

HAMILTON FARMERS' MARKET DISTRICT PUBLIC ART COMPETITION



Artist's Proposal

Raising the Barn

by **David Hind**



Artist's Concept Statement

Raising a barn was once the most involved of all community activities across rural Ontario. The process brought together neighbours, families, friends, and sometimes strangers, to create not just an essential piece of infrastructure for the lucky family farm, but also to reinforce an agricultural tradition of cooperation and community-reliance. Hundreds, if not thousands, of the resulting structures remain where they have stood for many decades, created with the collective sweat of farmers young and old. These barns are an essential step in the business of bringing produce from field to market.

Hamilton's modern farmers' market is a new junction at which farmers and families can meet. Regular market days have reinvented the link between growers and buyers and there is a renewed and very personal endurance in this relationship, with the faces of farmers and stallholders becoming more recognizable in urban circles.

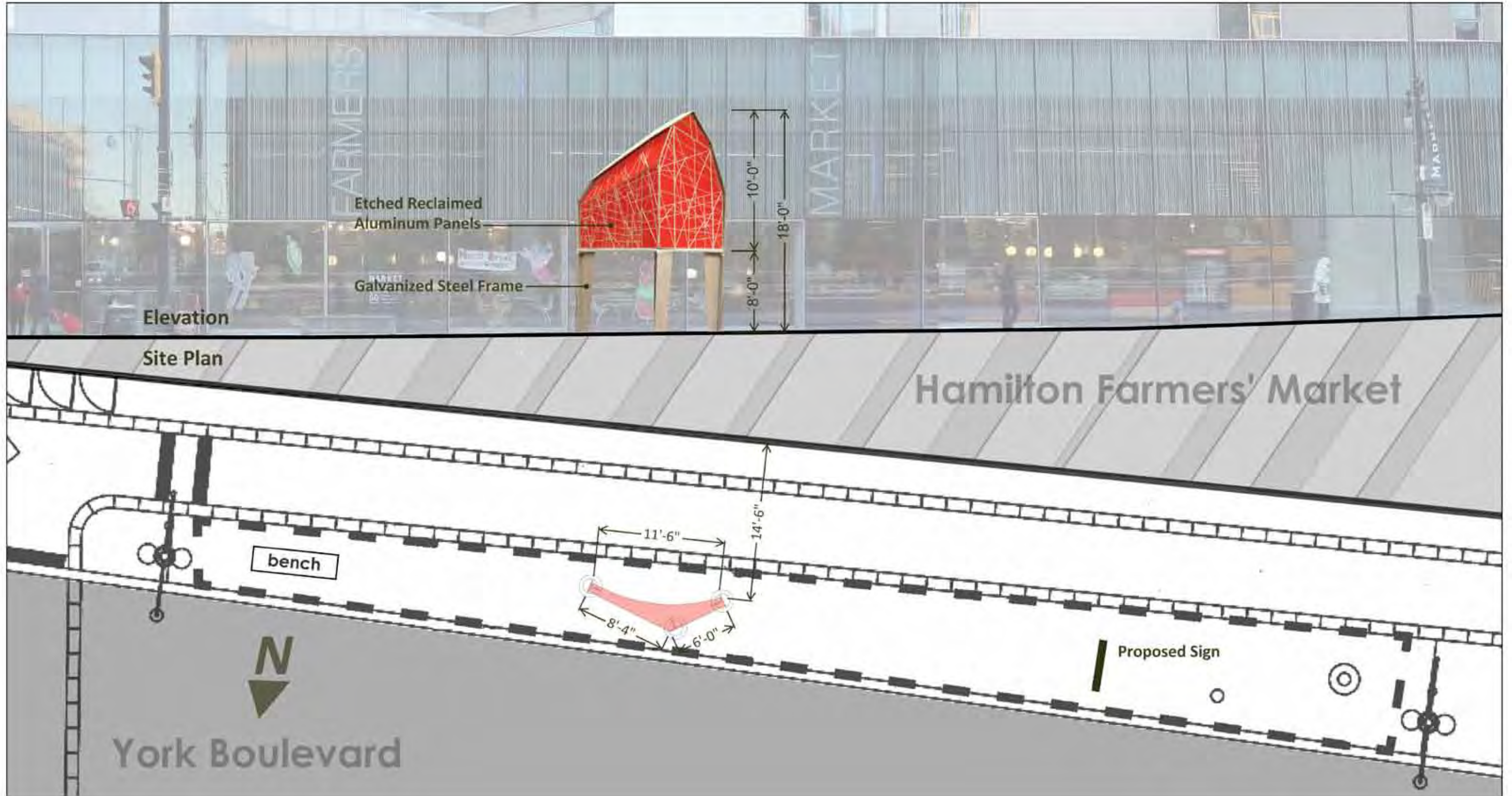
To help anchor this still evolving relationship, this proposal will firmly plant an icon of rural Ontario in the middle of the City. *Raising the Barn* will quite literally elevate the Ontario barn within the heart of Hamilton. By creating a durable and iconic depiction of this well-known rural structure at the main entrance to Hamilton's Farmers' Market, *Raising the Barn* will serve as an urban-scale beacon to locals, visitors, shoppers, delivery drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and commuters. From the market side, *Raising the Barn* will reveal more detailed and vivid depictions of Hamilton's farming and market communities.

