

I was directed by the California Arts Council to contact your organization to see what role you could play in an effort to preserve the Duke Cahill Folk Art Environment. I have been working on this project with the guidance of Seymour Rosen, Director of S.P.A.C.E.S. since September of last year, when Duke became ill and they decided to sell the property.

I noticed several aspects of your guidelines which are relevant to this particular project. Duke's environment is "regional," contemporary, rural, American, Western; it is "occupational," in the sense that his large sculptures and metal pieces ~~directly~~ relate to his vocation i.e.; fiber glass/construction and his 40 rooms filled from floor to ceiling with restaurant/bar signage etc... (please see Cahill story) reflect his passion for collecting.

I believe that a documentary of Duke, whose health has <sup>recently</sup> improved greatly, and the site would aid greatly in this preservation campaign. This video/film would be aimed at:

1) telling Duke's story: a rich life filled with <sup>the</sup> personal adventures of being a professional heavy weight fighter and merchant marine

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as well as including some anecdotes on what inspired him to create his wonder-filled site. The importance of this project is that this would enable us to capture an oral history of Duke, who is presently 78, now while he's still here to share it with us.

2) creating and documenting his site for educational purposes in order that others both young and old, who may not be able to experience the site first hand, might be able to access through the medium of television / video / film. It would give us the ability to share this "phenomena" with a greater audience to enjoy and be inspired by and at the same time reveal some insight into the mind of this imaginative creator.

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Seymour, have to go to dentist now  
will call you later, hope all's  
well with you

Steve