

## **Ann Arbor Public Art Commission**



## **Annual Report 2012**

**Prepared by the City of Ann Arbor Public Art Commission and the Public Art Administrator**

**August 29, 2012**

## **Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Annual Report 2012**

In accordance with the Public Art Ordinance, the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission submits an annual report to City Council 60 days after the end of each fiscal year.

### **The Mission of the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission:**

To bring public art to the City of Ann Arbor that improves the aesthetic quality of public spaces and structures, provides for cultural and recreational opportunities, contributes to local heritage, stimulates economic activity, and promotes the general welfare of the community.

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## Public art in progress or completed in fiscal year 2012

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### ***Untitled*, Herbert Dreiseitl, sculpture with water feature**

Municipal Center Plaza, 301 East Huron Street



#### *Description:*

The artwork was designed by German artist Herbert Dreiseitl, an international award winner whose work focuses on hydrology in the urban environment. The sculpture includes a water feature that celebrates water as a resource and uses rainwater that is captured and stored under the structure. When the storage tanks are low during dry weather, the pumps stop circulating water over the surface of the sculpture until the next rainfall. The sculpture's surface is two layers of rippled cast bronze. It leans into a concave upper-half, implying openness to the sky. Several blue glass spheres, lit from within, their color and shape invoking raindrops, penetrate the bronze at the top and continue to the bottom on the other side, receding into the sculpture midway to the ground. The lights are programmed to follow different sequences that cascade from the top to the ground at different rates of speed. The water pumps do not operate late at night and during the winter months; however, the energy-efficient LED lights are on display year-round.

#### *Project Summary:*

The project was proposed in 2009. The bronze-cast sculpture was installed in September 2011; on October 4, the artist participated in a public dedication of the work, holding workshops and interviews that day. Approximately 100 people witnessed the dedication and the first flow of water and sparkling of the lights.

Completing the water feature for regular operation was delayed in 2012 due to equipment failures. Some of the electrical components were compromised over the winter and then repaired in the early spring. Water pumps at the top of the sculpture required replacement, since the water flow at the top of the sculpture was operated by individual pumps that were susceptible to clogging. The water flow feature was redesigned to operate with a single water pump. The single water pump was installed in July.



***Radius, Ed Carpenter, sculpture***

Justice Center, 301 East Huron Street

*Description:*

*Radius* is a suspended sculpture to be placed in the southwest corner of the Justice Center lobby. The artist, Ed Carpenter, an American, has completed many large scale public artworks. Like many of Carpenter's works, *Radius* was inspired by the ripples in a pond caused by a thrown stone. It serves as a metaphor for the interconnectedness of the justice agencies in the building with the public that they serve. The work features multiple aluminum arms with attached diachronic glass pieces of various lengths. The sculpture will be lit internally with a sphere-shaped light. Sunlight will reflect colored light into the lobby. The reflections from the glass will shift within the lobby as the sun moves. Multiple colors are reflected from each diachronic glass piece.

*Project Summary:*

An SOQ and RFP were released in 2012 and three final art proposals were submitted for the project on December 12, 2012. A Selection Panel of community stakeholders, city staff and members of the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission reviewed artist qualifications and the art proposals before selecting Carpenter. AAPAC approved the recommendation in January; City Council approved the project in May. On-site installation is scheduled for December 2012.

*Contract budget amount:* \$150,000

## ***Nourishing Healthy Seeds, Mary Thiefels, mural and mosaic***

Allmendinger Park, Pauline Boulevard

### *Description:*

The public art (with the working title, *Nourishing Healthy Seeds*) will be applied to the park shelter's columns (and as of this writing, has begun implementation upon the columns). The artist, Mary Thiefels, is an Ann Arbor resident and has several works in public spaces in the city and the region. The art is both a mural and a mosaic. Large mosaic sections will contain a mixture of glass and tile and will feature donated "found objects" from the neighborhood and city, and self-portraits painted by Slauson Middle School eighth grade students.



### *Project Summary:*

The park shelter in Allmendinger Park—specifically, the park shelter's columns—were selected as the first location for a mural pilot program. The park was chosen as a site for a mural because it is centrally located and serves the surrounding neighborhood with a variety of activities. The installation is in keeping with the nature of the neighborhood park. In October 2011, a RFP was issued for the procurement of an artist to design, produce and install a mural on the shelter. In November, a Selection Panel of five reviewed fifteen artist applications. One member of the Selection Panel resides across the street from the park. The panel conducted four interviews in December and selected artist Mary Thiefels. Thiefels proposed creating mural paintings between decorative mosaics upon all of the park shelter's columns, and included the neighborhood participatory program involving the collection of donated objects embedded as found objects in the mosaic. The project was partially funded by a private donation to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. Funding from Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation was approved by the City Council on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Mary Thiefels was contracted in June.

