



monster city studios

WELCOME TO MONSTER CITY - Monster City Studios' Quarterly Newsletter

Q3 2017

Welcome to the second edition of the Monster City newsletter! A lot has happened since the first quarter of 2017. From conventions to body building competitions, the MCS shop has been busy meeting client needs and desires.

In July, Monster City Studios partnered with DC Collectibles to fabricate a six-foot replica of Jonathan Matthews' 13-inch Harley Quinn statue. His collectible statue is based on the design of Harley's co-creator, Bruce Timm. Debuting at the 2017 San Diego Comic-Con, Harley greeted convention goers at the D.C. Collectibles booth, providing a photo opportunity for fans of the wacky, volatile supervillain.

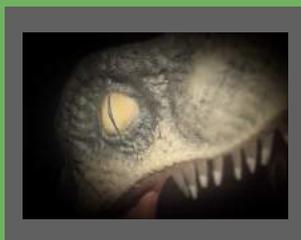
The Monster City piece features an embedded steel skeleton, wrapped in CNC-milled foam, which was sculpted and then coated in polyurea. After hours of sanding and smoothing,

MCS painter, Amanda, brought Harley to life in the classic red, black, and white motif. The smoke rising from Harley's cork gun was molded and cast with Smooth-On products (Crystal Clear 204 and SO-Strong white tint) to give a semi-translucent appearance.

For ease of transportation Harley detaches from her base with the removal of three nuts threaded onto studs protruding from the bottom of her feet. Both the base and Harley were shipped in custom, foam-lined, lockable crates on casters so they can be safely and securely transported to various conventions around the country.



FEATURED PROJECTS



MAGIC WHEELCHAIR



AIRPORT BILLBOARD



PROJECTION MAPPING



PHOTO COURTESY: TIM BAKER CREATIONS

MAGIC WHEELCHAIR

In addition to working with D.C., San Diego Comic-Con presented the opportunity for Monster City to partner with the non-profit organization, Magic Wheelchair. This wonderful organization, founded in 2015 seeks to provide children in wheelchairs with amazing costumes for Halloween, parades, and events, at no cost to them or their families.

Our crew very much appreciated the opportunity to provide a small amount of help and expertise on a costume that debuted at the convention. Jeff Watamura and Tim Baker needed a coating of polyurea for the Aquagirl costume their crew was fabricating and MCS didn't hesitate. It was awesome to see half a dozen kids forming a Justice League that included Cyborg, Wonder Woman, Batman, Supergirl, The Flash, and Aquagirl.

Because we were able to make connections with Magic Wheelchair in July, Monster City Studios received a phone call for some last minute help on a costume, for a young boy named Adrian, to debut in September at the Salt Lake Comic Con. Adrian loves Chris Pratt's character, Owen, from Jurassic World so MCS devised a costume which gives his wheelchair the appearance of an off-road trailer being towed by Blue the Velociraptor in a leather harness. Features include a spring-tensioned neck joint and tongue, adding a bit of movement to the raptor's head, a

shovel, pick-axe, and bedroll mounted to the side of the trailer, and the application of custom paint to age and weather the piece.

Tim Baker and Frank Jimenez both volunteered to share their time, along with several Monster City employees, to get the costume done and delivered in time for the convention. Daniel De Leon was gracious enough to donate his 3D model of Blue for the piece. We were all honored to have the opportunity to apply our creative drive to such a worthy cause.



PHOTO COURTESY: THEMOMPROJECTX2, INSTAGRAM 22 SEPT. 2017

FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO FRESNO YOSEMITE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BILLBOARD



Fresno Chaffee Zoo came to MCS with the concept for an experiential marketing display involving a white rhino and the main concourse at Fresno-Yosemite International air terminal.

The full display integrates a backlit, graphic panel with three quarters of a full scale white rhino appearing to walk out of the graphic. In front of the display, a rope-wrapped post-and-rail fence mimics fencing used in front of the zoo's actual exhibits.

In August, the installation team drew a revolving audience of airport employees and travelers with time before their flights who were intrigued by the large animal lounging in the walkway.

