

Elevate: Public Art and Placemaking Program

Project Updates



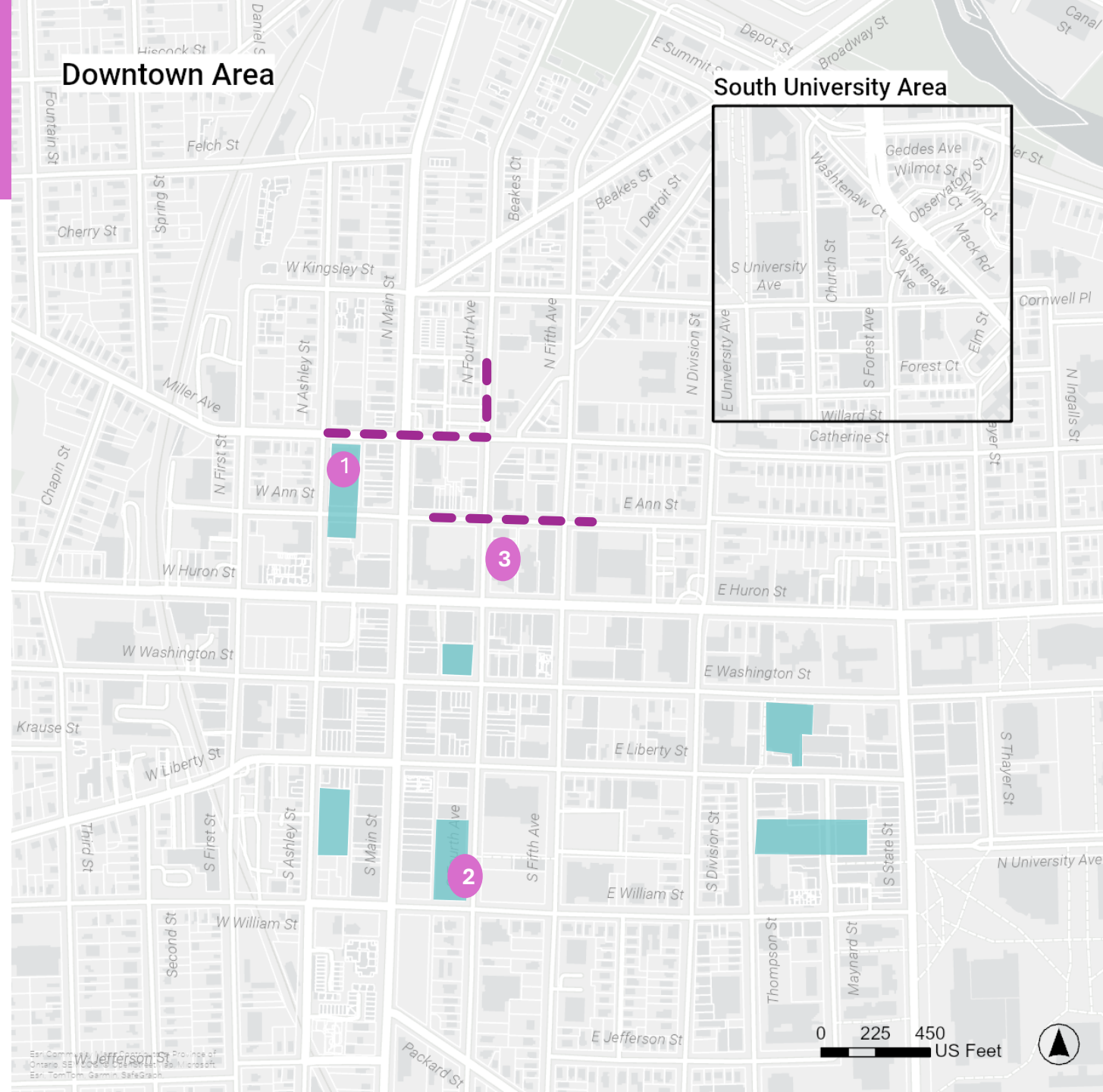
+ THE ANN ARBOR ART CENTER

ELEVATE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Current Projects

- 1 Wayfinding – Ann/Ashley to Kerrytown/Farmer’s Market
- 2 Fourth Ave Project
- 3 Elevating History Mural Project

 Parking Structures



1 - WAYFINDING: ANN/ASHLEY TO KERRYTOWN FARMERS MARKET

Large-scale wayfinding and placemaking 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.

