

# Symbolism of the Hmong Heritage Wall

The design for this sculpture was created through a collaboration with the MCFGS Hmong Advisory Group and the Changsha architects to feature cultural symbols of both the Minnesota Hmong and the Hmong in the Changsha area (Hunan Province) of China, and to educate visitors about the historical and cultural connection of the Minnesota Hmong with their ancestral homeland in China.

**Qeej ("Kheng")** is a free-reed musical instrument with a hollow body and six bamboo pipes. Sounds are produced by inhaling or exhaling with various finger placements. Used for funeral rituals, wedding ceremonies, and for all other musical entertainment purposes. Symbol of *Cultural Identity*.

**Silver Necklace, Paug or Xaug**, can be worn by all ages and both genders. Used as a decorative accessory, engagement dowry, and for spiritual healings. Symbol of *Cultural Wealth*.

**Paaj Ntaub Heart** embroidery art is a type of Hmong reverse appliqué and batik textile art. The four hearts on each of the four corners of the sculpture signify compassion, integrity, humility, and friendship.



**Butterflies** can be found in each corner of the sculpture and around the Qeej. They are the most important totem in Hmong culture, representing motherhood, reproduction, and happiness.

**Silver Oxhorn Headdresses** are worn on special occasions like weddings. include five different parts: the horn, the crown, the comb, the flowers and the hairpin. They are crafted to mimic the horns of an ox and to represent strength.

**Phoenix Bird** is a composite of many birds and is a messenger of happiness and wards off evil. Seeing a Phoenix is an auspicious sign and was once believed to only appear during times of peace and prosperity. A treasure can be found where the Phoenix stops to rest.

Carved Pink Granite Sculpture: 22' long x 5' high

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