: Will the City of Unalaska own the memorial if placed on City land? Should it be insured?
- Who will be trustee of the trust account for the memorial?

**ALTERNATIVES:** Council must decide whether to support the memorial, both in providing a location on city-owned property and/or any financial support. Consideration must be given to the fiscal year to include any funding, as well as what sort of ongoing support might be needed and provided. Council might consider matching other financial contributions to the project up to a certain level. Finally, The Rusting Man Foundation is reportedly a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so funding under the Community Support Grant program may be a desirable alternative.

If Council decides to proceed, a written agreement with the artist should be considered.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** The proposal indicates a full cost of \$500,000, which has increased \$50,000 since September 2021, along with a request to the City for \$350,000 (70% of the total).

Council's remaining budget for the present fiscal year is itemized as follows:

ORG	OBJ	DESCRIPTION	BUDGETED	YTD EXPENDED ENCUMBERED	AVAILABLE	% USED
01020152	53260	Training Services	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 4,800	20.00
01020152	53300	Other Professional Svs	\$ 150,000	\$ 147,000	\$ 3,000	98.00
01020152	55310	Telephone / Fax/ TV	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,537	\$ 863	64.02
01020152	55902	Printing and Binding	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,214	\$ 87	93.30
01020152	55903	Travel and Related Costs	\$ 87,200	\$ 21,531	\$ 65,669	24.69
01020152	55906	Membership Dues	\$ 10,750	\$ 10,103	\$ 647	94.00
01020152	55999	Other	\$ 2,250	\$ 297	\$ 1,953	13.20
01020152	56100	General Supplies	\$ 70,048	\$ 41,183	\$ 28,865	58.79
01020152	56120	Office Supplies	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	0.00
01020152	56310	Food/Bev/Related for Programs	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	0.00
01020152	56320	Business Meals	\$ 19,000	\$ -	\$ 19,000	0.00
01020152	56330	Food/Bev/Related Emp Apprctn	\$ 1,000	\$ 172	\$ 828	17.20
01020152	56400	Books and Periodicals	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	0.00
01020152	58498	Council Sponsorships Contngncy	\$ 20,000	\$ 6,550	\$ 13,450	32.75
01020152	58499	Council Sponsorships - Planned	\$ 50,500	\$ 17,084	\$ 33,416	33.80
			\$ 421,948	\$ 247,871	\$ 174,077	59%

**LEGAL:** Not needed at this point, but the city attorney's review of any proposed agreement will be in order.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff makes no recommendation.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** None. We look for direction from Council on how they wish to proceed.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** Ultimately, it is Council's decision to grant this request or not. This memo outlines several other questions that also need to be addressed and should be formalized in an agreement that is approved by Council.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Mr. Machalek's report on the progress of the project and funding request, along with a brochure about the memorial.

Karel Machalek  
P.O. Box 920605  
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692  
907-581-4107 / 907-359-7785

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January 19, 2022

Mayor and City Council  
City of Unalaska  
54 Raven Way  
Unalaska, AK 99685

**RE: Memorial to the Fishermen of Unalaska - Art Installation Proposal**

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members:

As a follow-up to our last discussion regarding the life-sized Memorial to the Fishermen of Unalaska that I'm proposing to construct, I want to update you on progress to date.

Tax-Exempt Status

The Rusting Man Foundation was formed and incorporated as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization on October 14, 2021 with ID# 10177784. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Fund Raising

Funds are being raised from a wide variety of organizations, businesses, and individuals to help reach the \$500,000 goal (all-inclusive of materials, labor, shipping, and installation). To date, the following entities have expressed strong support and financial commitment in various amounts:

- Unalaska Fisherman's Association (UNFA)
- UniSea
- Westward Seafoods
- Alyeska Seafoods
- Trident Seafoods
- B & N Fisheries
- Off Shore Systems, Inc (OSI)
- BKR Construction
- Ounalashka Corporation (OC)
- Aleutian Chiropractic
- Rasmusen Foundation
- Lynden Transport
- Original Productions / Deadliest Catch

Key Bank is the agent who will hold funds for this project in a Trust Account. All monies donated will be held in trust for the sole purpose of seeing this project to completion. The assigned Trustee will ensure transparency by providing quarterly Trust Account Statements.

Land Designation Request

As a tangible and permanent way to commemorate the lives of so many fishermen no longer with us and to honor their contribution to our community, I am proposing to construct a life-sized memorial to be erected on public property in Unalaska. Would the City be willing to designate a 50' x 50' area at Carl E. Moses Boat Harbor for this purpose?

Financial Support Request

Your support for this project will demonstrate the City of Unalaska's recognition of fishermen's key role in building and sustaining our community. Would the City be willing to contribute \$350,000?

