Lesson Plan: honor a special person

About the Art:
Ronald Baron’s sculpture, My Time is Now, located at the Bedford Park entrance to the APEX, Lehman College’s athletic facility, announces the function of the building with irony and humor. A large trophy cup—made of many objects, including basketballs, baseballs, tennis balls, weights, college yearbooks, plaques, soccer shoes and a softball mitt—connects the sculpture to the history of the college and to the activities of the building. The work has been cast from actual objects in bronze, aluminum, and stainless steel using the traditional lost wax technique, as well as direct burnout. The work is a conceptualization of the interaction of academic and physical education, symbolically the relationship between the mind and the body. The bowl of the sculpture is a lacy structure created by hundreds of tiny trophy figures representing awards for a range of athletic events. The colored patinas and textures replicate those of the original objects.

Activity Objective:
Students will be able to create a trophy for someone they know that symbolizes an appreciation for that person—and something special that he or she does.

Questions for Discussion:
What is the first thing you think of when you see this sculpture? Why? On what occasions do people receive trophies? What do people need to do in order earn a trophy? Why do you think the artist chose this location for his sculpture? Why do you think the work is titled My Time is Now?

Artist:
Ronald Baron

Art Work:
My Time is Now
1993, bronze, aluminum, stainless steel, 12’ tall

Location:
Lehman College, CUNY
outside Apex Building
next to Bedford Park Blvd. West Bronx

Grades:
4-6
Materials:
Recycled materials such as cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, and paper towel tubes
aluminum foil
masking tape
white glue and hot glue gun
craft (popsicle) sticks
pipe cleaners
tempera or acrylic craft paint
brushes
water containers

Procedure:
• Ask students to think of a person that is important to them, and to write a paragraph on one achievement or skill that this person has earned or developed.
• Show students the materials that they will get to use and some possible ways to use them, for example, the foil can be twisted to build figures or wrapped around cardboard to look like silver. Cardboard can be cut into strips and taped together to create a sturdy structure.
• Tell students to think about the reason the person is being honored and the materials that are available. How could you express your ideas with these materials? Tell students to create a design drawing to put their ideas together.
• Once students have created their design drawings, they can build their trophies.

Closure:
Share all the finished trophies, by asking students to read their paragraphs and show their finished work.

New York City Strands of Art Education:
1. Arts Making
2. Literacy in the Arts
3. Making Connections
4. Community and Cultural resources
5. Careers and Lifelong Learning

National Art Education Learning Standards:
1. Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes
2. Using knowledge of structures and functions
3. Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas