

DDA Public Art & Placemaking Program Update

DDA Board Work Session 4.17.24



Agenda

1. Overview
2. Inspiration + Case Studies
3. Staff Recommendations
 - Draft Goals
 - Funding Framework
 - Next steps

Overview – City Council and AAPAC Role

Public Art Commission	City Council	DDA
<p>Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC) is an advisory body to City Council with the goal of creating public art in Ann Arbor that improves the aesthetic quality of public spaces and structures and provides cultural and recreational opportunities that contribute to local heritage, stimulates community prosperity, and promotes the general welfare of the community.</p> <p>The commission does not provide funding for projects but does provide feedback and recommendations on proposals submitted, as required by City ordinance.</p>	<p>As the City’s policy making body, City Council has final decision over public art projects, but takes into account the recommendations from the Public Art Commission, who carefully consider community sentiment and all other aspects of the proposed project.</p>	<p>Relationship to the AAPAC is not clearly defined.</p>

Overview - DDA

A public art and placemaking program is needed to inform:

- Process clarity regarding AAPAC requests to DDA
 - Requests from the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission for the DDA to pay for and install public art as part of our capital planning.
- Annual installations to fill a placemaking gap
 - \$125,000 from TIF annually for public art installations starting in 2024.
 - \$50,000 from parking annually for parking system installations starting in 2025.

Clear goals and budget commitments will provide staff with the tools to implement.

Our Starting point...

Case Studies:

Grand Rapids, MI
Traverse City, MI
Berkely, MI
Farmington, MI
Ferndale, MI
Holland, MI
Detroit, MI

Chicago, IL
Berkely, CA
Milwaukee, WI
Madison, WI
Denver, CO
Cleveland, OH

Key lessons learned:

- Focus on placemaking and celebrating people and place
- Set specific program goals and focus
- Majority of City/DDA programs focus project selection on their goals, not through grant funding to other organization
- Don't be afraid to try new things – this is placemaking, not fine art
- Installations can be a complimentary attraction that enhance downtown events or give people another reason to come downtown.
- An annual set aside for maintenance funding is necessary.
- Many programs have subset categories to achieve a variety of projects (e.g., small-scale quick install, temporary art, permanent art).

Our Starting point...

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Example Process:

1. Set project-specific focus and selection criteria
2. Write and distribute a call for art
3. Organize a selection committee
4. Selection committee reviews responses & recommends artist(s)
5. Procure art and installation
6. Guide artist through permit and install process
7. End of year program summary provided to oversight body

DDA *Elevate* Program

The Ann Arbor DDA's Program aims to fund public art and placemaking installations that enhance the downtown experience for all people. The Public Art Commission advises on materials, construction, and other items when the art is considered for public ownership and display. The DDA determines project focus, location, and oversees installation and maintenance.

Draft Goals

Our program will elevate:

- History and Storytelling
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Play, Interaction, and Creativity
- Placemaking

ELEVATE

History, Storytelling, & Diversity

Celebrate and enhance the identity of people, places, and traditions. Ensure a diversity of artists and art forms are represented. Fund installations that can be experienced through a range of senses.

Women's Way: Harriet Woods Hill Way

Grand Rapids, MI



[Web Source](#)

Harriet Woods Hill

1922-2006

Harriet Woods Hill in 1955 became the first African American female officer in the Grand Rapids Police Department. Her career began in the Juvenile Division, and she later trained new recruits about the challenges faced by children. Hill, in 1977, was named the first female detective in the department's 106-year history. "I came there to do a job, and I wasn't going to allow [anyone] to force me to quit working because [of their] prejudices," she said. "Once the door was opened, I never allowed it to become closed."

Statement by Artist Jasmine Bruce

Harriet Woods-Hill was resilient and humble. Symbolism flows through this piece as waves pay ode to Harriet's hometown leading to the old-time Grand Rapids cityscape. Lotus flowers symbolize her growth out of muddy waters, all the while soaring above.

