

# Elevate: Public Art and Placemaking Program



+ THE ANN ARBOR ART CENTER



Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority

## PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING PROGRAM

This document outlines the purpose, goals, and processes for the Ann Arbor DDA's *Elevate* Program.

Prepared Spring 2024



# OVERVIEW

1. Update on Current Elevate Projects
2. New Project Opportunities

# ELEVATE PERMANENT INSTALLATIONS

Fall 2024 – Fall 2025

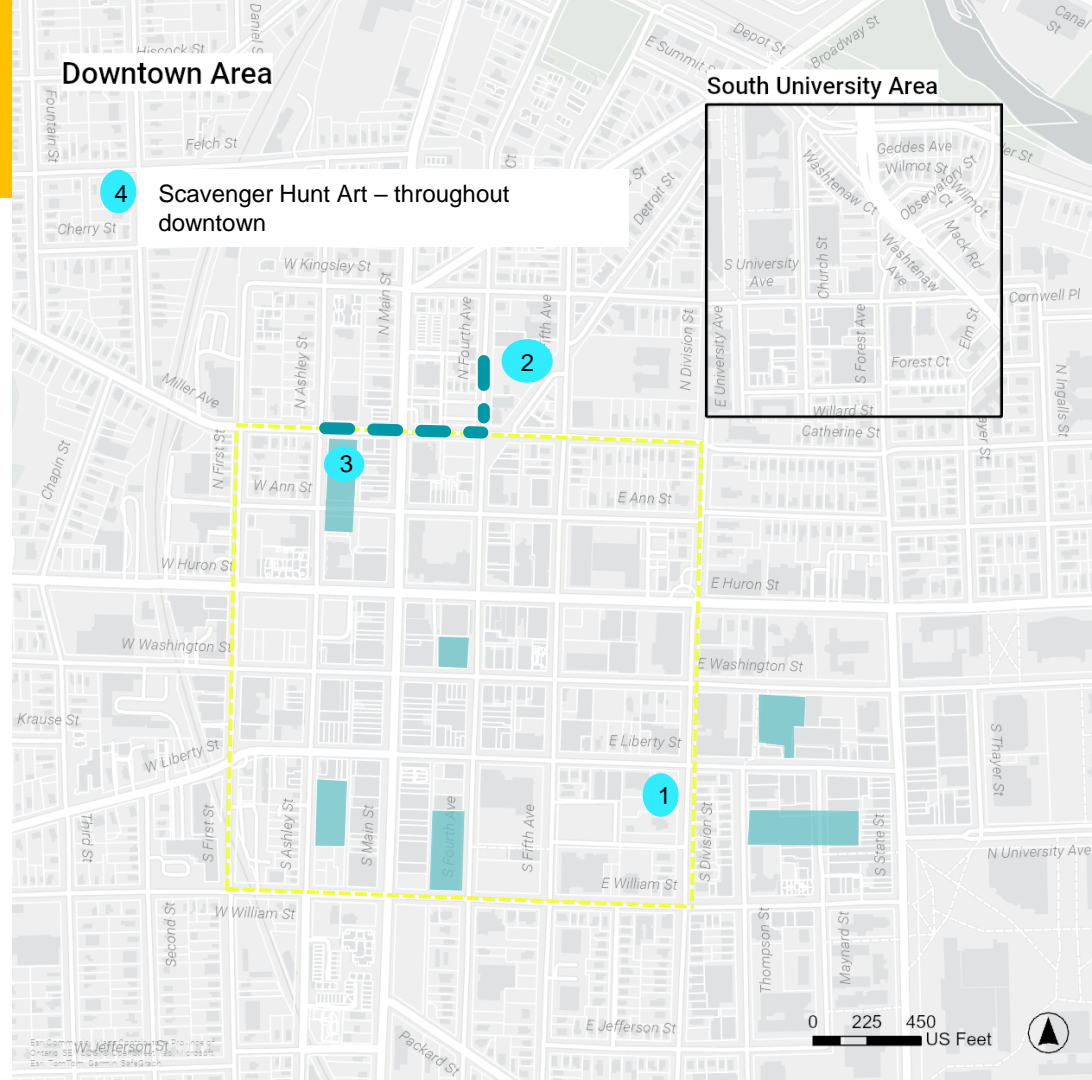
Three years of funding for permanent installations

