



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Judicial Branch seeks students' ideas on public art *Prominent art piece in new building to reflect values of the justice system*

DENVER – The Colorado Judicial Department is soliciting ideas from middle-school students around Colorado for justice-related words, phrases, names and dates to be incorporated into a piece of art that will be prominently displayed in the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center when it opens in 2013.

The words and phrases will be cut into bands of mirror-polished steel that will form a 50-foot abstract tower shape in the building's Monumental Staircase. That staircase sits next to the rotunda, which will house entrances to the Colorado Supreme Court and Colorado Court of Appeals courtrooms, and where visitors can look through a four-story glass wall toward the Capitol.

“We’re excited to see what our next generation of leaders comes up with when asked to think about their courts and justice system,” said Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L. Bender. “This is not the Judicial Branch’s building; it belongs to all Coloradans, and who better to provide this kind of input than students who are studying civics? It could become something they remember the rest of their lives.”

The piece was designed by Thomas Sayre, who created public art for projects in Colorado including the Anschutz Medical Campus at the University of Colorado Hospital. Sayre’s

creations also are displayed in Oklahoma, Kentucky, North Carolina, Florida and Alberta, Canada.

The steel bands will be formed into a rough cone hanging from the ceiling of the Monumental Staircase. Light projected through the bands will shine onto a terrazzo map of Colorado on the floor directly under the sculpture, creating an intricate display of light and shadow on the walls and floor, and providing an ever-changing composition as visitors climb and descend the stairs.

The sculpture is one of 10 works of art to be displayed in and around the building, which will house not only the Judicial Department, but also the Department of Law, Office of the Public Defender and other legal- and court-related state agencies. It is expected to open in the spring of 2013.

Words and phrases may be submitted to the Judicial Department via e-mail to jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us. Please make sure the term “Sayre project” is in the subject line. Submissions will be accepted through Jan. 6, 2012.