

January 13, 2022

To: Ann Arbor City Council

From: Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Re: Public Art Enhancement Recommendations for FY2023-FY2028 Capital Improvement Projects

Per Chapter 24 of the City Code, one of the primary responsibilities of the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission is to make recommendations to City Council for capital investment projects which may be suitable for enhancement with public art. After extensive work with City staff, to whom we offer thanks for their time and input, we present the following list for your consideration.

Our understanding is that once this report is formally accepted by City Council, the acceptance will provide staff with authority to include the art enhancement in the project budget as it moves forward toward design and construction. As such, we strongly encourage your acceptance of this report. There are, of course, numerous other opportunities to refine the project budgets including the enhancement amounts as projects move toward reality.

We fully understand that this list is based on very limited information in the current Capital Improvements Plan. Some of the projects will not move ahead; others will end up with funding sources with which enhancement is not possible. For some projects, it will be determined once we know more about the scope that there is no place for art, or that it would not be widely enough seen to make sense for funding. That said, all of the following seem, based on what we know now, to be appropriate for enhancement. Where we have thoughts on an appropriate enhancement, and/or a possible budget for the enhancement, we have included that with each item. Budgets are in most cases based on about 1% of the project budget without enhancement unless we felt a smaller amount was sufficient for the project, or a larger amount was needed to provide a reasonable enhancement.

After review of new CIP with staff for FY 2023-2028, we have the following recommendations for upcoming new projects:

MF-CB-22-05, Fire Station #5 Replacement: We understand that this has some challenges, in that the existing station is on UM land, on North Campus, with a relatively informal agreement for its operation. On the other hand, we anticipate these challenges will be resolved before the City invests \$5.5 million in a new building. The station is also somewhat hidden from Plymouth Road, but is easily visible from nearby dormitories housing UM students who are also Ann Arbor residents. We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$55,000 (1%) be included in the \$5,500,000 project budget. (FY2025-2027).

MF-PR-08-07, Tennis & Basketball Court Renovations: Some of this has already been done, but there is still about \$400,000 in work planned in upcoming years. We have heard of other communities where the courts have been enhanced with vivid murals on the court surface while remaining fully playable. It also could be an opportunity for community involvement. We

recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$4,000 (1%) be included in the \$400,000 project budget. (FY2023-2025).

TR-SC-20-01, Downtown Alley Improvements: The scope of planned work is not clear to us, and a major concern is making sure that any work supports or even expands on the Alley Art projects under way through the Ann Arbor Art Center, however they may evolve over the years. We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$7,000 (1%) be included in the \$700,000 project budget. (FY2025).

UT-ST-14-24, Briarwood Mall Ponds: Our understanding is that this will involve an expansion of the existing stormwater ponds for the mall, to provide more regional stormwater storage. It may have visibility from I-94 and certainly from the mall ring road and parking lot. Artwork could take the form of a fountain providing aeration to the pond, or an artistic rendering of the stormwater system. We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$7,000 (1%) be included in the \$700,000 remaining project budget. (FY 2022-2023).

In addition to the new projects above, the following projects were recommended in our 2021 report. However, while they were presented to City Council at its March 15, 2021 meeting, we do not believe that Council took a vote of support which is needed to include enhancement in future budgets. So, we encourage you to also include these in your vote of support.

MF-CB-22-02, MF-CB-22-11, MF-CB-22-07, MF-CB-22-09, MF-CB-22-04, MF-CB-22-01, MF-CB-22-03, MF-CB-22-05, MF-CB-22-12, MF-CB-22-10: These are new Housing Commission projects, generally on City-owned land, and potentially funded in part with city funds including the recently-passed affordable housing millage. Art could potentially be a point of pride for the residents, as well as an opportunity to encourage interaction between residents and those interested in public art. We recommend each project for an enhancement budget of \$50,000 to cover the artwork and selection process. Depending on timing, some projects may be able to run concurrent selection processes which could save significant funds especially for some of the smaller projects.

MF-PR-10-15, Fuller Pool Spray Park: This is a modest (in the CIP scope), and somewhat speculative project, but also one that sounds like it could be very publicly visible if it happens. We recommend an enhancement budget of \$10,000 (1.25%) be included in the \$800,000 project budget. (FY 2025-2026).

MF-PR-22-01, Gallup Vehicle Bridge and B2B Alignment: This is a large and heavily used park, and although it has some public art already (generally in other areas of the park) the replacement bridge could be a significant element for many visitors, with some artistic enhancement. We recommend an enhancement budget of \$30,000 (~1%) be included in the \$3,145,000 project budget. (FY 2023-2026).

TR-AT-14-08, Border to Border Trail, Bandemer to Barton Connection: Depending on what fits with the trail designs, this could be a series of smaller artworks, or a single piece to highlight a particular point along the trail. We recommend an enhancement budget of \$40,000 (~1%) be included in the \$4,800,000 project budget. (FY 2023-2025).

Respectfully submitted by AAPAC for the CIP work group: David Esau, Chair; Sarah Fuller;
and Allison Buck.