

Detroit Free Press

ARTS

11-foot 'Floating Citadel' sculpture unveiled outside Detroit's Huntington Place



Duante Beddingfield

Detroit Free Press

Published 10:17 p.m. ET Aug. 17, 2022



Artist Scott Hocking along with Mayor Mike Duggan and others unveil his sculpture "Floating Citadel" on Wednesday Aug. 17, 2022 in front of Huntington Place. *Mandi Wright, Detroit Free Press*

Detroit's newest public art installation was unveiled Thursday evening in front of Huntington Place.

Detroit-based artist Scott Hocking's "Floating Citadel," a giant, globe-like structure made of bronze and spanning 11 feet in diameter, was debuted by the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority (DRCFA) Art Foundation along with Mayor Mike Duggan, and dedicated to Larry Alexander, the first DRCFA chairman.

DRCFA Chair Lisa Canada said 75 artists responded to the foundation’s initial call for submissions, and Hocking was ultimately selected for “his vision and creativity and his connection to arts in the city of Detroit.”

Hocking said his first meetings with the foundation began in March 2020, before the convention's center's latest renaming.

“At the time, it was the TCF Center,” he recalled, “and even the material we were given was in folders that still said Cobo Hall. ”Things have changed so much in such a short time – within weeks, the COVID lockdown happened.”



Fellow artist and friend Saffell Gardner, left, congratulates Scott Hocking after the unveiling of Hocking's sculpture "Floating Citadel" on Wednesday Aug. 17, 2022 in front of Huntington Place. *Mandi Wright, Detroit Free Press*

The artist tapped into his love of history for inspiration in designing the sculpture, and referenced the Detroit River and its shoreline just beyond the walls of Huntington Place.

“I love the history of Detroit,” he said. “I love digging through those layers of what was here before, and what it means to put something here now. We’re within the original borders and fortifications of the city of Detroit when it was just a village, and right behind me was the Citadel. The Citadel was like the defensive core of this village ... (which) led to making this piece that feels like this kind of protective, strong piece.

“It’s made out of bronze, which is 90% copper. My ancestry were Cornish copper miners from the U.P.; the copper came down the waterway to make all the industry in Detroit. All those things factor in. I want to thank the city of Detroit. It’s been a constant inspiration my whole life—that’s why I’m still here.”

The unveiling comes as Huntington Place prepares to host the North American International Auto Show, which opens to the public Saturday, Sept. 17 and runs through Sept. 25.