



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Department of Finance & Administration**  
**123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3100**  
**www.kirklandwa.gov**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager  
**Date:** September 24, 2014  
**Subject:** Recommendation Regarding Public Art for the Exterior of the Kirkland Justice Center

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council approves the "Crane in its Diligence" sculpture by the artist Matt Babcock to be installed in the rain garden located at the front of the Kirkland Justice Center as recommended by the Cultural Arts Commission.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

#### Process

In accordance with the Capital Improvements Project 1% for Art Policy, \$90,000 has been set aside from the Kirkland Justice Center (KJC) budget for the selection and installation of the remaining piece of public art for the exterior of the building. Given limited staffing, Perri Howard, VMG: Velocity Made Good, (Consultant) has assisted the City with the selection process for this remaining piece of art.

The Kirkland Public Art Guidelines call for the Cultural Arts Commission to make recommendations to the City Council regarding public art. It was decided that a Stakeholder Committee that included four members of the Cultural Arts Commission augmented by representatives from the Courts and from Police, the primary occupants of the Justice Center, would determine the themes, materials and locations of the art, as well as to select the artists. It also was decided that the KJC Steering Committee for the building project provide input on the selection of art for the exterior prior to consideration by the Cultural Arts Commission's final recommendation to the City Council.

While three art pieces were selected and have been installed on the interior of the Justice Center, the concept for the fourth piece, to be located in the rain garden at the front of the building, has required a more extensive process as follows:

In March, 2014, the Stakeholder group reconvened and narrowed the field of 40 artists presented to them by the Consultant to 17 artists. The artists were selected based on portfolio, professional experience, suitability, and expression of interest. In June, the Steering Committee approved sending an invitation to 17 artists to provide proposals, and a budget of \$90,000 was finalized.

Of the 17 artists invited to express interest and submit proposals for the exterior artwork opportunity, 8 artists responded to the call. Six submitted proposals. Artists were given 8 weeks to develop ideas, visit the site, and ask questions, and were paid a \$1000 honorarium for their conceptual work.

Finalists presented proposals to the stakeholder group in August. Matt Babcock was unanimously selected by the Stakeholder Committee and his selection was supported by the KJC Steering Committee. The Cultural Arts Commission followed on September 18, 2014 with their unanimous recommendation to City Council that Mr. Babcock's proposal be approved.

### Art Concept

Mr. Babcock's proposal is called "A Crane in Its Vigilance." A summary is included as Attachment A, and a more detailed description is included as Attachment B. It stands 17' tall and is 11' wide. The figure of the crane is made of bronze and holds a ceramic ball. It stands in the rain garden at the front of the Justice Center among gravel splash zones. The sculpture will be lit from below in the evening. Interpretation that describes the symbolism of the crane will be located alongside of it.

The legend of the crane occurs in many medieval traditions including English heraldry. A family of cranes preparing to sleep would choose one member to stand guard while holding a stone in its claw. If this sentry fell asleep, the stone would fall and wake the crane up.

The legend of the crane represents the reliance of the community on people and institutions like the Police and Courts to stand guard for us and watch over our laws. It also symbolizes the role each of us plays in the protection of our neighborhoods and communities.

In addition to English tradition, the form of the crane, according to the artist, is inspired by Chinese and Japanese tradition which use a few brush strokes to reveal a subject's form as well as its movement and essence.

### Process

With Council approval the City will contract with the artist for fabrication and installation of the sculpture. The artist's timeline, included in his proposal, indicates a Spring of 2015 installation. The design and installation will be overseen by the Consultant and the City together with the Berger Associates, Landscape Architects for the project. All costs are to be covered by the \$90,000 budget.

Attachments A and B

**MATT BABCOCK**  
**CRANE IN ITS VIGILANCE**  
**KIRKLAND JUSTICE CENTER**



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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### THEME AND SYMBOLISM

According to legend, a family of cranes preparing for sleep would pick one bird to stand watch holding a stone in its claw. If the sentry fell asleep, the stone would fall and wake the bird up. In medieval Europe, the image of the crane holding a stone was a common symbol of watchfulness, known in heraldry as "Crane in its Vigilance."