INSTALL BEGINS JUNE 15, 2026



Process Timeline

A2AC Drafts
Call to Artists
for Project

Call is Posted

Submission
Deadline

A2AC
Reviews
Submissions

Selection
Committee
Ranks
Submissions

Artist contract
with Jesse Kassel

Install
*Summer/Fall
2026*



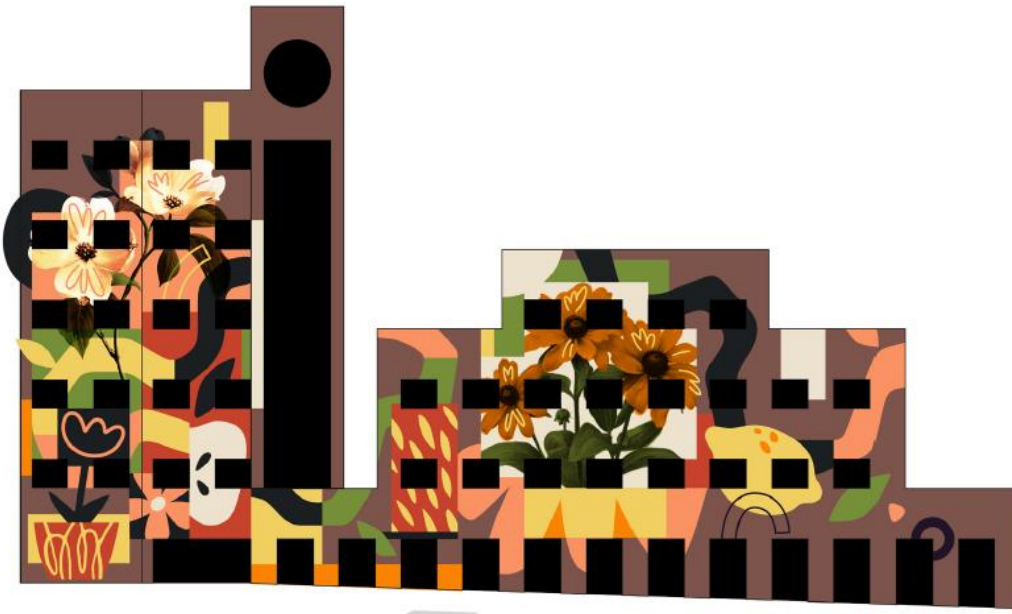
SELECTED ARTIST

Jesse Kassel & Brandon Gaia Marshall

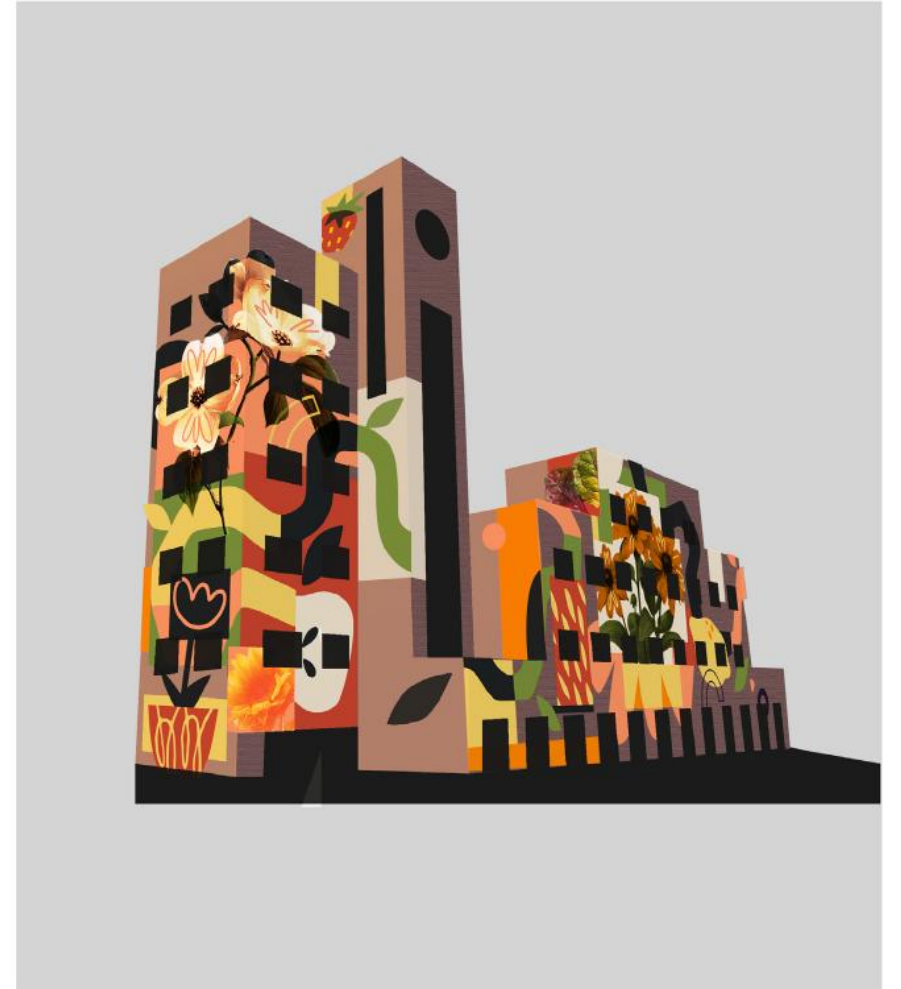