*Contract budget amount: \$12,000*

## **Other public art projects approved by the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission in fiscal year 2012**

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### **East Stadium Bridges & Rose White Park**

The Ann Arbor bridges capital improvement project was selected as a site for public art in April 2011 and was placed on the Commission's Annual Plan. The bridges capital improvement project began in 2011 and is scheduled to be ready for landscaping in the spring of 2013.

The Commission approved the creation of a Task Force for the project in September. Several public art installation areas at that site were selected by the Project Development Task Force. The areas include: the underpass, the bridge itself, the fence between Stadium Boulevard and Rose White Park, and the additional space that will be added to the park adjacent to the bridge.

Final approval of the project and a budget amount of \$400,000 was approved in March. The streets source funds were selected as pooled public art funding for the project. The Project Development Task Force met several times between November and March, and completed a draft of a Request for Proposals in March.

### **Argo Cascades**

The recently completed Argo Cascades has been selected as a site for public art. The Public Art Commission approved the project at the April meeting. A project budget amount of \$150,000 has been approved for the site, from the "water" source funds. Areas for public art at the site, selected by the Project Development Task Force, include the entry and exit bridges, the top and the side of the hill at the end of the Cascades, and the area near the entry bridge and the Border-to-Border trail. The Task Force completed a draft of a Statement of Qualifications document in April for release later this year.

### **West Kingsley Street and North First Street rain garden**

A city capital improvement project is underway to install a rain garden on the corner of West Kingsley and First Streets. At its November meeting, AAPAC approved the planning and development of a public art project within, and integrated with, the rain garden. A project budget of \$27,000 was earmarked by the Commission. A Project Development Task Force met several times in 2012 to discuss the project. A public input meeting for the project was held in July.

### **Mural Program**

The Commission earmarked \$40,000 in public art funding to go toward future murals. The sites and locations for the murals have not been selected. A Statement of Qualifications for muralists has been drafted.

## The City of Ann Arbor's Public Art Collection

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### ***Twilight Shadows*, by Gerome Kamrowski, Larcom City Hall**

The mosaic was reinstalled in the lobby of city hall in the fall of 2012. Kamrowski's family was consulted about artwork's placement. A small plaque was purchased and installed following the installation. The artwork was originally placed on display outside of City Hall in 1992.

### ***TREEform*, by Traven Pelletier, West Park**

*TREEform* is the first completed public art using funding resulting from the Public Art Ordinance and it was installed in October 2010. The artwork is two 11' high steel sculptures. The work resembles bare trees and is colored a solid orange-red. It complemented the renovations to West Park when concrete walls were built into the hillside to accommodate viewing of the band shell stage.

### ***Untitled*, by Herbert Dreiseitl, Municipal Center Plaza**

See the description above.

### ***Arch*, by David Heberling, Sculpture Plaza Park at Fourth Avenue and Catherine Street**

Heberling, a U-M MFA graduate, created the eighteen foot tall steel sculpture in 1977. It was removed and underwent restoration in 2007 and was reinstalled in 2008.

The history of the triumphal arch dates back to the Romans, who scattered them as a mark of their conquests in Italy, France, North Africa, and Asia. This "arch" updates that ancient lineage with recent accretions from cubism, minimalism, and modernist abstraction. It functions here as a symbolic gate, a segue between the downtown business district and Kerrytown. *From Public Art in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County*, by Martha R. Keller & Michael J. Curtis, 1995.

### ***Frames Mosaic*, by Michael Hall, Parking Structure located at Fourth Street and Washington Street**

This work is a large scale mosaic along most of the eastern side of the parking structure. The glass tile mosaic contains "a playful illustration of various animal characters dancing across a changing skyline." The skyline is night at one end and daylight at the other. *Quotation from the artist's proposal.*

### ***Untitled*, by Barron Naegel and Yiu-Keung Lee, Parking Structure located at Fourth Street and Washington Street**

*Untitled* is 31 mounted ceramic tile placed along the pedestrian walkway. The work is a patterned cacophony of different symbols, modern icons and languages. The work was inspired by our changing

impressions of different cultures resulting from globalization, and the “impressions of how these cultures influence or leave marks right here in Ann Arbor.” *Quotation from the artist’s proposal.*

***Urban Configurations*, by Irina Koukhanova, Parking Structure located at Fourth Street and Washington Street**

The work replaces three guard rails on the upper levels of the parking structure. *Urban Configurations* is three steel sculptural panels in an arched shape. The design’s theme includes images of an urban landscape. The top panel depicts a historical landscape, the second, a contemporary landscape, and the third, an abstract future-scape.

