

# AUSTEN BRANTLEY

and his team are delighted to present

## *Withstanding the Tides*



Artist contact information:  
AustenBrantley@gmail.com  
248.825.9330

Project contact information:  
AvieLinden@gmail.com  
248.535.0521

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# Preliminary Design Concept

## *Withstanding the Tides*



A black family at the beach.  
A father and mother with two young boys

Five feet of bronze and 4 feet of stone  
Totaling nine feet in height

Bronze near the ocean works best with an  
internal steel structure (not shown, determined  
by foundry)

Previous works shown to reflect on-going  
inspiration, textures, scale, and scope of  
concept for this project

Maquette to follow virtually on October 2, 2025



*Austen's Power in the Struggle*, 2024  
Freedom Monument Sculpture Park  
Montgomery, AL



Historic Bruce's Beach

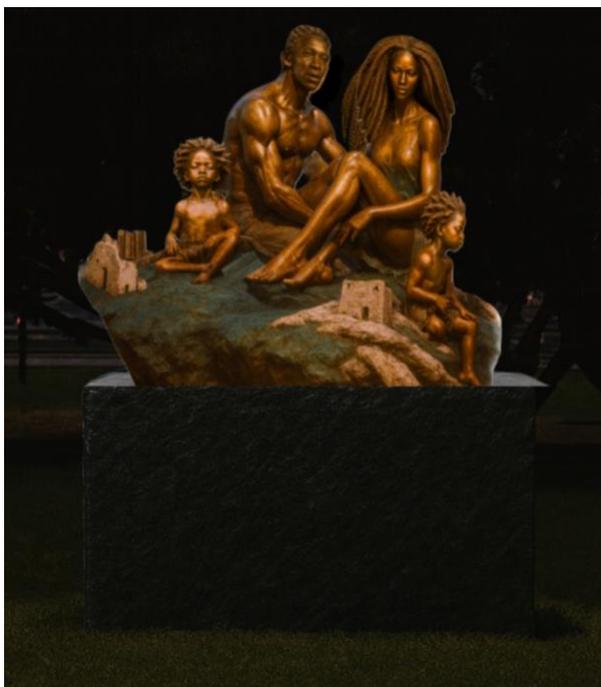


*Austen's Boy Holds Flower*, 2021  
East Canfield Pavilion Park, Detroit, MI



770 pounds (bronze) + 360 pounds (granite base) = 1,130 pounds (weights are approximate)

Nighttime views:



If chosen, Austen will work with local engineers and lighting vendors, potentially ones used in previous projects with the City of Manhattan Beach, to determine electrical placement.

Suggested location and type of lighting:

Lights can be installed flush with the ground centered in the six inches of concrete surrounding the plinth.

# Materials



Bronze, acrylic bronze patina (classic French finish), granite base, concrete pad  
Additional Materials: Steel beams used for installation, internal steel structure, stone adhesive, rods, and bolts



*Mother and Child* (shown right),  
2025, Madison, WI

Finished with a classic French  
patina



Black Galaxy Granite  
Natural, matte texture

Granite base is a box in five parts  
filled with concrete



*Elizabeth Hamer Memorial*, 2024  
Royal Oak, MI

Photograph from unveiling to  
show possibilities in landscaping.

# Design Narrative



My bronze sculpture depicts a black family at peace on Bruce's Beach, symbolizing their journey of rebuilding and reclaiming their legacy. The sculpture captures a moment of tranquility and unity, as the family members are seen engaging with one another in harmonious moments of relaxation and connection. The adult figures in the sculpture exude a sense of contentment and serenity, basking in the warmth of the sun and hearing the soothing sounds of crashing waves. The children play and build sand castles representing the construction of black future.

The artwork serves as a powerful representation of the resilience and strength of the black community, highlighting their ability to find solace and peace despite facing historical and ongoing challenges, at Bruce's Beach and beyond. The use of bronze as the medium for this sculpture adds depth and endurance to its message since bronze, a copper alloy, is known for its durability and resistance to atmospheric corrosion. Its ability to withstand the test of time reflects the enduring spirit of black families and their determination to rebuild and preserve their legacy.



I hope for the opportunity to create this ephemeral family moment in a lasting sculpture such that all visitors who come to Bruce's Beach can feel welcome, safe and at peace in its presence, amidst the gorgeous and timeless backdrop of the sea.

# Care and Conservation Summary

Costs for care, conservation, and periodic service for this statue are designed and expected to be minimal. This design is particularly accessible and well-suited for cleaning because it is only four feet high (atop a three-foot base). Here is an example of a yearly maintenance schedule for cleaning a bronze statue:

## Monthly:

- **Dusting:** Use a soft-bristled brush or a dusting cloth to gently remove loose dust and debris from the statue's surface.

