

Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Annual Report for 2015-2016

Overview

The City of Ann Arbor's public art program is in transition. The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC) this year has focused on recommending enhancements to municipal construction and recruiting art donations. Given our resources (citizen volunteers with no budget) we believe focusing our efforts in this direction is the most productive use of our time for the near future.

Additionally, we are designing our public meetings to serve as a forum for members of Ann Arbor's creative community who want to educate the public, promote ideas, or solicit our endorsement for projects.

We also recognize that Ann Arbor needs major artworks to serve as gateways to our city, artwork that expresses the unique identities for our neighborhoods, and artwork that creates a sense of place, such as an art-park. These are ambitious initiatives that will require resources, staff, and wide community support. We do not think those are in place at this time.

Accomplishments

Strategic Outreach

Chair, John Kotarski, and Vice Chair, Jim Simpson, met with Art Commissioners, City Council Members, DDA director, and art patrons to gain feedback on a way forward. Consensus from meetings was to leverage municipal construction for an enhanced built environment, redesign public meetings to promote creativity, and facilitate public input.

Process/promotion

- New Artwork Donation Form – online
- New Project Proposal Form – online
- Updated website
- New CIP enhancement process: AAPAC recommends enhancement, project manager leverages AAPAC recommendation, refinement of enhancement and selection of artwork administered by city staff or outsourced to Ann Arbor's creative community, AAPAC represented in process. A two-year trial period with review and feedback is recommended.
- AAPAC business meetings are planned to be cablecast with a portion of the meeting set aside for TED like presentations by Ann Arbor's creative community.

Art Donations

Artists are willing to donate if the city can display their artwork prominently. Matching artwork with location is key. AAPAC is identifying locations and partners

for donated artwork (Parks, DDA). We are also considering an outdoor space for rotated artwork that could be an enhancement to a CIP project.

- *Clouds of Color* – Ursula Buchegger. Washtenaw County donation of artwork from sister city Tubingen, Germany. Installation TBD
- *Blue Giraffe and Glass Tiger* – donated by Ann Arbor artist James Neal. Artwork placed in top 20 of Art Prize 2015. Installation TBD

New Artwork Installed

- *Arborwinds* – Artist Catherine Widgery. Installed at Stadium Bridge and State Street underpass. National competition; selection by jury; Percent for Art.
- *Canoe ImagineArt* – five artworks fashioned from canoes and installed in five different parks situated along Huron River; national competition; selection by jury with public voting. Collaborators: AAPAC, Parks and Rec, Michigan Council for Arts, Art Alliance.
- *PowerArt II* – 2-D vinyl artwork wrapped around traffic signal boxes mainly in downtown. Regional competition; selection by jury with public voting. Collaborators: AAPAC, DDA, Michigan Council for Arts, NEA, Art Alliance.
- *Art in the Sky* – Artist Bill Burgard. Public competition for repainting Manchester Water Tower. 598 entries with 3,200 votes to select from five finalists. CIP enhancement.
- *Coleman Jewett Memorial Chairs* - Tad McKillop, Ann Arbor artist. Bronze replica of Adirondack chairs Mr. Jewett sold at Farmer's Market. Located temporarily at Farmers Market admin office; final location near Mr. Jewett's stall with stylized covering simulating roof line of market. Collaborators: AAPAC, DDA, Community Foundation, Mosaic Foundation of Peter and Rita Heydon, plus 239 anonymous donors.

Projects in Progress with Art Commission Input

- Rotating art gallery in City Council Chambers
- Stadium Blvd retaining wall. National competition administered by Ann Arbor Art Center

CIP Enhancements

AAPAC reviews municipal construction and identifies projects with potential for enhancement through creative design. Enhancement may include sculpture, murals, lighting, benches, walkways, or architectural details. Designation of enhanced CIP status includes broad concept with budget range. Final details and selection process may be achieved with task force of residents administered by city staff or outsourced. Budget range is a guide for project managers.

Potential for Resident design competition (manhole covers, cement stamps, and embedded medallions)

- UT-SN-16-12 Sanitary Manhole Lid and Sealing
- TR-AT-13-01 Annual Sidewalk Repair Program
- UT-SN-10-05 Manhole Rehabilitation Project

Potential for Streetscapes

- TR-OT-15-02 - South University Streetscape (E Univ. to Washtenaw)
- TR-SC-14-07 Fifth Ave (Kingsley to Catherine)
- TR-SC-06-05 Detroit St. Brick Road Pavement Reconstruction

Potential for way-finding and unique bike/walkway design

- TR-AT-16-04 - Non-Motorized Connection under E Medical Center Dr Along S side of Fuller
- UT-ST-16-02 Allen Creek Railroad Berm Opening (Depot St Tunnel)
- TR-AT-01-07 (Arboretum/Gallup Underpass)

Potential for place-making designs

- MF-CB-16-04 (Housing Commission: 3401-3481 Platt)
- MF-CB-17-01 (Housing Commission: White/State/Henry)

Potential for recycling/recycled artwork

- MF-SW-06-03 (Drop-off Station)

Potential for gateway artwork

- TR-AT-14-07 Ann Arbor Station Construction