***Growth Plate*, by Ronald Coleman, Liberty Plaza at Division Street and Liberty Street**

This work is an aluminum cast relief. It is three separate pieces that combine as a single wall mounted artwork that measures 4’ wide and 2’ in height. It was installed in 1979. Coleman was a sculpture professor at Bowling Green.

***Arbor Sapientiae (Tree of Knowledge)*, by Ronald Bauer**

This artwork was installed in 1979 and moved to Hanover Square from its original location at a traffic island at State and Liberty. The Tree of Knowledge is a steel sculpture depicting open books in a dynamic, stacked collection. The work was repainted this year, in July.

Ann Arbor also has city infrastructure elements that have been painted with artwork. Several traffic control boxes and fire hydrants throughout the city feature murals. The fire hydrants were painted in 2004, part of a program called Fire Up Downtown that partnered with student artists from U-M. In addition, the Plymouth Road water tower is painted with a mural.



## **Maintenance Report**

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The past year included two maintenance obligations for existing public artworks (not including the ongoing work on the Herbert Dreiseitl sculpture).



As described above, *Twilight Shadows*, the mosaic, was reinstalled. The new location is in the renovated Larcom City Hall lobby.

In July 2012, Ronald Bauer, the artist who created *Arbor Sapientiae*, volunteered to repaint the sculpture. The City funded the cost of power-washing the sculpture and the artist donated the cost of the paint and the labor.

Except for the Dreiseitl sculpture, none of the public artworks owned by the city have fixed operating costs and annual maintenance is not necessary. At the time of this report, the Operation and Maintenance manuals for the Dreiseitl sculpture have not been completed by the sculpture's contractors. The regular operation and maintenance costs for the untitled sculpture will be calculated following their receipt.

Many of the murals painted on fire hydrants and traffic control boxes are aged beyond the point of repair. Examination of whether or not to repaint them with murals will be a task for the upcoming year.

## **Public Art Public Communications**

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AAPAC has a standing Public Relations Committee. The Public Art Administrator, and the Committee, together work to educate the public about the purpose for the city's public art program.

### **Live events**

In addition to the dedication of the Dreiseitl sculpture on October 4, as described above, live events planned and hosted by the Public Relations committee this year include the following.

- The Townie Party before the Ann Arbor Art Fairs in July has been attended by AAPAC commissioners for several years. The event is an opportunity for commissioners to distribute information and speak to residents about the public art program. The Commission has featured an interactive activity for attendees for the past two years. This year the Commission brought a replica of the mural on Liberty Street and State Street: the faces of the authors depicted on the mural were cut-away and attendees were invited to have a posed photo taken with the prop. This was a big hit, with approximately one hundred people posing for photos. AAPAC plans to make this particular activity an annual event.
- The Golden Paintbrush Award is an annual award that recognizes private contributions to public art in the city. The awards are presented during a City Council meeting in June. The 2012 winners were David Zinn, for his numerous sidewalk chalk drawings; Jim Cogswell for the large scale work of vinyl cut-outs titled "Enchanted Beanstalk" at C. S. Mott Children's Hospital; and to Margaret Parker, for a special recognition of service with the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission.

- The Public Art Administrator represented the public art program at three neighborhood meetings and one community input meeting for the Kingsley and First rain garden. A resident Public Art Survey was administered at the beginning of the year.

### **Electronic communications**

- AAPAC's city webpage is updated on a regular basis. The top of the webpage is reserved for current information, updates and announcements. Current and upcoming public art projects are prominently featured. Ann Arbor's city collection was added this year to CultureNOW, a third-party website featuring an interactive map that pinpoints public art throughout the nation; AAPAC's site was linked this year to CultureNOW.
- AAPAC also hosts a Facebook page, linked to AAPAC's city web page, with over 200 "likes" to date. It features a photo archive of public art in the city and regular postings from Commissioners.
- A quarterly Public Art E-Newsletter began in June. The newsletter uses the city's GovDelivery email account to deliver the newsletter. There are over 250 subscribers. The e-newsletter will feature updates on projects, give announcements and include general information. The email format is an attractive visual presentation and includes photos and web links. The first newsletter featured articles on the Golden Paintbrush awardees, an update on the Dreiseitl sculpture, and more information on the Commission's policies and potential project selection process.