FY24 – FY 26: \$354,000

- 1 Mural – Liberty Plaza
- 2 Sunshade – Farmer's Market Plaza
- 3 Wayfinding – Ann/Ashley to Kerrytown/Farmer's Market
- 4 Scavenger Hunt Art – Throughout downtown

 Parking Structures

 Bikeway Corridors



# MURAL IN LIBERTY PLAZA

1

**MURAL** (DDA + Parks: \$17,500 each)

**Focus:** Introduce energy and interest in Liberty Plaza. Encourage people to visit and spend time in Liberty Plaza.



## Process Timeline

A2AC Drafts  
Call to  
Artists for  
Project

Call is  
Posted

Submission  
Deadline

A2AC  
Reviews  
Submissions

Selection  
Committee  
Ranks  
Submissions

Top 3  
Submissions  
Advance to  
Final Round

Selection of  
Finalist (may  
involve more  
committee  
feedback)

Artist  
Contract  
approved by  
staff

March 2025

# SUNSHADE IN FARMER'S MARKET PLAZA

2

## SUNSHADE (\$50,000)

**Focus:** A functional, yet joyful & creative plaza addition.

Increase plaza shade and comfort & encourage people to spend more time in Kerrytown.



### *Process Timeline*

A2AC Drafts  
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Project

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Deadline

A2AC  
Reviews  
Submissions

Selection  
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Ranks  
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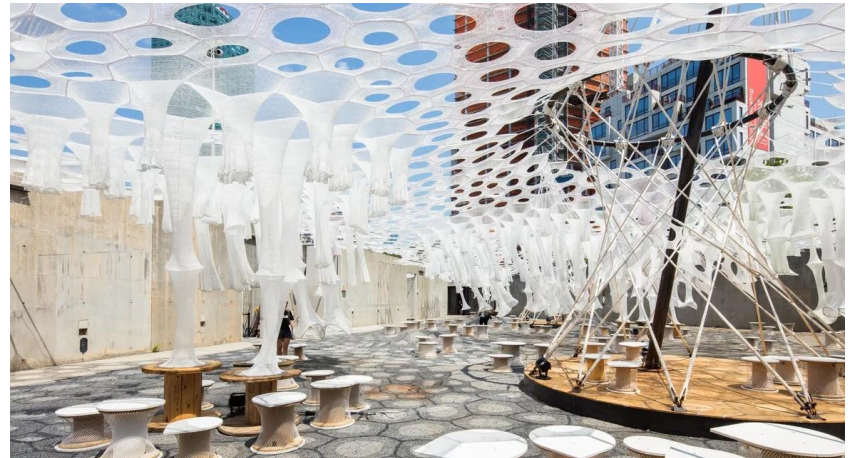
Top 3  
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Finalist (may  
involve more  
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feedback)

Artist  
Contract  
approved by  
staff

*Feb. 2025*

# SUNSHADE EXAMPLES



# WAYFINDING – ANN/ASHLEY TO KERRYTOWN/FARMER’S MARKET

3

## Large-scale wayfinding and placemaking (\$150,000)

### Focus:

Connect the Ann/Ashley Parking Structure and Miller Ave Bikeway to the Kerrytown neighborhood and Farmer’s Market. Shift from a reliance on text-heavy wayfinding.



