



## **Artist Statement**

**Artist: Ivan Iler**

### **Public Art Opportunity for the City Lansing**

As a Michigan based artist who specializes in metal fabrication, I am particularly interested in outdoor public art. The idea that people will see and interact with my work long after I'm gone inspires me more than anything else.

I remember going to Impression 5 as a kid. It was experiences like the ones I had there (and at the RE Olds museum) that helped shape who I am today, but once I thought about it, I realized I had no idea where they were. Museum drive is by far Lansing's best kept secret, and here is a project focusing on sharing that secret, I can't remember the last time I was this excited about a RFP. I called Debbie right away; she mentioned the "STEAM" initiatives. I saw it referenced in the RFP but I wasn't sure what it meant. Once I realized it was the addition of Art to Science, Technology, engineering, and Mathematics I couldn't believe I'd never heard of it, it's right in my wheelhouse.

The design I'm proposing would fit STEAM perfectly. I've been kicking around a lot of ideas, but I kept coming back to this one. Looking at the last four words in the project background (curiosity, imagination, illusion, creativity) I kept thinking of a head with its "gears turning" and those gears/thoughts moving down toward the cultural district. This would not only get you looking in the direction the head was looking it would also pull your attention in that direction simply because the sculpture extended in that direction, right off the overpass. After our meeting it was clear that the gears should (and will) be driven by a hand crank making the piece more interactive. At night lights would hit the gears and head from the front. The head would also be lit from inside making the whole thing really come to life at night, a true beacon.