

Special Projects Workgroup report for 6/10/2020

The work group exists to explore special projects on an ad hoc bases: John Kotarski chair, and David Esau are members and Sophie Grilliet and Peggy Leonard are part of the Golden Paintbrush Award sub-committee of this workgroup.

The Workgroup has been meeting online since March 2020 to discuss reviving the Golden Paintbrush award.

The workgroup recommends that this award with the same name and history be continued using an online form (see attached draft form). We also recommend the judging criteria include craftsmanship, visibility, creativity, durability, and civic engagement and the judging panel be diverse and changed annually (see attached guidelines).

We have also attached a FAQ detailing questions about the award.

We recommend these awards be revived by fall 2020.

Golden Paintbrush Award background

Golden Paintbrush Awards were presented annually beginning in 1999 by the city using the art commission as the awarding body. Citizens, businesses and organizations that encouraged art in public places were awarded certificates with a Golden Paintbrush Award pin/metal. Their projects were included in a slide presentation during the award ceremony at City Council. Nominations for the awards were accepted during year by sending a recommendation to Parks and Recreation Department. The previous focus had been on identifying and promoting collaborations among Ann Arbor organizations for creative public ventures.

Past recipients of Golden Paintbrush Awards

Pre-2004 winners

Melinda and Thomas Monahan, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Gerome Kamrowski, Big City Small World Cafe, Barbara Petry, Underpass 7, Peter Allen, Woody Miller, Utilities Department of the City of Ann Arbor.

2004

Joe O'Neal rescued the Louis Redstone mosaic "*Jack and the Beanstalk*" from demolition during the Arborland renovation and reassembled and installed it at Kerrytown

The South University Area Association (SUAA) is sponsored *three murals* in the South University Area.

Mark Tucker, a lecturer the U-M for courses in Art for Non-Art Majors, coordinated an East University mural project with the UM Lloyd Hall Scholars' Program. Fifteen

students—mainly undergraduates— painted a *colorful mural on the northeast corner of East University at South University*, on one side of the exterior of the Lucky Kitchen restaurant.

2005

The ArtRide Project, a collaborative effort of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA), the Arts Alliance of the Ann Arbor Area (a division of the Chamber of Commerce), and Arts at Michigan. The ArtRide project consisted of a series of five exhibitions of U-M student artwork onboard AATA buses running from February 2004 to September 2004. In total, 85 students submitted 100 pieces of artwork. Twenty pieces were selected by the jury and were featured on bus cards in all 88 AATA buses over the course of seven months. Award recipients include **Mary Stasiak**, Manger of Community Relations for AATA, **Tamara Real**, Director of the Arts Alliance, and **Lisa Herbert**, Director of Arts at Michigan.

2006

'Gallery Without Walls' is a display of deco rated banners, created at the **Ann Arbor Art Center** by community artists and mounted on 50 lampposts on Main, Liberty, 4th, and Washington Streets. This display has been made possible by the sponsorship of **Jeff Hauptman** of the Oxford Company. Founded in 2004, 'Gallery Without Walls' has engaged many local artists, children and teens and is one of the Ann Arbor Art Center's many community building projects. The goal of the Gallery is to take original artwork out of the confines of our walls and into the streets. The program is the result of a unique collaboration between the Art Center, local artists and educators, and a bevy of local businesses.

'Pigskins on Parade', sponsored by the **Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau**, was inspired when the Super Bowl chose Detroit to be its "Super City" site for 2006 game, the Ann Arbor area got busy. The result was 'Pigskins on Parade', decorated fiberglass footballs placed throughout downtown Ann Arbor that brought the festival atmosphere to the hundreds of Super Bowl fans.

'Fairy Doors', discovered by **Jonathan B. Wright** during a remodel of his West Side home. Since that wondrous event more have been popping up around downtown Ann Arbor. They appear as miniature versions next to the various stores they represent. A website, <http://urban-fairies.com>, has recorded the fairy door phenomenon complete with a map of all the locations, extra pictures of them, tales both short and tall about the fairy doors, even frequently asked questions. National Public Radio has interviewed Jonathon Wright .

2007

Mark Tucker, co-creator of the *FestiFools Parade*. Tucker's project brought together local businesses, university units, members of the community, and university students to create enormous papier-mâché puppets that danced down Main Street in celebration of April Fools Day.

The Dragon of Wishes, Hopes, and Dreams, envisioned by artist and professor **Anne Mondro**. For this project, hundreds of UM Health System patients, staff, faculty, and visitors created a 16-foot dragon inscribed with their wishes, hopes, and dreams. Over 1,700 paper fans were decorated—some painted with pictures of recovery, others inscribed with final goodbyes—and then mounted to make the body of the dragon.

The Stables on Fourth Avenue, building owner **Dan Dever** and artist and interior designer **Audrey Hayes** found their own way to have an impact on the community through art. Their mural of horses in a stable is painted on a garage door at the end of the alley just behind the Embassy Hotel. Originally commissioned as a deterrent to graffiti, the Stables bring a pocket of serenity to Fourth Avenue between Washington and Huron. Hayes lives across the street from the mural in Courthouse Square Senior Apartments.

Fire Up Downtown is the brainchild of local barber and community promoter **Robert Dascola**. Dascola attended the International Downtown Association Conference in Cleveland, with Ellie Serras of the Main Street Area Association in 2002 where he saw the city's painted fire hydrants and got the idea to start his own campaign to add a splash of art to often-overlooked objects in Ann Arbor. The project culminated in the painting of city light boxes. Dascola worked with Mike Bergren of City of Ann Arbor Public Services to make sure sensitive electronic equipment in the boxes would not be damaged by the corrosive chemicals needed to strip the boxes of layers of graffiti and fliers in preparation for painting.