### Process Timeline

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Artists for  
Project

Call is  
Posted

Submission  
Deadline

A2AC  
Reviews  
Submissions

Selection  
Committee  
Ranks  
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Top 3  
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Advance to  
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Selection of  
Finalist (may  
involve more  
committee  
feedback)

Artist  
Contract  
goes to  
Board for  
Approval

Feb. 2025

# WAYFINDING EXAMPLES





# WAYFINDING - SCULPTURE EXAMPLES



# WAYFINDING - GROUND WORK EXAMPLES



# SCAVENGER HUNT THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN

4

## Small-scale murals (\$20,000)

**Focus:** David Zinn art scavenger hunt – focused on play, interaction, and creativity.

## Update:

- Staff-approved contract – final attorney review is underway
- Spring 2025 Install



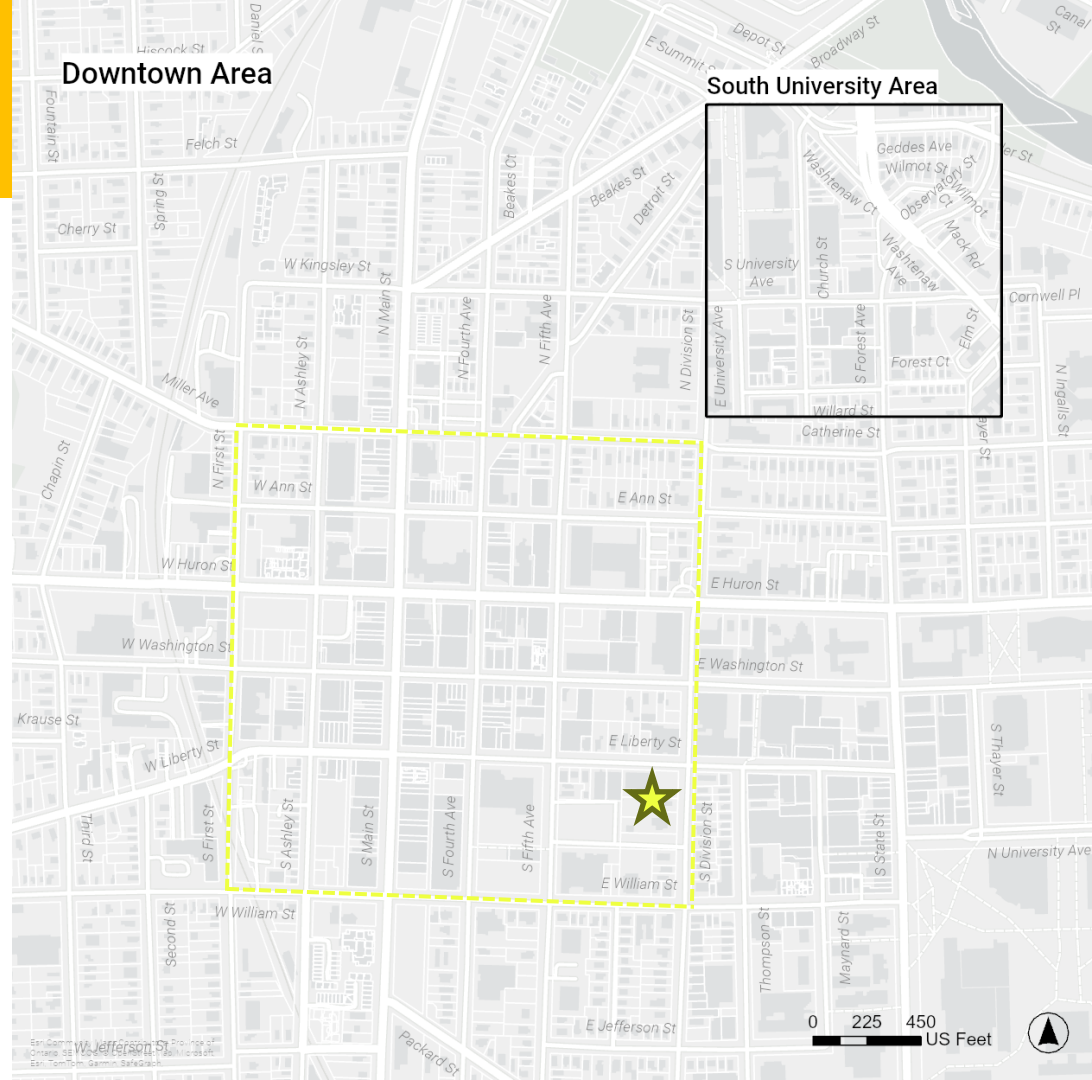
# SCAVENGER HUNT EXAMPLES



# Winter 2025 Temporary Installation



Interactive installation in Liberty Plaza, Winter 2025



# OSCILLATION, JANUARY 17 – MARCH 16, 2025



## Oscillation

Liberty Plaza

Creos / Quebec, Canada

Giant crystals that come alive through movement / *Oscillation* is an interactive installation that uses sight, sound, and movement to spark community activity and social interaction through play.

# OSCILLATION, JANUARY 17 – MARCH 16, 2025



- Each module has 3 sensors that will activate light and sound components as people approach them and move around the modules. The dichroic film produces a mirror effect, and the modules light up at night.