*Crane in its Vigilance* represents the reliance the community places in the people and institutions we have appointed to stand guard for us and watch over our laws, and also our responsibilities as individuals to our neighborhoods and communities.

In many cultures the crane is a symbol of good fortune and longevity. For many people coming to the Justice Center the crane will be a positive, encouraging sign.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

*Crane in its Vigilance* is a metal sculpture, 17 feet tall and 11 feet wide. It stands among gravel splash zones that match the existing landscape design. The piece is uplit at night.

### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I am inspired by ink wash painting in Chinese and Japanese tradition. Using a bare minimum of brushwork, a skilled painter can get beyond the subject's form and reveal something of its movement and essence. I think of my work as riff on ink painting -- a gestural, calligraphic art that shares the values of economy and revelation.

I make public art as a way of giving something that reaches out to everyone. My work draws on my experience as an architect, which includes public design review, project management, and collaborating with agencies, community groups, builders, and other stakeholders.



**MATT BABCOCK**

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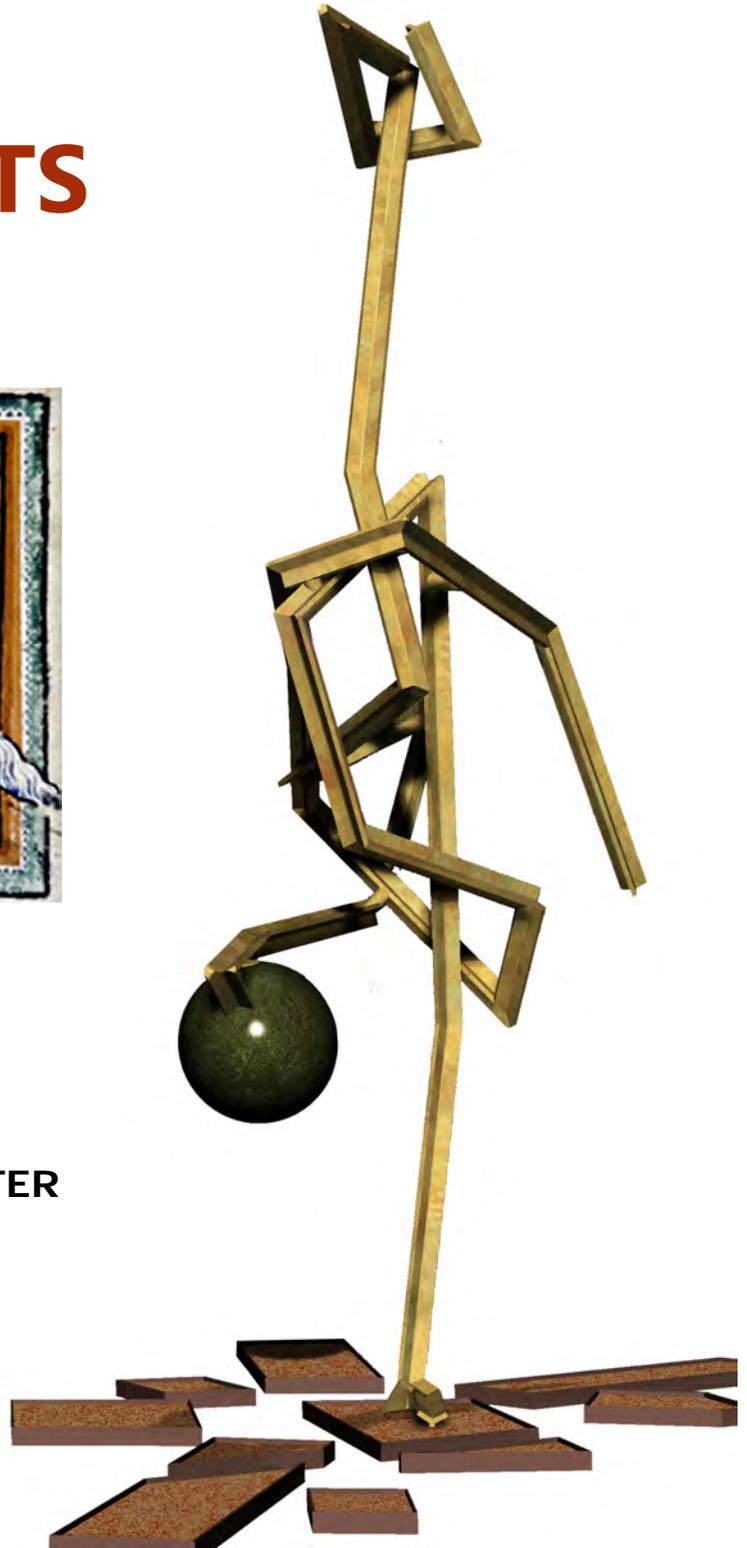
# CRANE IN ITS VIGILANCE