There is nothing better than a marketing display that catches eyes and MCS believes travelers, both arriving and departing, will be delighted at the opportunity to spot a rhino so close to Hudson News.

ORGANIC PROJECTION MAPPING

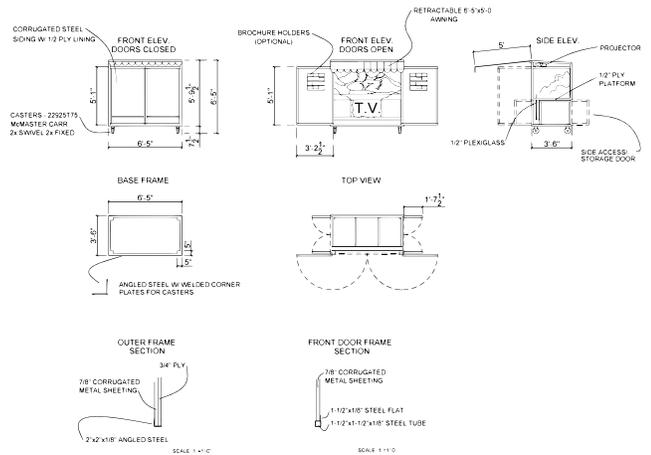
THE VALLEY WATER-SHED

For quite a while now, Monster City Studios has been working to develop a neat application for projection mapping. With Meyer's Valley Watershed project, we think we have an idea that really holds water. Our client wanted a mobile, interactive, educational display that helps explain the water cycle as it relates to Central California agriculture and aquifers.

Using a short throw projector mounted to a drawer that locks both in and out of the steel cabinet, the client can project animations, colors, and weather patterns over an organic model to show how water is utilized and stored through all four seasons.

A flat screen TV mounted below the model augments the presentation by illustrating a cutaway view of a water aquifer in action.

The design details, exterior and interior, reflect the aesthetic of the San Joaquin Valley and its hardworking residents who ply their trades in the hot, arid region. Steel framework and corrugated tin siding call to mind local ag industries like fruit-packing sheds while the model inside references the towering Sierra Nevada mountains whose snow melt feeds our waterways. The agrarian lifestyle of the region is depicted with a scale farmhouse and yard.



“We think we have an idea that really holds water.”

MCS handled every aspect of the project. Our art director, Andy, composed all the concept art for client approval. The approved concepts were then handed off to our draftsman, Carl, who created technical drawings, details, and other specifications for our crew in the shop. The cart structure was fabricated by steel department lead, Ray. Meanwhile, design lead, James, worked with sculptor, Bryan, to create all the various animation files to be projected or displayed on the model and TV. There isn't a member of our design or fabrication team that hasn't played a part in this innovative project.

2017 FEATURED PROJECTS

PHOTO COURTESY OF DELAWIE.COM



KID'S LIBRARY SEAT

Imperial Beach in Southern California opened a new library in the winter of 2017 and the city wanted it to reflect the culture and history of the area. To that end, Monster City was contracted to build a Ford Woody-inspired creation for children to interact with. Featuring real white wall tires, a surfboard mounted on top, and a custom rear end made with maple hardwood by our lead carpenter, Adam, the piece evokes the historic surf culture of the mid-19th century.

TRADE SHOW BOOTH

For this job, client company Preferred Meals needed a trade show booth that rolled over the competition so MCS build a VW bus-inspired front end on casters with shelving on the back side. The client wants to provide healthy, nutritious meals to school children and Monster City wants to provide quality, good-looking products for our clients. If their positive feedback is any indication, this one put them in the driver's seat.