- The installation acts somewhat like a theremin, an instrument that you can play without touching it. As you move toward the piece, it plays different sounds and pitches depending on your distance from it. And as you move or dance around it, colors reflect and refract light in different ways based on your movement.





# ANN STREET

## LARGE SCALE INSTALLATION

(Multi-year installation. \$50,000 in year one.)

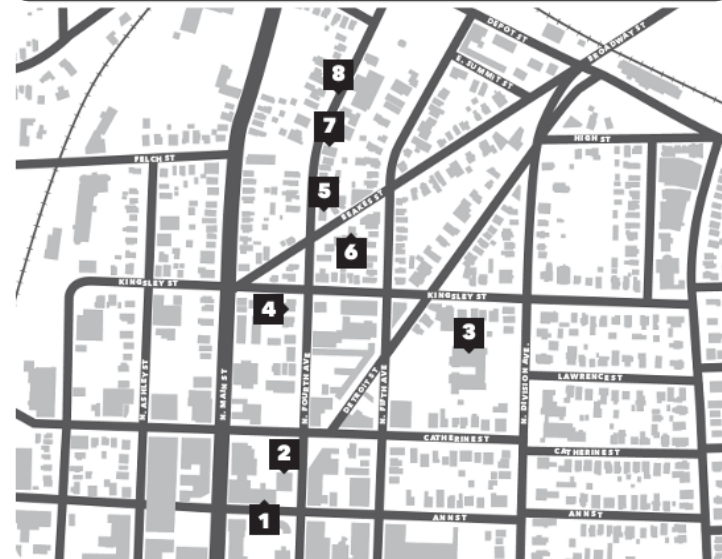
**Focus:** Honoring the historic black business district and social hub of Downtown Ann Arbor.

Focusing on Ann Street, partner with the Ann Arbor Library, African American Cultural and Historical Museum, City, and County to install murals of Black Business Owners and Community Leaders featured in the Oral History Project.

# LIVING ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

*Walking tour of an historically Black neighborhood in Ann Arbor*

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL & HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF WASHTENAW COUNTY AND THE ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY



### Walking Tour Points of Interest

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Black Business District<br>109-121 E. Ann Street   | <b>5</b> The Seeleys' House<br>203 Beakes Street              |
| <b>2</b> Colored Welfare League<br>209-211 N. Fourth Avenue | <b>6</b> Second Baptist Church<br>216 Beakes Street           |
| <b>3</b> Jones Elementary School<br>401 N. Division Street  | <b>7</b> Bethel AME Church<br>632 N. Fourth Avenue            |
| <b>4</b> Dunbar Community Center<br>420 N. Fourth Avenue    | <b>8</b> Historically Black Neighborhood<br>See map on page 2 |



