

From: [Leah D Nixon](#)
To: [Shelly L Armstrong](#); [Archive](#)
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Included below is a press release regarding Orchestrated Reflections, which is part of the Festival of the Arts in Big Rapids. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
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Leah Nixon
Ferris State University
Assistant Director of News Services
leahnixon@ferris.edu, (231) 591-5604

Community collaboration brings performance art to life in ‘Orchestrated Reflections’

BIG RAPIDS – The city of Big Rapids will serve as one of two stages for Orchestrated Reflections at 5 p.m. on Feb. 21.

Imagine hearing a car horn blast, and instead of assuming it is the expression of an agitated driver, realizing that it is one note in a recognizable sequence such as Beethoven’s “Ninth Symphony” or Thelonius Monk’s “Body and Soul.” This is what will be taking place throughout nearly 100 square blocks of central Big Rapids, ranging from the Ferris campus northward to Waterloo Street, and extending from Monroe Street eastward to Willow Avenue.

Eight cars will be performing Orchestrated Reflections, with each driving a pre-determined route, and each sequentially sounding their horns at specified locations to define their position in relationship to each other. No single person in Big Rapids will experience the “whole” and most will have no idea that the component they witness is an orchestrated element in a unified, urban scale form.

The other stage will take place in Ferris State University Heavy Equipment Technology building, where a scaled down version of this event will be occurring. The audience for this portion of the performance will witness the “movements” (alignment of vehicles and sequential horn blowing) in a replicated, simultaneous version where the entire configuration of vehicles can be visually realized. Ferris welding students have created 8 mini-cars that will be simultaneously replicating the movements and honkings of the real-world cars outside in a miniaturized Big Rapids layout recreated in the Heavy Equipment Technology Bay.

The artist is striving to emphasize his perspective that all things in the universe are simultaneously independent and interdependent. The contrast between the Big Rapids version and the Ferris version is simply that some will recognize the “big picture” (whole at FSU), while some will only be impacted by a single component (part – throughout Big Rapids).

The performance will be followed by a 2 p.m. round-table discussion on Feb. 22 in Ferris’ Interdisciplinary Resource Center, Room 120, where Raymond will walk through his inspiration for the piece.

“Performance art is a rarity in west Michigan and Dana’s piece was designed just for Big Rapids,” said Ferris Resident Artist Robert Barnum. “Imagine a piece of art happening in two

places at one time. This is a great collaboration under Dana's direction."

Raymond is an associate professor of Art at North Carolina State University. His primary focus is sculpture and design fundamentals, and he has pursued numerous research interests that inspire creative sculpture activities and enhance his teaching. He also has shown sculptural objects extensively all over the state of North Carolina and in Maine, and designed, constructed and installed site-specific sculptures and installations in Raleigh, N.C.; Doha, Qatar; and Okinawa, Japan.

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Leah Nixon
Assistant Director of News Services
University Advancement & Marketing
420 Oak Street, PRK 101
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2031
(231) 591-5604 / fax (231) 591-2985