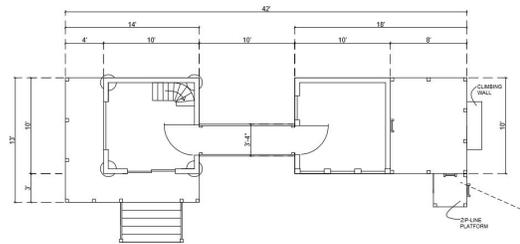
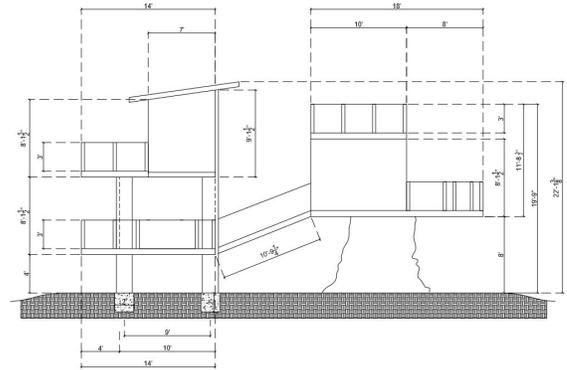
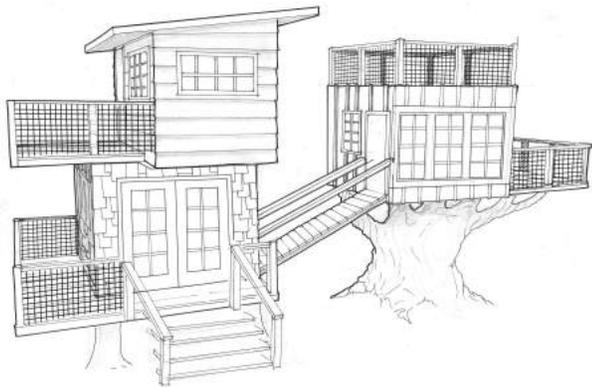
PHOTO COURTESY OF TGFLEX. INSTAGRAM 9 SEPT. 2017



IFBB STAGE PROP

Finished and delivered in early September, this stage prop was designed and fabricated for the Rising Phoenix World Championships of female bodybuilding, put on by the Wings of Strength organization. Featuring integrated LED lighting with analog RGB controllers, printed graphic logo panels, and a modular steel structure making for easy disassembly and storage. This piece should keep the client going strong for years to come.

IN-PROGRESS DESIGN



Potentially hitting the shop floor for fabrication this fall, MCS is proud to share the design work of Andy and Carl on this modern, three-room tree house concept. Andy's concept art includes a cantilevered top floor, steel mesh balcony railings, and multiple exterior viewing decks. Carl's technical drawings clearly convey all the useful information Monster City fabricators will need to make some lucky children very happy.



HOTWIRE

Here, lead sculptor Bryan demonstrates our hot wire shape-cutting tool which offers many capabilities including template cutting, miters, straight, and freehand cuts. The operator stands to the side of the tool and can control both the temperature and the speed of cut.

Using a profile template clamped to the edge of the tool bed, users can create lengths of foam with virtually any cross-section. We make our templates out of MDF or plywood, but any rigid sheet good can be used. In our example, Bryan uses the tool to cut a length of traditional molding that might be used to create a faux stone crown around the top of a wall.



Then, using some reference lines marked on the tool bed, he cuts 45-degree miters on two pieces to create a corner piece. In only a matter of minutes, a billet of raw foam can be transformed into a multitude of useful forms and shapes.



FABRICATION TECHNIQUES

Amanda Moreno is our lead scenic painter here at Monster City Studios. She has been with the company for just about five years now. Every project featured in this quarter's newsletter has been worked on by Amanda which is why we chose her for our first spotlight feature.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



AMANDA

Amanda was drawn to MCS because of the variety and uniqueness of the work that takes place here. "I love being able to do different paint techniques depending on what the project is for any given week."

Her favorite project so far also happens to be one that we finished this year: the oversized Harley Quinn statue for D.C. Collectibles. Amanda worked on every square inch of that piece to make sure it was smooth and crisply painted.

All employees at MCS are encouraged to cross-train in as many disciplines as possible and Amanda has enthusiastically taken every opportunity to learn new painting and sculpting techniques, polyurea application, and the general process of projects.

When she's not creating magical paint jobs at work, Amanda enjoys making detailed props and decorations for her elaborate, outdoor, holiday displays.

Amanda's personal motto is: "Where there is a will, there is a way" which is certainly borne out in her work ethic.