Women's Way: Ethel Coe Way

Grand Rapids, MI



Ethel Coe Way

1899-1988

Ethel B. Coe was born in Virginia in 1899 – 30 years after the Civil War – and moved to Grand Rapids at age eight. Coe won a civil rights case while attending South High School after she was refused service at a local ice cream parlor. Throughout her life, Coe was active in the NAACP, Urban League, Family Life Council, and many other clubs. At the age of 68, Coe traveled the U.S. and abroad as a volunteer teaching English to Latino and Vietnamese children. She was also a singer and actress who performed for more than 40 ears in venues like Civic Theatre and St. Cecilia Music Society.

Statement by Artist Esan Sommerseil

This portrait, titled "The Amazing Coe," represents the balance of society and creativity. As a sign of hope for all creators, the portrait serves as a beacon in the present and future times. This comic book technique shows coe as the hero she is, and the descriptive words provide action, fitting her activist lifestyle.

Women's Way: Grand Rapids Chicks Way

Grand Rapids, MI



[Web Source](#)

Grand Rapids Chicks

1945 - 1954

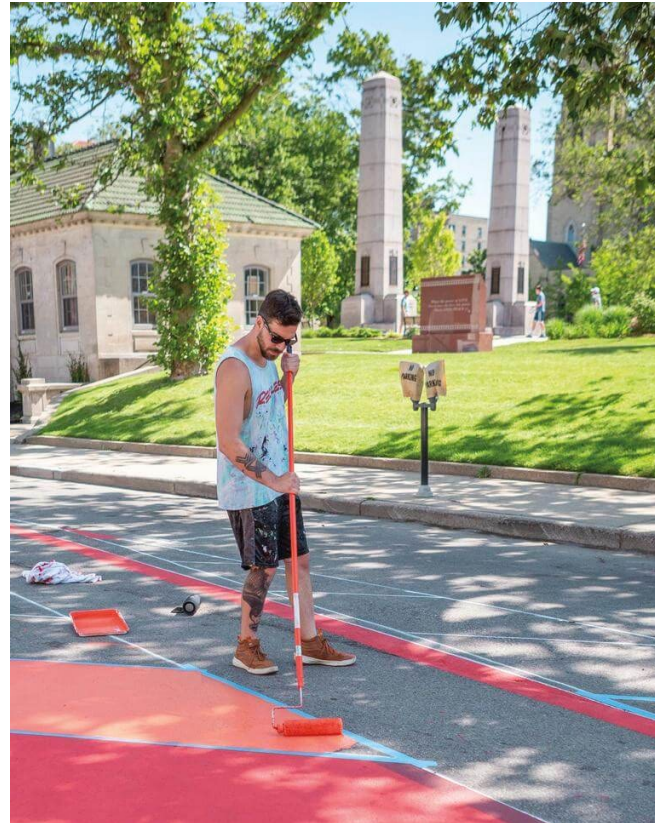
The All American Girls Professional Baseball League organized during World War II and fielded ten popular teams in the Midwest. The 600 women players suffered the rigors of the road as well as charm school, played in lipstick and slid into base in short skirts. The Grand Rapids Chicks played from 1945 to 1954, consistently appeared in the playoffs and won two championships. Their trading cards circulate again today because players, ignored by baseball history, took matters into their own hands and formed an association in the 1980s. Their efforts inspired the 1992 film *A League of Their Own*.

Statement by Artist Michi Farias

This team is a local example of women's perseverance through the hardships of World War II. Their story is about pushing through societal expectations towards the women who pioneered all-female teams in sports. Young women and men need to see female athletes from the past as they were — pioneers in the realm of professional athleticism that pushed through the obstacles they faced.

Pride Month Mural

Grand Rapids, MI



About

The mural, named “Rainbow Road,” is on Sheldon between Library and Fulton streets. City leaders said the piece, which was funded by the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority, is the most extensive street mural installed in the city.

Salamon brushed road-marking paint one color at a time to complete the piece that incorporated the rainbow symbolism associated with Pride Month as well as his own geometric, abstract elements to represent everyone’s uniqueness.

“If someone’s walking past and sees it and doesn’t know the meaning behind it, they’re probably going to think it’s just a cool piece of street art,” said Salamon, who now lives in the Detroit area and works as an artist. “Once they find out it’s specifically made for Pride, I hope they see the process of individuality by using the rainbow flag in a unique way.”

