Public Art

Public art is one tool that communities use to help instill a sense of place and communicate the local values. In Colorado, a popular choice for public art is brick sculpture. Brick sculpture has allowed communities to commission public art pieces that are uniquely local. The brick are made of Colorado clay and manufactured in local brick plants. The clay is readily available in a wide, naturally occurring spectrum of color or can be glazed to achieve vibrant colors. One unique characteristic of brick sculpture is that it can be incorporated into the architectural structure of a building on both interior and exterior walls or installed as stand alone installations.

The City of Longmont chose brick sculpture to pay respect to the ambiance of their historic downtown. On a corner of town surrounded by brick buildings, the sculpture blends into the established aesthetic and form of the area.

The City of Westminster, a community that boasts one the largest outdoor public art collection in Colorado, chose brick sculpture to create a signature entrance to the City Park Recreation Center. The sculpted nature scenes of deer and geese on the natural products remind visitors that City Park is a place to connect to the outdoors in the middle of the city.

Not only does brick sculpture allow communities to feature a local product, but it is a specialized craft practiced by Colorado artists. Ken Williams, a brick sculptor from Pueblo, CO, has been helping to beautify Colorado communities through public art for over 30 years. For your next public art project, consider the natural beauty of brick sculpture.

The Process
- The design is planned with coordination between the artist and the architect.
- Brick are shaped through normal manufacturing but not fired in the kiln. The unfired or ‘green’ brick are arranged on a large ‘easel’ or on the ground.
- The artist carves the green brick keeping the surface moist and workable.
- Sculpted brick are then carefully numbered and dried and fired.
- The artist works onsite with the masons and architect to ensure the correct installation.