Thank you for considering this request to place the memorial on city property and the request for a financial contribution in the form of a match to other contributions to make this Memorial to the Fishermen of Unalaska become a reality

Regards,



Karel Machalek

PROPOSAL by Karel Machalek

# Fishermen Memorial

*for the Port of Dutch Harbor*

*To honor the Bering Sea  
fishermen lost to the sea*





**This is a proposal to construct a life-sized Fishermen Memorial to be erected within the City of Unalaska. This piece will honor the lives lost harvesting the bounty of the Bering Sea.**

Gone but never forgotten, our fishermen live on in legends as well as in the hearts and minds of family and friends still among us. Unlike many fishing communities, Unalaska does not have a memorial to our fishermen. This memorial will provide a tangible and permanent way to commemorate the lives of so many fishermen no longer with us and honor their contributions to our community.



#### **A LIFE-SIZED INSTALLATION**

The exterior piece represents a long-liner fisherman, a crab fisherman, and a cod fisherman. The base will be 5' high, octagon shaped, constructed of a stainless steel frame adorned with stainless steel sea life figures. The three fishermen will be cast in bronze. The deck will be made of cedar planks simulating the slightly tilted deck of a ship. The detailed cabling, nets, gaff hook, crab pot, and clothing lend authenticity to the piece. The mast will have lights and an antenna to complete the feel of a ship at work.

#### **LOCATION**

The proposed location is yet to be determined but some have suggested Memorial Park or Carl E. Moses Boat Harbor would provide an appropriate setting.



Prototype of proposed Fishermen Memorial

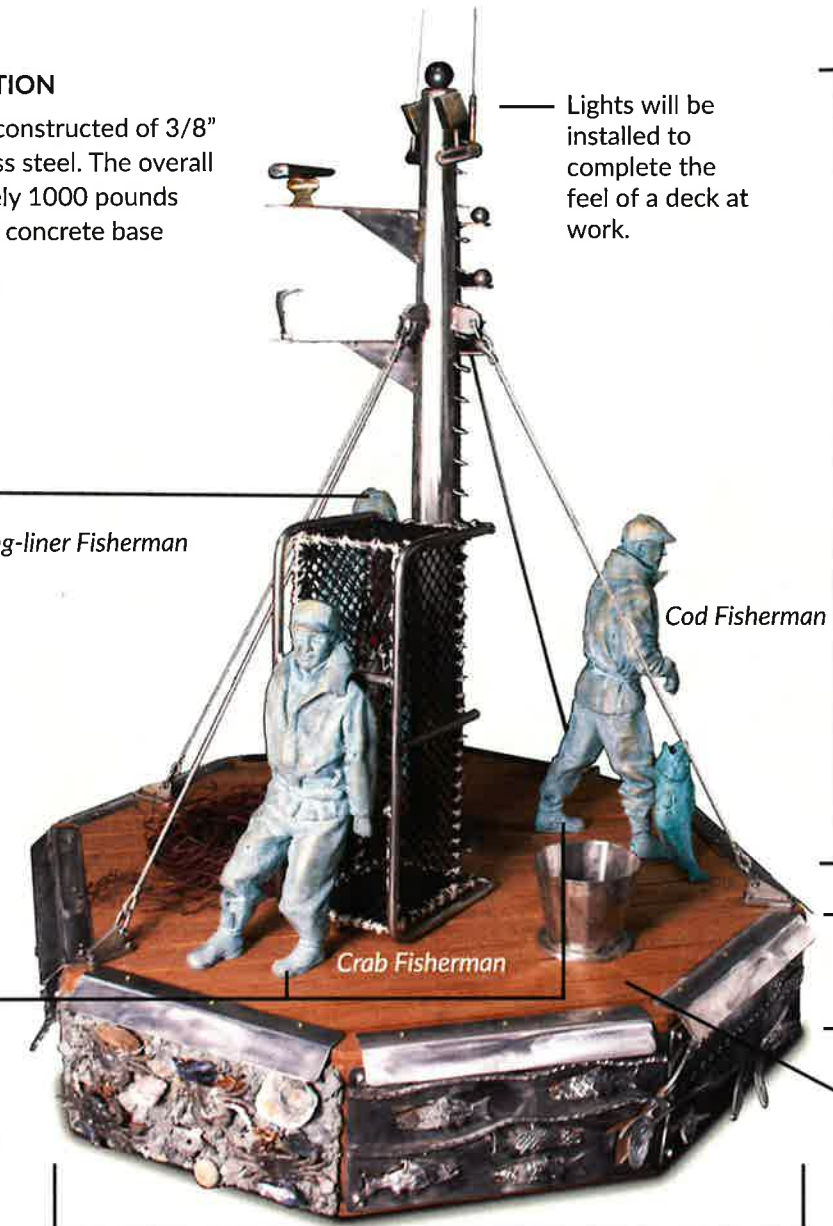
This is a miniature sized model as an example.