[Web Source](#)

Poetry on the Leelanau Trail

Traverse City to Suttons Bay, MI – Tart Trail

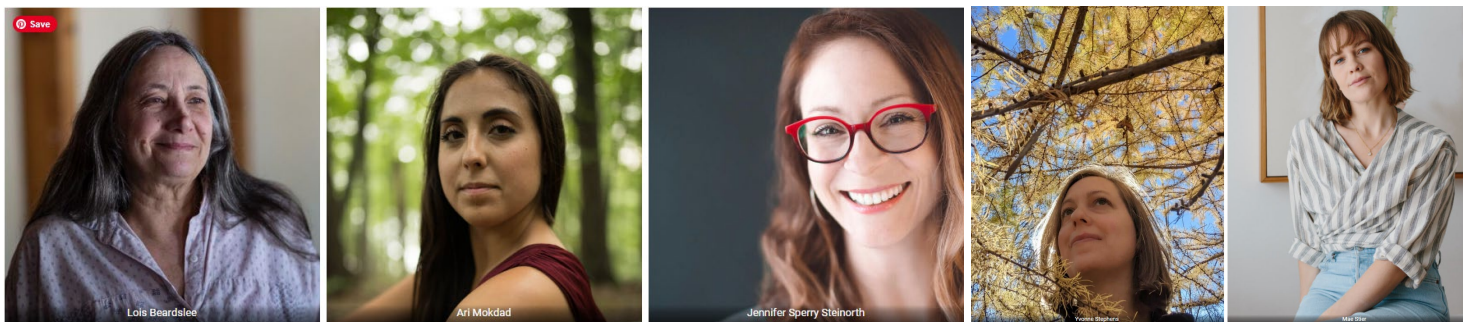


About

In partnership with Michigan Writers, we are proud to present the Poetry on the Leelanau Trail pilot project. Poetry on the LT consists of work from five poets including Lois Beardslee, Ari Mokdad, Jen Steinorth, Yvonne Stephens, and Mae Stier. Stencils of short poems are chalk dusted every few miles onto the 18 miles of Leelanau Trail that traverses from Traverse City to Suttons Bay. The stencils last two to four weeks, depending on the weather, and may be reinstalled throughout the warm season.

Sample Artist Bio:

Lois Beardslee is an award-winning Ojibwe author and illustrator. She is the first Native American to win the Michigan Notable Book Award, for her latest book, *WORDS LIKE THUNDER*, New and Used Anishinaabe Prayers (Wayne State University Press 2020), which received a silver medal in the 2021 Midwest Book Awards. Her work celebrates the strengths of indigenous people while addressing contemporary issues like climate change, socioeconomic inequality, racism in education, cultural appropriation in literature, and the impact of white-flight on Native Americans north of the Great Lakes Rust Belt.



[Web Source](#)

Disability Pride Mural

Melbourne, Australia



About

Approximately 50 peoples' voices are represented on this wall. People of all different disabilities, telling stories about their lives, and highlighting the wide cultural diversity that is Disabled Culture.

[Web Source](#)

Be Kind Mural

Laurel, Mississippi



ELEVATE

Play, Interaction, & Creativity

Prioritize installations that involves the audience through multi-sensory and multi-function.
Installations should engage, offer seating, create play, and provide experiences.

Visual & Tactile Art



Tactile art like sculptures and mosaics can be experienced through the interaction of touch in addition to sight.

Elevate Play, Interaction, & Creativity

Coleman Jewett Memorial Chairs

Ann Arbor, MI



In addition to celebrating the history of an important community member, the installation can be experienced as a place to sit, reflect, and interact.

World of Winter: Amigo & Amigo

Grand Rapids, MI



Affinity

Affintiy is an immersive interactive light and sound installation inspired by the human brain. Each light globe represented a memory, as people approached Affinity different memories could be heard. When people touched the memory a light would trigger, the longer they touched the further their light would travel throughout the sculpture. Affinity features 62 different colour combinations and 112 points of interaction.

[Video](#)



Lunar Lamp Posts

The Lucky Lunar Lamp Posts is an interactive light installation featuring 40 interactive lamp posts. Each light post animates and sounds a traditional Chinese instrument when touched. The audience are invited to explore and play, discovering the variety of light and sound animations.

