Lakewood as a city might only be 50 years old, but its roots run to the days of the pioneers, with testaments to that history standing near South Garrison Street and West Center Avenue in a corner of Addenbrooke Park.

A solitary stone fireplace from the Addenbrooke family home remains there along with a windmill, which represent the farm that three generations worked for more than 100 years. Now this historical niche is home to artwork commemorating the city's 50th anniversary. It's a fitting spot because the artwork highlights those who laid the foundation for the community that exists today while reflecting those who are part of the community now.

“Echoes and Reflections: Lakewood’s 50th Anniversary” is a large-scale sculpture that incorporates mirrored stainless steel in shapes that mimic the structure of the long-gone house.

“I hope to reflect the past and the present by recreating the echoes or fragments of the homestead, such as doors, corners and windows, that once stood as the Addenbrooke family home,” said artist Collin Parson. “By using mirror polished stainless steel, these elements would pay homage to the past, yet literally reflect the current environment and all the people who occupy it now and in the future.”

Parson’s artwork is inspired by the sense of inclusion and place, metaphorically exemplified by this historical landmark. Those who visit will see echoes of the house and reflections of themselves. Parson's artwork was chosen from submissions by more than 30 artists from across the country. Lakewood's public art committee selected the piece after an extensive review process that included online voting on three finalists at Lakewood.org/50 and review by a public art selection panel.

The piece is centered on the fireplace, which was constructed from stones collected from around the world that became part of the family’s home built in the 20th century. But the farm began long before in the 1870s when John Edward Everitt arrived from Ohio and homesteaded land south of West Alameda Avenue between what is now Garrison and Kipling streets.

He initially built a makeshift home of fabric stretched over a wooden frame with a roof made from large tins used to ship tea. He eventually married, and his daughter married George Addenbrooke. The Addenbrooke’s son Tom farmed the land for years and told stories of President Franklin Roosevelt’s visit to the nearby Remington Arms Plant making ordnances for World War II while he worked in his fields. The plant evolved to become the current Federal Center.

The Addenbrooke family sold most of the original homestead land to Lakewood for parkland in 1978, and the city started construction of the park in the summer of 1985. The city dedicated Addenbrooke Park on Sept. 20, 1989. Addenbrooke is also the site of the permanent artwork called "Snapshot" installed to commemorate the city’s 25th anniversary in 1994.

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Anniversary Artwork Celebrates Past, Present and Future

Collin Parson’s passion for this anniversary artwork comes from his deep connection to Lakewood. Parson is a local arts administrator, artist, curator and designer who was raised in Lakewood and has enjoyed Addenbrooke Park throughout his childhood and as an adult with his wife and child. He currently serves as the director of galleries and curator for the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities. His work has appeared in frequent exhibits and public art installations including in Greenwood Village, Boulder and the University of Denver. He has received numerous awards including Westwood’s 100 Colorado Creatives. His degrees are from CU and Regis University. Learn more at CollinParson.com.
Echoes and Reflections of a City Through Public Art

by Laine Godsey, arts programming curator

“Echoes and Reflections” seems a befitting title for the public artwork that will stand as a celebration of Lakewood’s 50th Anniversary. That is just what Collin Parson, the artist with the winning proposal, thought as he sat at Addenbrooke Park with his family envisioning the artwork he’d create for his hometown. Parson presented an iconic and innovative proposal that matched the call for artists to create an artwork that would reflect the diverse residents of our city, honor our history while referencing the Addenbrooke family homestead and inspire us to look toward the future.

Parson’s passion for the project comes from his deep connection with his hometown. He and his wife frequent the park with their child. They’ve explored the Addenbrooke family home’s fireplace, which is the only part of the home that is standing today. The fireplace stones were collected from around the globe.

Laine Godsey: What has the process been like for you as an artist in the design and early fabrication stages of the project?

Collin Parson: When I first saw the request for proposals for Lakewood’s 50th Anniversary public artwork, I thought it was quite specific on what the selection committee was envisioning. The requirement that the art piece involve such a large structure (the historic chimney structure) is a challenge both visually and conceptually. But, after walking the area with my family and listening to what they remembered of the house that once stood there (my wife grew up a couple of blocks from the park), I immediately knew what I should propose. I first created a small series of reflective architectural components a couple of years back, and I’ve been wanting to create more — I felt this was the perfect opportunity to pay homage to the past while also reflecting the present.

Parson’s proposal received the majority of votes from the online public voting platform Lakewood Together, the support of the Public Art Selection Panel and unanimous approval from the Public Art Committee. His sculptural installation integrates community engagement and interactivity into the historic homestead and will stand as a permanent celebration of the residents and history of Lakewood.

LG: What does it mean to you, personally, to create the artwork that will bring your hometown together in celebration of Lakewood’s 50th Anniversary?

CP: I grew up in a family of artists in Lakewood and love the idea of leaving a small mark in the city that helped me become the person I am today. I’m proud to call Lakewood my home.

LG: What is your hope for the future of arts and culture in Lakewood? Or what do you hope younger generations will experience in the future of Lakewood arts and culture?

CP: I think Lakewood has evolved in the arts a great deal since I was a kid but I think it has plenty of room to expand and become a leader in the arts in the Denver metro area. I am a former member of Pirate: Contemporary Art, a co-op that for many years lived in northwest Denver but recently moved to the 40 West Arts District in Lakewood in part because of more affordable rent. I think its move saved the co-op but also strengthened our local arts district. My hope is the district will continue to welcome and support the arts as development and prices increase in the future. I’d like to see Lakewood invest more in the arts and continue to build programs to make art accessible to all.

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