A Special Golden Paintbrush Award for lifetime artistic achievement went to local artist **J.T. Abernathy**, who has worked for years from a studio off of State Street. The 84-year-old Abernathy quietly become known—locally, nationally, and internationally—for his work, his support of artists, and his technical expertise.

2009

Artist **Yulia Hanansen** and **Bob Grese**, Director of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, received the Golden Paintbrush on behalf of all who worked on the *Great Lakes Ecosystems Mosaic Murals*. Grese came up with the vision for a project that would celebrate the unique habitats and flora of the state, Hanansen designed it, and 47 volunteers from the community, including both skilled and untrained glass artists, completed the eight mosaic panels that now glow with gemlike colors from a previously bare brick wall at the entrance to the Botanical Gardens.

The Modern Translations of Historic Inspirations Mural at the Ann Arbor Art Center is another example of a collaboration that brought the work and ideas of many to bear on a public art project for the whole community to enjoy. The mural that currently graces the back wall of the Art Center was developed as part of the ArtMakers Teens program led by art teacher **Sarah Winter**. The mural was ultimately the culmination of three years of teaching at the Art Center.

Art teacher **Tim Eiseman** and Principal **Patricia Rose** accepted the Golden Paintbrush for *Slauson Middle School's Mastodon Mural project*. Seven years ago, under the guidance of then-science teacher Jeff Bradley, they lobbied successfully in Lansing for the mastodon to be named Michigan's state fossil. The Mastodon Mural project commemorated that effort, allowing students to recreate the period when mastodons roamed Michigan. Over twenty students worked on the design. The project was funded by the Slauson Art Department. Ann Arbor Public Schools provided the protective acrylic shield.

Recommendations

We recommend the attached form, judging guidelines, and FAQ be adapted.

Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Golden Paintbrush Award FAQ

1. What is the Golden Paintbrush Award?

The Golden Paintbrush Award is given to those individuals or organizations whose involvement in public art exemplify excellence, demonstrate collaboration, and add a bit of magic to daily life in Ann Arbor. It is like the Oscars for public art.

2. When did the city first start giving out this award?

Since 2003.

3. Is the award given to people or projects?

A project is selected by the judges but people receive a Golden Paintbrush Award certificate for their role in the project.

4. Who can nominate projects for the award?

Anyone can nominate a project or organization. You do not have to be an Ann Arbor resident but the project you nominate has to be located within the City.

5. Can I nominate myself?

Yes, you can nominate a project you created or worked on as long as the project is located within the City.

6. How do I submit a nomination?

Nominations will be accepted online during the entire year. Nominations for the current year will end September 1 and the awards for that year will be awarded in October. If you miss the deadline, you can still submit your nomination for the following year.

7. Who is eligible to receive the award?

A project or organization is given the award but those individuals who create, work on, finance, or otherwise support a creative project will receive a certificate of their achievement. The awardees do not have to be residents of Ann Arbor but the creative project or organization has to be within the City

8. How many Golden Paint Brush awards will be awarded each year?

Up to three projects each year will be awarded a Golden Paintbrush Award. More than one individual for each project may be recognized and given a certificate. The number of certificates will be determined by the judges.

9. Who judges the nominations?

A panel of three judges will be appointed each year by the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission. The judges will represent leaders in the arts community, the resident community, and local the business community.

10. How will the nominations be judged?

Nominees will be judged on craftsmanship, visibility, creativity, civic engagement, and sustainability (ease of maintenance)

11. What will I receive if my project is awarded a Golden Paintbrush?

You will receive a certificate and a small sculptural memento at a City Council meeting.

12. Can I receive more than one Golden Paintbrush award?

The award is for a creative project, like the Oscars. So, if you were involved in more than one creative project, yes, you may receive more than one certificate – even in the same year.

13. Who has received the Golden Paintbrush Award in the past?

([Link to a list of past awardees](#))

Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Golden Paintbrush Award Nomination

Since 2003 the City of Ann Arbor has been recognizing citizens, businesses and organizations who have encouraged creativity in public spaces. The Golden Paintbrush Award is given to those nominees whose involvement in public art exemplify excellence, demonstrate collaboration, and add a bit of magic to daily life in Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor Public Art Commission invites nominations of a project or organization which involves either in Public Art, or Art benefiting the public cultural life of the city, and which exemplifies Ann Arbor as the creative capitol of our region. The nominees will be judged on craftsmanship, visibility, creativity, civic engagement, and sustainability (including ease of maintenance).

1. Describe what project you are nominating - 250 words or less (who, what, where). If you don't know all the details, provide as much description as you can.

2. Describe the civic connections of your nominated project or organization – how the community was involved, how it fits into local issues of note, etc. - 250 words or less (civic connections)

3. Describe why you believe this project to be worthy of the Award (creativity, craftsmanship, uniqueness and visibility). 300 words or less

Golden Paintbrush Award judging

A panel of three judges will be assembled each year representing leaders in the arts community, the resident community, and the business community. Different Judges will be nominated each year by the Special Projects Work Group and no judge will serve consecutive years. The art commission will approve the list of judges.

The judging criteria will be:

1. Creativity/craftmanship – 50% (is the project unique and is it well executed)
2. Civic Engagement – 25% (has the project involved many segments of our community)
3. Visible and Sustainable –25% (is the project prominent and can it be easily maintained)

However, the panel of judges will collectively define how they use each of the criteria. This is intended to provide maximum flexibility for judging. The award is to recognize creative civic achievement and serve as community outreach for the art commission.

No more than three awards will be given each year however several certificates can be given to each project in order to recognize individuals who were instrumental in the project. Judges will determine the number of certificates for each project.

The chair of the art commission will facilitate judging but not vote.

We recommend awards be presented at a City Council meeting.