SCULPTURE  
PROPOSAL

CITY OF KIRKLAND  
KIRKLAND JUSTICE CENTER

8/20/2014





**MATT BABCOCK**  
**CRANE IN ITS VIGILANCE**  
**KIRKLAND JUSTICE CENTER ART PROPOSAL**

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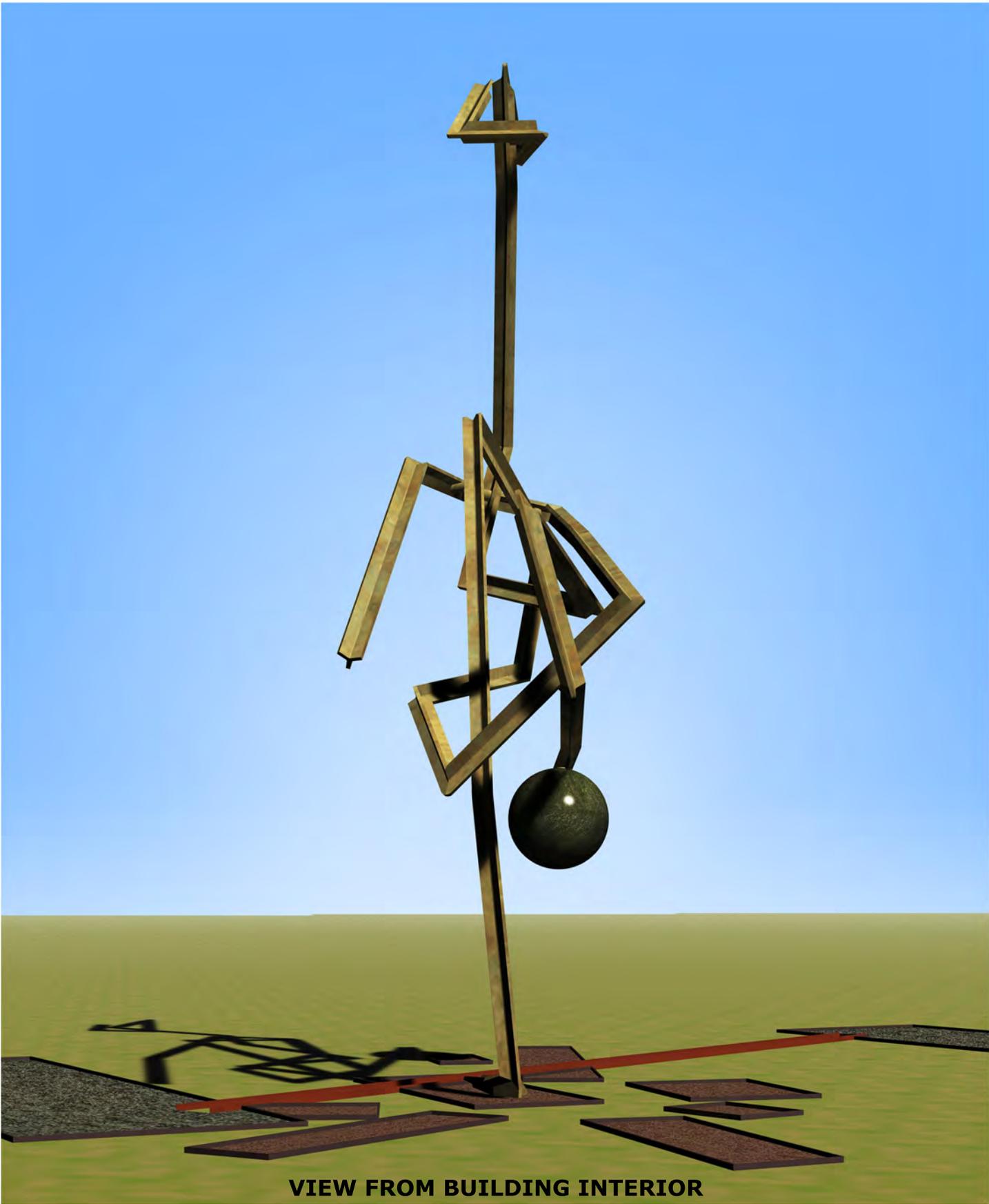
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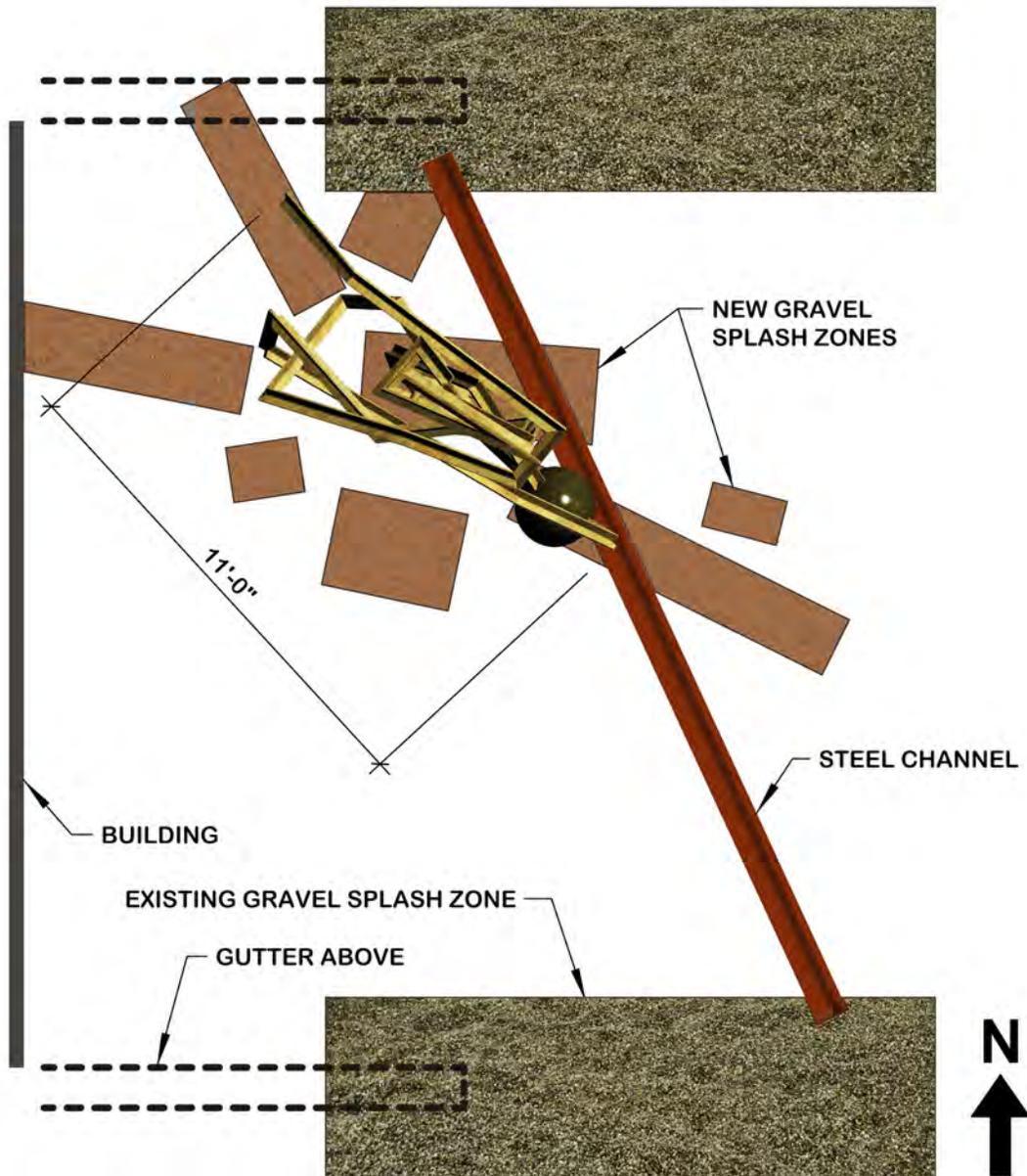
VIEW FROM BUILDING INTERIOR

