

Creating Leadership Opportunities for Youth with the AAPAC - November 7, 2018 Update

Current committee members met with city staff to discuss how to best implement including youth in public art discussion, process and selection. General guidelines and methodologies were reviewed as well as potential hurdles. Based on information, we are proposing a dual approach to goal of involving youth in public art.

1. Pursue Youth Commission involvement program as outline below. Note the red updates on status of timing or revisions to information based on city discussion
2. Initiate a first step event to promote youth involvement. Our initial brainstorm for discussion with AAPAC at scheduled meeting is to hold an event that would be:
 - a. Uncomplicated
 - b. Encourage looking and talking about public art through a different lens
 - c. Increase awareness of current public art
 - d. Invite interaction with these pieces
 - e. Potential ease for youth to do relatively instantly
 - f. Potential for support through local groups or business (awarding a prize for example)

Some ideas that may fit this criteria:

A competition involving writing about or photographing an art piece in a way that invites a unique viewpoint.

Starting Examples:

1. Write about what you think a meaning of an art piece
2. Photograph an art piece to post on IG where you demonstrate an unknown or unseen art of the art
3. Light art pieces at night and draw attention to them. Have youth help with lighting and choosing pieces-maybe illuminating the unseen. (this is not an instant installation, but the photographing of it is)
4. Draw attention to a piece with creative lighting-(flashlights or lanterns) that change how the piece looks. Photograph and post on IG

The above is neither an exhaustive or vetted list, but the start of what we may do in the spring to initiate the conversation.

UPDATE REVIEW OF PREVIOUS DOCUMENT

Recognizing the great potential to develop future civic leadership and understanding in the areas of public art and public engagement, the AAPAC will be developing and appointing (2) Youth Representative positions starting in January 2019.

Up to (2) Youth Representatives will be appointed to serve as ex officio members of the AAPAC starting in January 2019 and will serve initially through December 2019. AAPAC Student representative applications will be solicited initially in November/December 2018 (for January 2019 appointment), and then every March /April thereafter for a single term appointment starting in July of the application year.

The timeline on this is in flux as we work with the city to define the particulars

Appointees may be reappointed for up to one additional terms, having gone through the application process in each subsequent year.

Duties of the Youth Representative will include:

- Attendance at least 4 of 6 full public meetings of the Ann Arbor Public Art Attendance at Youth Committee meetings (once monthly, or as needed).
- Attendance at special meetings of the AAPAC as is appropriate.
- Plan and facilitate group discussions and feedback sessions among youth focus groups and at semi-annual meetings.
- Participation in the planning and implementation of one youth specific project of AAPAC during their annual appointment term.
- Acting as a key communicator about public art to youth city-wide through the online portal, blogging, and social media.
- Other related duties as designated

Eligibility

Those applying for consideration must be:

- Between the ages of 14-18 at the time of their application.
- A resident of the City of Ann Arbor for at least 6 months prior to appointment date.
- Have a strong interest in civic engagement, public policy and the arts.
- Be able to attend a majority of meetings and events hosted by the AAPAC.
- Have participated in at least one of the Forums to Bring Youth Voice to Public Art (see description below)

Selection

Applicants will be initially screened by the AAPAC Youth Involvement Committee, with (2) candidates selected to be presented to the full AAPAC for an appointing vote.

The first Youth Representatives will be seated with the AAPAC immediately at the January 2019 meeting at which they are appointed. Subsequent Youth Representatives will be seated at the July meeting immediately following their appointment meeting in May.

Timeline is in flux and there are a number of process steps to put this in play. We will continue to pursue and update on timeline as we progress

Mentorship

An AAPAC Commissioner will be appointed annually to serve as the Student Representatives' mentor and key collaborator with the AAPAC, and will serve as a facilitator between the Commission and the youth community that is engaged on a semi-annual basis (see *Developing Youth Voice in Public Art Discussions in Ann Arbor* described later in this document)

Benefits

Participating Youth Representatives will receive opportunities for public presentation and meeting facilitation, access to Ann Arbor civic leaders (Mayor, City Council, Planning Commission), and the opportunity to affect arts and arts engagement in the public sphere now and into the future. They will also learn the process of

developing and approving public policy, participate in large and long scale project management, and become familiar with the preparation and implementation of public meetings, agendas, minutes, governing policies, and parliamentary procedures. Youth Representatives may also receive recommendations and participation certifications for courses, programs, college, and/or employment from AAPAC mentors upon successful participation with AAPAC.

These goals are consistent with discussions with city staff

Developing Youth Voice in Public Art Discussions in Ann Arbor

The A2 Public Art Commission, in order to encourage civic participation and meaningful engagement with youth in the Ann Arbor Community, a number of efforts are being proposed, starting Fall 2018.

Spring 2019

The AAPAC will host two open meetings (**Forum to Bring Youth Voice to Public Art**) a year with K-12 age youth to gather input and ideas around efforts undertaken or proposed by the AAPAC for academic year and summer recess periods. These meetings will be scheduled annually in October and February (starting October 2018) in order to comment on both Fall/Winter/Spring projects as well as Summer projects.

This committee is proposing to kick off the effort with an event/competition that be specifically for youth and focus on either the public art that is in place or the creation of public art.

The following parameters of participation would be used for direct AAPAC youth involvement

Parameters of participation would include:

- 1) Receiving information about public art projects currently under development
- 2) Proposing and coalescing around a single project that the AAPAC might consider undertaking on behalf of the community (brought back to the commission by the designated AAPAC Mentor/Youth Representative for consideration and development after each meeting).
- 3) Offering general input on public arts needs and concerns in Ann Arbor, and the vision and direction of those needs for the future.
- 4) Indicating interest in participating on project teams, focus groups, or in youth focused surveys on public art in the future.

These two semi-annual meetings would be ~~fully hosted public events, engendering a budgetary line item for meeting expenditures.~~

Students participating in at least one of these forums would be eligible to serve as an AAPAC Youth Representative (starting January 2019).

Invitations to participate would be widely promulgated to ensure a diverse and inclusive candidate pool, Organizations and entities to engage in these outreach efforts would include, but not be limited to:

- The Neutral Zone
- Girl Scouts (Ann Arbor Chapters)
- Boy Scouts (Ann Arbor Chapters)

- Ann Arbor Art Center
- Peace Neighborhood Center
- Arts Alliance
- Fool Moon/Wonder Fool
- Arrowwood Hills Community Center
- Bryant Community Center
- Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
- Jim Toy Community Center
- Ann Arbor Public Schools, especially
 - Superintendent's Office
 - Office of Communications
 - Middle School and High School Guidance Counselors
 - Middle School and High School Arts Faculty
 - Community Rec and Ed
 - Ann Arbor Parent Advisory for Special Education
 - Black Parent Student Support Group
 - Arab American Parent Support Group
 - PTO Council
 - Arts-Related Booster Organizations (as appropriate)

Creation of an online portal/web presence for these and other AAPAC Youth Committee efforts will also be explored as an addition to the City's and AAPAC's other online informational offerings, to further the scope of outreach. Instagram, and other social media platforms will also be explored as an outreach and awareness tool for use by AAPAC and the Youth Representatives.

Committee has discussed with staff on how to best use city tools and links to other media forms to publicize

Yearly Goal: To create one youth specific public art event/offering/project led through this group.