



Media Contact:

Sara Otto, Marketing Manager
435-986-3375
sara@greaterzion.com

M-Dot Sculpture: A continuing legacy to the IRONMAN Mantra

The sculpture that was created for the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship has a renewed legacy as St. George will host two more IRONMAN World Championships in 2022.

After winning the bid to host the 2021 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship in 2019, local race organizers wanted to do something significant to memorialize the World Championship, the IRONMAN mantra ("Anything is Possible") and the legacy that IRONMAN events have created in the community over the past decade. In response to a call to artists, Richard and Josh Prazen presented the concept of a metal sculpture depicting the swim, bike and run disciplines over the rugged landscapes of Greater Zion. The artists worked with Kevin Lewis from the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office and Marc Mortensen from St. George City to fine tune the design into the amazing four-sided M-Dot monument that now stands in the center of town in a roundabout leading to finish line of the race.

With this upcoming World Championship, athletes will pass by the monument five times over the course of the race.

"We are completely thrilled with the emotion and detail in the piece of art," said Lewis. "The monument brilliantly represents the commitment, effort and passion of IRONMAN athletes, and the dedication of the volunteers and organizations who make events like this possible. Perhaps even more importantly, it is a tribute to the heritage of the early settlers in this area who overcame harsh conditions to carve out an existence in a land of extremes and forge a community that the world is literally racing to be a part of."

It's also a must-see and photo opportunity spot for all the athletes who are participating. "I've witnessed athletes who literally stop in their tracks overcome with emotion when they see the monument," said Mortensen. "It seems that almost everyone who approaches it wants to learn of the inspiration and meaning behind it all."



Richard and Josh Prazen are third and fourth generation blacksmiths who have widely influenced the metal artistic community for the last 20 years. The sculpture was cooperatively commissioned by the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office and the City of St. George to further the IRONMAN legacy in the "Land of Endurance." It is one of original works of art in St. George showcased by the Art Around the Corner Foundation.

Share your images of the sculpture online using: **#mdotsculpture**

Artwork to Take Home

A mini version of the M-dot sculpture will be playing a large role in the World Championship, as it'll serve as a Championship Trophy for both the Men's and Women's top finisher. Done in the exact same metals and dimensions, and by the Prazens, a little piece of St. George will go home with the winners.

Images

[Studio trophy](#)

[Sculpture Race Day 1](#)

[Sculpture Race Day 2](#)

[Sculpture Race Day 3](#)

About Greater Zion

Located in the southwest corner of Utah, Greater Zion is a destination that offers more than 2,400 square miles of adventure and inspiration. Zion National Park, the fourth most visited National Park in the United States, is the premier attraction, but Zion is only the beginning. Four state parks and a multitude of year-round recreational lands set the stage for a burgeoning mountain biking scene, some of the best off-highway vehicle riding in the country, scenic and challenging play at 13 top-rated golf courses, world-class cultural performances at Tuacahn Center for the Arts and so much more. The vibrant communities of St. George, Springdale, Hurricane, Ivins and towns in between offer a wide range of lodging options, dining experiences and access to outdoor pursuits through local outfitters and tour companies. Home to the 2021 and 2022 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship, and the 2021 IRONMAN World Championship, Greater Zion also is a world-class destination for sporting events, conferences and meetings. The Greater Zion Convention and Tourism Office is a transient-room-tax-funded entity of Washington County, Utah. For more information, please visit GreaterZion.com.