**METHODS OF INSTALLATION**

This exterior piece will be constructed of 3/8" mild steel and 1/8" stainless steel. The overall weight will be approximately 1000 pounds and securely anchored in a concrete base flush to the ground.



Long-liner Fisherman



Lights will be installed to complete the feel of a deck at work.

HEIGHT  
25 feet high

BASE  
5 feet high

DECK  
The deck will be made of Apitong planks simulating the slightly tilted deck of a ship.

**BRONZE CAST**  
The three fishermen will be cast in bronze.  
Typically bronze oxidizes only superficially; once a copper oxide layer is formed, the underlying metal is protected from further corrosion.

WIDTH 20 feet diameter



**BASE**  
The octagon shaped base will be constructed of concrete, and wrapped with stainless steel sea life figures.

**CARE & MAINTENANCE**

No maintenance is required. The mild steel will naturally oxidize to maintain its brownish hue while the stainless steel requires no maintenance and will retain its light colored appearance. Should storm events cause debris to remain on the installation, simple hosing with water or lightly brushing will easily restore the piece.



## MATERIALS AND TRADES

This life-sized installation will require a variety of materials and talent to construct. Mold making, bronze casting, stainless steel fabrication, wood working, and site work are all specialty fields. This is truly a collaborative effort. Detailed work takes hours and hours to accurately coordinate the precise scale of each component to blend seamlessly into a single piece of artwork. We anticipate some trades people's time will be provided as in-kind donations while most other time will be a project expense.

Materials will be carefully selected and procured on island to the largest extent possible.

Welding and fabrication will take place in Unalaska.

Wood will be hand selected for optimum grain and durability.

Stainless steel sea creatures will appear to be swimming around the memorial and visible on all sides.

The fishermen will be cast in bronze off-island and shipped to Unalaska.

While the bronze is being cast, work on the mast, lights, cabling, crab pot, and finishes will be performed. After the above mentioned work is complete, site work will take place followed by installation of the memorial.



## FUNDRAISING

**BUSINESSES:** Efforts have already begun to contact local businesses and organizations to garner financial support. Trade unions, fish processors, industry support businesses and fishing fleets are on the contact list.

**INDIVIDUALS:** Participation by residents and non-residents is being sought out.

**TRUST ACCOUNT:** Key Bank is the agent holding funds for this project. All monies donated will be held in trust for the sole purpose of seeing this project to completion.

## TIME LINE



**MEMORIAL:** Names of vessels/lives lost will be displayed on the memorial using plaques and other creative ways.

**DONORS:** Names will be displayed on the memorial. Contact us for more information on how to contribute.





**K**arel Machalek was born and raised in former Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic), where he learned to weld and built his expertise working as a tradesman. In 1979, Karel immigrated to the United States, initially landing in Los Angeles, CA. Karel found his way to Unalaska, AK in 1985, where he took a welding position with Magone Marine, Inc. until establishing his own welding company, Alpha Welding, Inc., in 1990.

Karel's lifelong interest in shape and form have led him to experiment with a variety of artistic projects and collaborations throughout the years. His body of work is diverse, spanning from a series of mixed-media art pieces with local Unalaska artist Mike Rasmussen in 1993, to the composition of four music albums released between 2009-2015. As a welder, his natural interest and talent with metal work eventually led to a year-long metal art exhibition at the Museum of the Aleutians in 2005.

Karel Machalek currently spends his days at his metal art studio in Unalaska, AK, dreaming up new creations and means of highlighting the intrigue and wonder in the world around him.



Karel and his brother Petr erected a large 7,500 lb "Cube Meteor" installation in front of the Norwegian Rat Saloon in 2015. This location also displayed three of Karel's metal sculptures inside the building from 2016-2019.

In 2018 Karel installed a 6' metal sculpture entitled "Starving Halibut" in the lobby of the Grand Aleutian Hotel.



In 2013 Karel Machalek was commissioned to create 16 sculptural covers for bollards (vertical pipe embedded in the ground to protect electrical transformers) at the Carl E. Moses Boat Harbor. Like much of Karel's work, these bollard covers merge form with function, paying homage to the primary industry that supports Dutch Harbor by depicting some of the iconic sea life familiar to all who call the island home.



[karelmachalekart.com](http://karelmachalekart.com)

To donate, or be a part of this project, please contact:

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