[Video](#)

World of Winter: Amigo & Amigo

Grand Rapids, MI



Dandelion

Inspired by the wind-swept petals (pappus) of the dandelion, an international symbol of playfulness, and in some cultures even believed to have medicinal properties, audience members are transported by Dandelion into the world of the fanciful and hopeful. Inside Dandelion there are 8 interactive panels, when people touch them, the light will spread throughout the structure as if they were blowing on the petals. Every 5 minutes, Dandelion boasts its natural talents to the audience, by spilling out into an eclectic and modern sound and light animation, inspired by wind, and the natural properties of the dandelion.

[Video](#)

Winteractive: Echoes—A Voice from Uncharted Waters

Boston, MA



About

Echoes is an interactive sound-and-light work that invites us to look and listen closely. The installation—a massive, colourful representation of a whale—symbolizes our blue planet's flora and fauna. It asks us to consider the impact of our everyday activities on nature and the environment, making us more aware of their fragility. Interacting respectfully with the marine mammal's vital space takes us into an enigmatic melodic world. But if we get too close, we are assaulted by noise pollution emitted by the industrialized world. The installation is a meditation on our harmful invasions of Earth's ecosystems.

Artist: Mathias Gmachl

[Web Source](#)

Winteractive: Island of Warmth

Boston, MA



About

This installation is an interactive, musical, visual and luminous experience—an urban bonfire comprising 220 light bulbs that flicker in response to spectators' movements. Whether they sway or dance, festivalgoers stir the virtual embers and trigger flames that dance, spark and swirl, creating warmth, light and music. A shared experience conceived as a tribute to Montreal's inclusive festive tradition.

Artist: ATOMIC3

[Web Source](#)

Winteractive: Endgame (Nagg & Nell)

Boston, MA



About

The scene seems absurd: two inflatable clown heads stuck between building walls. Compounding the strangeness, the figure of the clown—an object of mirth—takes a turn for the disturbing, depending on our point of view and our level of sensitivity.

Artist: Max Streicher

[Web Source](#)



Winteractive: Territories 2.0

Boston, MA



About

A mysterious metallic cube, from which glows a starry firmament, has landed unexpectedly in the city. Anyone who ventures inside will discover a true narrative microcosm: a diorama carefully designed to both captivate and induce apprehension. It is a miniature landscape depicting a natural environment that has been abundantly transformed by human intervention and climate change.

Artist: Olivier Roberge

[*Web Source*](#)

Winteractive: LeMonde Studio

Boston, MA



Music Box



Bird House

About

Entrusted with a straightforward mission—make Boston winter fun!—we designed five engaging activations with a singular goal: ensure that every visitor interacts with the pieces and has fun.

For this special occasion, we introduced some of our signature creations to Boston: the giant sliding guitar, four light lane bikes, the birdhouse, a music box, and the human-powered photo frame. Each installation offered Bostonians a taste of LeMonde Studios' classic recipe for immersive entertainment and interactive fun during the winter season.

[Web Source](#)

Winteractive: LeMonde Studio

Boston, MA



Guitar Slide



Light Lane Bikes

[*Web Source*](#)

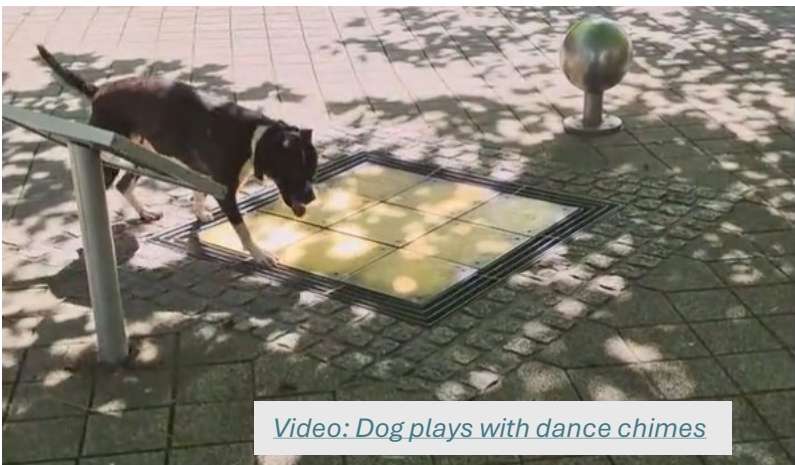
Playful & Interactive Installations



Playful & Interactive Installations



Playful & Interactive Installations



Video: Dog plays with dance chimes



ELEVATE

Placemaking

Make our streets and spaces vibrant and livable, enhance the urban environment and public spaces throughout the City, turn ordinary or unattractive street features into art.

