



The Express-Times

Monument to Lenape tribe proposed for Easton park

Monday, August 08, 2005

By **KURT BRESSWEIN**
The Express-Times

BETHLEHEM -- Sunday's look at American Indian culture featured an announcement of plans for a massive monument in Easton to the Lenape Indian tribe.

The monument's planners unveiled a rendering of the piece painted by Eric Labacz. They hope to erect the monument in Easton's Scott Park, positioned so the summer solstice sunrise shines through it at the confluence of the Lehigh and Delaware rivers.

A year in the planning, the bronze monument features a turtle base. Jim Beer, considered a spokesman for the Lenape in Pennsylvania, said the tribe refers to North America as Turtle Island. The sacred Indian image of a circle, planned to be 12 feet high, stands on the turtle's shell.

Atop the circle are deer antlers, a tribute to Lenape chiefs. Four crows perch upon the antlers, symbols of four eras. The Lenape refer to the present as the time of the fourth crow, prophesied as a time when the tribe makes its voice heard again, Beer said.

"This is going to be in process the next year or two," Beer said of the monument.

The monument was designed by Bethlehem sculptor Ben Marcune, creator of such works as the steelworker statue near the southern end of Bethlehem's Fahy Bridge and the Korea/Vietnam memorial at Lehigh-Carbon Community College, in conjunction with Ray Moose, of North Carolina.

The design team is working with Easton Mayor Phil Mitman, Easton-based sculptor Karl Stirner and the Arts Community of Easton to make the monument vision a reality, organizer Tracy Black said.

"The first ting is that there has to be money raised to get it and it will not come out of the city of Easton budget," Mitman said after Sunday's announcement.

"When that is more under way and when there are some real funding sources, then we will bring forward to city council some plans that they can look at," Mitman said. "We may do that earlier."

Reporter Kurt Bresswein can be reached at 610-867-5000 or by e-mail at kbresswein@express-times.com.

© 2005 The Express Times

© 2005 NJ.com All Rights Reserved.