The public art program was assisted by a U-M School of Art & Design student intern for 6 weeks this summer. Hanna Nathans contributed several graphics and graphic design work for the program. She was instrumental in producing the content design for the e-newsletter and contributed the face-cut-out prop for the 2012 Townie Party.

### **Donations**

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The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation made a donation of \$7,200 to the Allmendinger Park mural project through the Richard P. Whitaker Charitable Fund. Approved by City Council in May, the donation is intended to promote the cultural enrichment and enhancement of the City of Ann Arbor and its citizens.

In addition, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation holds four public art funds established in 2002, before the Percent for Art ordinance was passed in 2007. The Commission of Art in Public Places, the organization that became the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission, established those funds, which are now controlled by AAPAC. Three of the public art funds were raised for specific projects. The fourth is an

endowed fund which is to be used for maintenance only. Each fund consists entirely of privately donated monies.

**AAPAC-controlled Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation funds as of June 30, 2012:**

Ann Arbor Art in Public Places, 4th & Washington Parking Structure Fund: \$13, 142.55

Ann Arbor Art in Public Places, 4th Ave Art Route Special Fund: \$10,928.53

Ann Arbor Art in Public Places, South University Public Art Project: \$1,100.82

Ann Arbor Art in Public Places Endowed Fund: \$18,953.46

## **The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission**

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In 2012, the Commission devoted considerable effort to creating a three-year strategic plan for fiscal years 2013 to 2016. The plan was formally approved in July. The longer term planning will provide a framework for the Commission when developing Annual Plans for public art locations and projects.

The membership of the Commission changed this past year as four new Commissioners replaced Commissioners leaving AAPAC. Jeff Meyers left the commission in July. He was replaced by City Councilmember Tony Derezinski in August, and for the first time the Commission had Council representation. Margaret Parker, Elaine Sims and Cheryl Zuellig ended terms in December and were replaced by John Kotarski, Bob Miller and Theresa Reid.

### **Members of the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission:**

Connie Brown, Designer

Tony Derezinski, City Council Liaison

Cathy Gendron, Artist/Illustrator

John Kotarski, Educator

Bob Miller, Realtor & Builder

Theresa Reid, Executive Director, U-M's ArtsEngine

Wiltrud Simbuerger, Architectural Designer

Malverne Winborne, Educator

### **Ann Arbor Public Art Commission officials:**

Chair: Marsha Chamberlin, Arts Professional

Vice Chair: Malverne Winborne, Educator

### **Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Art Plan**

The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission has received and reviewed the City of Ann Arbor's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Appropriations for the FY 2011 and Projected Appropriations for the FY 2012. Based on our review, AAPAC recommends that the following project(s) be applicable for Percent for Art funding.

1. Complete the Justice Center/City Hall exterior art installation (Existing Task Force w/ AAPAC Member M. Parker + E. Sims).
2. Select and install one interior project at the Justice Center/City Hall (Existing Task Force w/ AAPAC Member M. Parker + E. Sims).
3. Re-install the Kamrowski in the Justice Center/City Hall (Existing Task Force w/ AAPAC Member M. Parker + E. Sims).
4. Continued development of the public art project at the Fuller Road Transit Station. Artist selection is anticipated to occur in FY12 (Existing Task Force w/AAPAC Members C. Rizzolo-Brown and C. Gendron).
5. Complete the Mural Program pilot and evaluate program for continuation (Existing Task Force w/ AAPAC Member J. Meyers).
6. Evaluate opportunity for a public art project associated with a River Art Trail that includes the Gallup Canoe Livery, Argo Headrace. Coordinate with Park and Recreation (AAPAC Lead M. Winborne & M. Parker).
7. Evaluate opportunity for a public art project associated with the Manchester Elevated Water Tank painting project scheduled to occur in FY 2013. (AAPAC Lead J. Meyers).
8. Evaluate opportunity for a public art project associated with the Stadium Bridges project. (AAPAC Lead C. Zuellig & W. Simbuerger).
9. Continue exploration of Sun Dragon repairs/replacement pending results of the feasibility study. (AAPAC Lead C. Rizzolo-Brown).
10. Evaluate opportunity for a pilot public art program at bus stops in collaboration with the AATA (AAPAC Lead E. Sims).

**Fiscal Year 2012 Allocations to Public Art**

Water Projects	\$ 43,910.00
Stormwater Projects	\$ 14,000.00
Streets Projects	\$ 145,403.83
Solid Waste Projects	\$ 4,250.00
Sewer Projects	\$ 97,330.00
Parks and Recreation Projects	\$ 12,733.00
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	\$ 317,626.83