Only Rain Down the Drain

Grand Rapids, MI



Only Rain Down the Drain

Grand Rapids, MI



Only Rain Down the Drain

Grand Rapids, MI



Quick Build Project Art



Power Art

Ann Arbor, MI

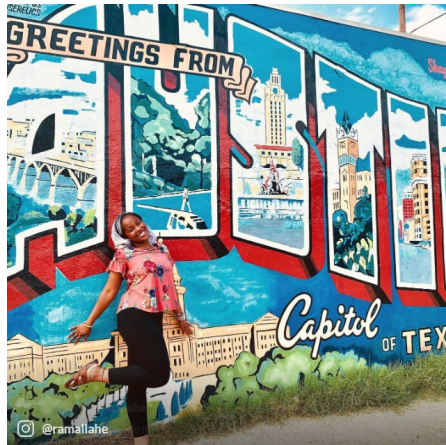


Singing in the Rain Mural

Ann Arbor, MI

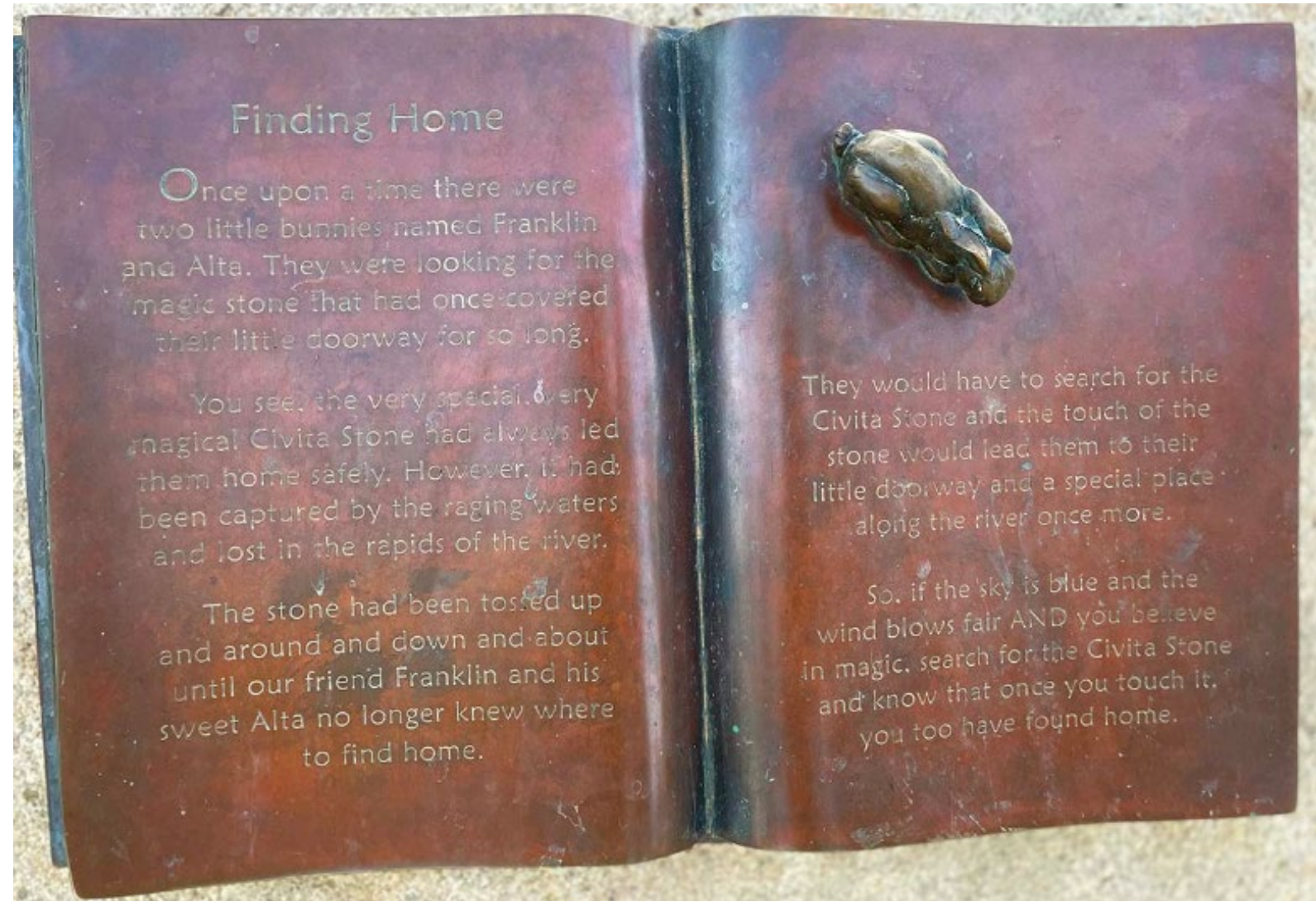


Local Identity



Civita Park Rabbit Sculptures

San Diego, CA



Urban Fairy Doors

Ann Arbor, MI



Urban Fairy Doors

📍 Throughout downtown Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Visit Website ▶

Transit Shelter Placemaking



Transit Placemaking project in St. Louis, MO



Rendering of potential art incorporated into shelters as part of the DDA's Fourth Ave project

Corcoran Garage Art Wrap

Durham, NC



[Web Source](#)

About

The Corcoran Garage Art Wrap was installed and dedicated in August 2018. It is one of several projects in the "Back Porch" concept area of the SmART Vision Plan and is the First Public Art Installation of the Durham SmART Program to receive National Recognition as part of the Americans for the Arts 2019 Public Art Network (PAN) Year in Review. The wrap, entitled "Durham in Continuum," is an example of creative public art that is a "cultural quilt" and reflects the diverse, innovative, and dynamic character of Downtown Durham.

Artist Olalekan Jeyifous was selected to create the wrap for the Corcoran Street parking garage. The design is a colorful and joyous interpretation of the architectural and iconic elements of the corridor.