## Quarterly:

- **Mild soap cleaning:** Mix a solution of mild soap (pH-neutral) and distilled water. Dip a soft cloth into the solution, wring it out thoroughly, and gently wipe down the statue. Avoid using abrasive materials or scrubbers.
- **Rinse:** Use a clean, damp cloth to wipe away any soap residue.

## Annually (recommendations for statues near the ocean):

- **Deep cleaning:** Use a gentle bronze cleaning solution (follow manufacturer's instructions) to remove any stubborn grime or patina buildup. Rinse thoroughly with distilled water and dry with a soft cloth.
- **Wax application:** Apply a high-quality, neutral-pH wax (specifically designed for bronze) to protect the statue from environmental elements. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and buffing (approximately \$2,000 each time).
- **Patina evaluation:** Inspect the statue's patina (natural aging process) and determine if any additional maintenance or restoration is needed (approximately \$500/hour each time).

## As Needed:

- **Spot cleaning:** Address any spills, splatters, or stains promptly using a gentle cleaning solution and soft cloth.
- **Restoration:** If the statue suffers from significant damage, corrosion, or wear, consider consulting a professional conservator or restorer.

## Tips:

- Avoid using harsh chemicals, abrasive materials, or high-pressure washes, as these can damage the bronze or disrupt the patina.
- Consider applying a clear coat or wax to protect the statue from environmental elements.
- Regular maintenance can help prevent damage and reduce the need for costly restorations.

Keep in mind that specific cleaning and maintenance requirements may vary depending on the statue's environment, location, and type of bronze used. If unsure, consult a professional conservator or restorer for personalized guidance.

# Budget

PROJECTED LINE ITEM	PROJECTED COST
Artist fee (including design, prototyping)	\$35,000
Armature and clay model fabrication	\$7,000
Modeling fee – potentially local models	\$5,000
Wax mold making and bronze casting (including internal engineering)	\$76,000
Storage, crating, and shipping	\$20,000
Travel	\$7,000
Insurance and taxes	\$5,000
Contingency (surplus to be awarded to artist)	\$20,000
<b>Total budget for project:</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

A separate pool of approximately \$20,000 in funds should be gathered to cover engineering, permits, the sculptural base, and installation including security cameras. Typically, Austen requires 50% of the budget upfront to initiate the project; 25% is due at completion of the clay model (see Schedule and Work Plan); the final 25% is due upon completion of the bronze and granite base, before delivery and installation.



# Schedule

October 2, 2025: Final presentations (virtual).

November 1, 2025: Finalist announced, contracting and any design revisions begin.

December 1, 2025: Final design approved (from sketches and/or maquette) and contracts are signed. Clay modeling and base/foundation discussions begin.

April 1, 2026: Approximately four months are needed for Austen to complete the clay model, which needs to be 3D-scanned in the studio and delivered to Michigan Art Castings, Austen's preferred foundry. Our vendor needs about three weeks to prepare the scans for 3D-printing, which are used at the foundry.

October 15, 2026: The foundry has projected about six months to complete the full-service mold-making and bronze casting (with Austen's participation and supervision). The artwork will be ready for delivery as a single bronze piece. By this time, the City of Manhattan Beach has completed site preparations and the base is also ready for delivery.

November 1, 2026: The bronze statue is delivered and secured on its base, which has been installed at least one day before.

This sample projected timeline completes the project in approximately one year.

# Work Plan

Austen designs and completes the clay model in-house, typically alone. Below please find a list of our preferred accredited vendors and how they have worked with Austen and his studio in the past:

Vendor: Mike Hall at Preferred Technologies LLC

Key milestone: completion of clay model

Responsibilities: 3D-scanning and file preparation

Address: 4631 Walton Blvd, Waterford MI 48329

Vendor: Thomas Mueller at Express Prototyping LLC

Key milestone: completion of clay model

Responsibilities: 3D-printing the work in parts for use at the foundry

Address: 69235 Powell Road, Romeo, MI 48065

Vendor: Michigan Art Castings

Key milestone: fabrication

Responsibilities: full-service bronze casting (with Austen's participation and oversight)

Address: 205 Mill Street, Leslie, MI 49251

Vendor: Granite Source of Michigan

Key milestone: installation

Responsibilities: base fabrication

Address: 26530 Eight Mile W, Southfield, MI 48033

Vendor: Craters & Freighters

Key milestones: fabrication and logistics

Responsibilities: crating and local shipping

Address: 1341 Wanda Street, Ferndale, MI 48220

Vendor\*: Art Pack Services, Inc (now part of UOVO's nationwide network)

Key milestones: shipping and installation

Responsibilities: deliver and install the base and the statue at the project site

Address: 24650 Crestview Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-1504

\* It is likely that a local vendor can be sourced through UOVO's existing contacts or perhaps a vendor previously used by the City of Manhattan Beach.

The images on the following page demonstrate some of the steps described in the Schedule and Work Plan.



Armature making



Clay modelling



3-D Scanning



Silicone rubber mold-making



Wax refinement



Pouring the bronze



Delivery



Installation