Note: Maps are not to scale



To access this resource online, please visit <http://aadl.org/AACHMwalkingtour>

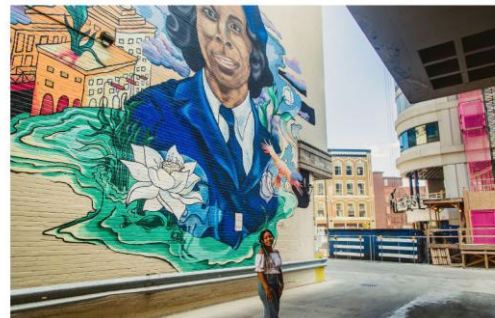
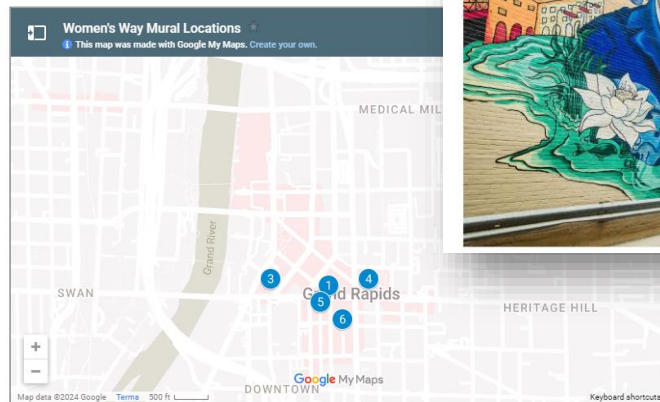
# EXAMPLE PROJECT – WOMEN’S WAY IN GRAND RAPIDS

*The Women’s Way Initiative aspires to elevate the historical narratives of exceptional local leaders while adding new energy and creative interest to often-overlooked public places. The initiative also boldly endeavors to acknowledge the complicated history of women in alleyways and help claim positive ownership of these spaces.*

*Organized by Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., the Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council, the City of Grand Rapids, Lions and Rabbits and numerous community partners.*

## Alley Locations

1. **Harriet Woods Hill Way** | Grand Rapids Police Department  
1 Monroe Center St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
2. **Grand Rapids Chicks Way** | Auto Fixit Shop  
805 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
3. **Ethel Coe Way** | 20 Monroe Live  
11 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
4. **Angelina Kelsey “Naw Kay o Say” Yob Way** | Children’s Museum  
33 Sheldon Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
5. **Maurilia Ortiz Blakely Way** | San Chez  
38 Fulton St W, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
6. **Dr. Ella Mary Sims Way** | Weston Apartments  
21 Weston St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



### Harriet Woods Hill Way

*Located in the alley off Louis St. NW at the northwest corner of GRPD headquarters.*

**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.

# ANN STREET — FOURTH AVE LOOKING WEST ON ANN STREET



## 1 BLACK BUSINESS DISTRICT 109-121 E. Ann Street

From the 1930s to the 1970s, Ann Street was a hub for Black-owned businesses in downtown Ann Arbor. Barber shops, shoe shine parlors, dry cleaners, restaurants, blues bars, and pool rooms formed the backbone of Black social life. Longtime establishments such as Sanford's Shoe Repair and Easley's Barber Shop opened in the 1930s. Black Ann Arbor residents who grew up in the 1940s and 50s remember visiting Midway Lunch and a pool hall run by David and Mozelle Keaton. Johnnie Rush ran his barber shop for almost 16 years.

During the 1960s, police officers referred to Ann Street as "the Block." A rising crime rate centered around the bars and pool rooms, leading to the closure of many Black-owned businesses on Ann Street in the 1970s. By June 1977, all the storefronts were closed and boarded up. In the 1980s, a new wave of small businesses with little connection to Ann Street's history as the Black business district signaled the end of an era.



Johnnie Rush in Barber Shop, November 1960. *The Ann Arbor News*

[READ MORE](#)

# ANN STREET — FOURTH AVE LOOKING EAST ON ANN STREET