Constructed from a frame of galvanized steel sections, *Raising the Barn* will itself be the result of a cooperative building effort. Faced in recycled red aluminum panels along the street side of York Boulevard, the design picks out the shape and intricate structural form of the typical, traditional heavy timber barn. By contrasting with the sleek glass facade of the Farmers' Market and the alternating concrete and grey metal of the Public Library above, *Raising the Barn* will become an icon for the Hamilton Farmers' Market.

Meanwhile, facing inward towards the Market itself, and etched into aluminum backgrounds in the well-known style and medium of artist Dave Hind, will be finely textured visual vignettes from Hamilton's farming and market communities. These images will be commissioned from local artists as part of the project, and will be supplemented by elements created by nascent young talents at community and school events. Ultimately, all the work for this project will be ground and etched into the recycled aluminum panel. Set against a rural background on the elevated Barn, Dave Hind will then collage a visual narrative to capture the connection between farming and the market in Hamilton. *Raising the Barn*, therefore, works well at different urban scales – as a beacon and an intimate work of art.

Finally, by very literally raising the barn (to about seven feet above the sidewalk), the project allows safe "inhabitation" at ground level, providing a space for pedestrians to meet and linger, and opportunities for stallholders to create outdoor vending areas.

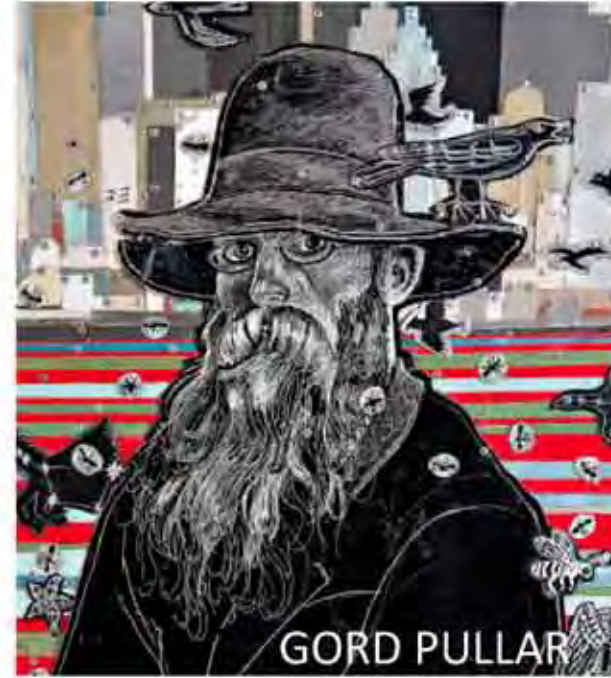
Site Plan



View From Market

SAMPLE PORTRAITS

The final series of portraits will be made from a variety of coloured recycled aluminum rivetted together to form a cohesive piece, in a spirit similar to the examples on this page.



Maquette (Model)



View from York Boulevard



View from Market

Detail Maquette (Model) of Materials

