

# “Floating Citadel” Sculpture by Scott Hocking Unveiled at Huntington Place

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The “Floating Citadel” sculpture by artist Scott Hocking now sits in the main circle drive of Huntington Place. // Courtesy of the DRCFA Art Foundation

The DRCFA Art Foundation unveiled a new public art outdoor sculpture, “Floating Citadel,” by internationally acclaimed artist Scott Hocking at Huntington Place in downtown Detroit. The 11-foot diameter bronze sculpture is in the main circle drive of the convention center.

"We are excited to unveil this incredible sculpture at the front door of the world-class Huntington Place, welcoming our community and 1.5 million visitors each year," says Lisa Canada, DRCFA board chair and DRCFA Art Foundation chair. "We are very grateful to our donors who made it possible to bring Scott Hocking's vision to life and growing our public art collection at the center for all to enjoy. A special thank you to Huntington Bank for their generosity for this beautiful piece."

Funders for "Floating Citadel" include Huntington Bank, The Kresge Foundation, the City of Detroit Office of Arts and Culture, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, National Electrical Contractors Association, IBEW Local 58, and the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority.

"Great cities have great public art and Detroit is gaining a national reputation for its murals and other forms of beauty we are creating across our city," says Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan. "We are fortunate to have this beautiful new work by internationally acclaimed artist Scott Hocking to add to our public collection and to welcome visitors to Huntington Place, which has its own great collection of art to explore and enjoy."

"Floating Citadel" joins the public art collection at Huntington Place that includes work by internationally respected artists such as Hubert Massey, Robert Sestok, Tyree Guyton, and Gilda Snowden, among others.

"It's a bit surreal to have my art installed in the Civic Center of Detroit, in the center of the City where I've been my whole life," says Hocking. "So much iconic art and architecture surrounding it, and so many layers of history right on this spot, it's mind-blowing. I'm truly grateful to be a part of that ongoing history, and I feel pretty lucky."

During the unveiling of "Floating Citadel," the DRCFA Art Foundation gave a special dedication to Larry Alexander, the first chairman of the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority.

Focused on Detroit history and Huntington Place's status as a global hub of activity, "Floating Citadel" is inspired by everything from ancient Native shorelines and French voyageurs to the city's status as an artistic, creative, and entrepreneurial beacon.

It is influenced by the Savoyard Creek and the original Detroit River edge, which ran within steps of this sculpture's site. The sculpture takes its name from the original walled Village boundaries and its defensive core, "the Citadel," which was located where this sculpture stands.

The bronze sculpture harkens back to thousands of years of mining in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the copper and iron ore that traveled down the Great Lakes to Detroit, creating an industrial giant and auto-industry capital for over 100 years. All of these highlights through history occurred right where this sculpture is installed, at the corner of Washington and Jefferson, and the work will incorporate all of these qualities, to create a monument that speaks to Detroit's past, present, and future.

Visually inspired by the East Jordan Iron Works cast-iron grates that are found throughout Michigan, "Floating Citadel's" form references celestial bodies, astrolabes, cages, drains, thresholds, mystic symbols, and human skeletons – specifically echoing the idea of rib cages, which protect life, but also trap us on the earthly plane. The work is meant to represent both a global, terrestrial object, and yet an ascending, spiritual form.

Detroit joins major convention centers throughout the country featuring public art including cities such as Chicago, Nashville, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.