Fourth & William Garage Art Wrap

Ann Arbor, MI



The DDA plans to incorporate public art in its Fourth Ave Redesign project. This rendering shows the potential impact of a vibrant, large-scale installation attached to the parking structure. Artwork would be selected through the DDA's Elevate program policies.

Staff Recommendations

DDA *Elevate* Program

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Draft Goals

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Annual Framework

The DDA's Elevate program consists of five annual categories:

1 & 2

Large-scale permanent installation
(\$50,000 TIF + \$50,000 Parking)



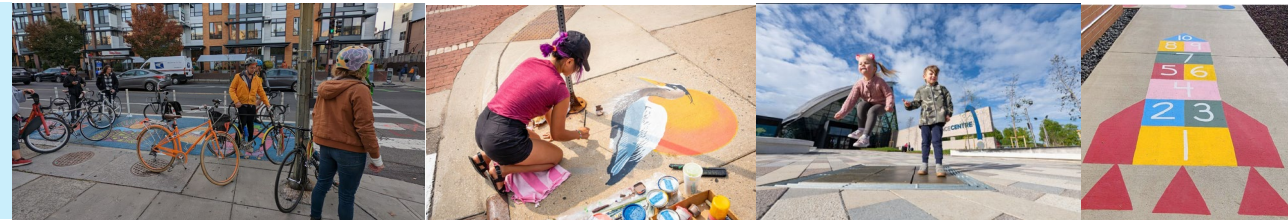
3

Temporary, rotating interactive art installation
(\$50,000)



4

Small-scale installations
(\$20,000)



5

Maintenance
(\$5,000 annually from TIF; \$2,500 annually from Parking)

Capital Programs and Funding

The DDA's *Elevate* program consists of capital project funding:

- Set aside *Elevate* funding with TIF capital projects that are selected by the Public Art Commission only? 1% of construction budget for select projects includes funding for art and placemaking.

OR

- Set aside *Elevate* funding with every TIF capital project - 1% of each TIF construction budget includes funding for art and placemaking as part of that project.