

## Making the bronze hand sculptures of President Jimmy Carter and Russ Filbeck

After President Carter and I made eight dining chairs for a dining set in 2015, I decided to commemorate the joint effort by casting our hands to preserve the event. Dick Erickson and I went to the Carter Center in Atlanta, GA in March of 2016 and met with President Carter. We brought all the supplies with us to cast his hands in a rubber material and then make the plaster like hands. We brought these white, plaster like hands back to the Veterans Art program in Fallbrook, CA where Dick and Brandon Roy spent months creating the bronze hands.

We made two sets of Carter's hands and one set of my hands. Brandon took the hands and mounted them on the tangs of draw knives, sharp tools used to make chair parts. I then mounted the draw knives on small models of a shaving horse like the one Carter and I used to make the dining chairs.

One set of Carter's hands was auctioned in the Carter Center annual fund raising auction in June 2017. The sculpture sold for \$140,000. The dining set had been auctioned in the 2016 Carter Center fund raising auction for \$600,000.

I took the remaining pair of Carter's hands and my pair of hands to make two more sculptures. I discussed the idea of switching our hands on two draw knives with President Carter. We agreed that we would each keep our left hands so we each have our wedding bands.

I titled the sculpture "Team Work" because making the dining set and making the bronze sculptures required team work to create. The team work in both projects generated a significant amount of money to support the Carter Center's efforts to eradicate disease reduce human suffering around the world. This was a most worthwhile effort for all of us. Russ