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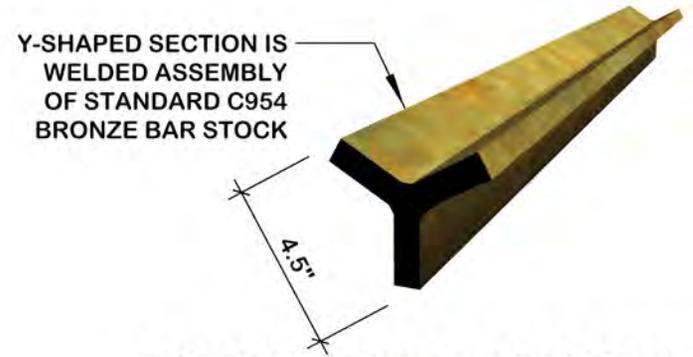
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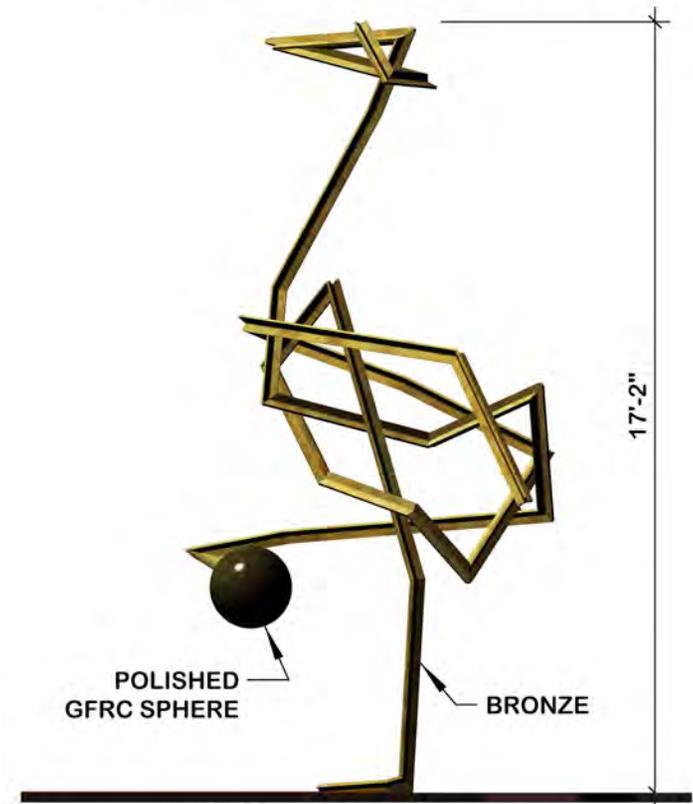
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**PLAN VIEW**  
1/4" = 1'-0"



**TYPICAL CROSS SECTION**



**LOOKING SOUTH**  
1/4" = 1'-0"

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**MATT BABCOCK**  
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ALL PRESENTATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE  
FOR DOWNLOAD. SEND EMAIL TO REQUEST A  
LINK, OR VISIT:

[www.dropbox.com/sh/etavqiuc6w1d4sd/AAD5k0C6QEM2K0hQctqt2mhua](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/etavqiuc6w1d4sd/AAD5k0C6QEM2K0hQctqt2mhua)

**THANK YOU!**

