The Sheraton Crown Center has been the home for the Midwest Symposium since 1985. For those who have attended the Midwest Symposium, you may have noticed that the lobby often contains artwork. Two of those are “centerpieces” to the lobby. One is the tall black sculpture by Louise Nevelson an internationally known artist. The “Voyage”, completed in 1975, is part of the Hallmark Art Collection. This 30-foot-tall piece is composed of five elements bolted to a base. All are of Cor-ten steel, fabricated in a Connecticut foundry, and painted flat black. Three tall, columnar forms are joined by a small, rounded element and a maquette, or model, of the entire sculpture, which simultaneously restates the work and functions as a part of it. It stands three stories high from the lobby.

However, the even more striking element of the lobby atrium at the Sheraton Crown Center, is the chandelier-like artwork which hangs from the ceiling. This un-titled art consists of numerous rows of metallic balls. While we have not found the date it was originally installed, it was “redone” in 2012. The artist’s name is also unclear. One Sheraton staff member identified the artist as Jose Bazera (Scott Underwood), and another identified the designer as Rick Neblung (Meagan Forrest). No further information is available about either.

In case you were wondering, we have learned that according to shop drawings there are 2,298 balls that make up this lobby decoration.