Jesse Kassel, based in Detroit, and Brandon Marshall from Memphis, TN share over 20 of years' experience and over 150 public and private commissions between them. Their design concept combines graphic and photorealistic elements that celebrate and lead people to the Farmers Market from the Ann/Ashley Parking Structure & Miller/Catherine Bikeway.



Parking Structure Exterior

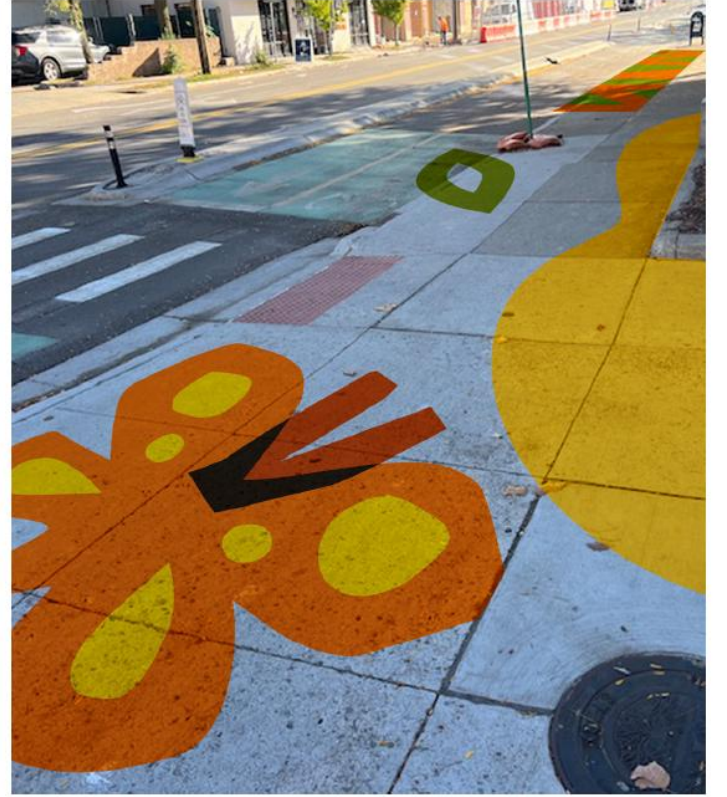


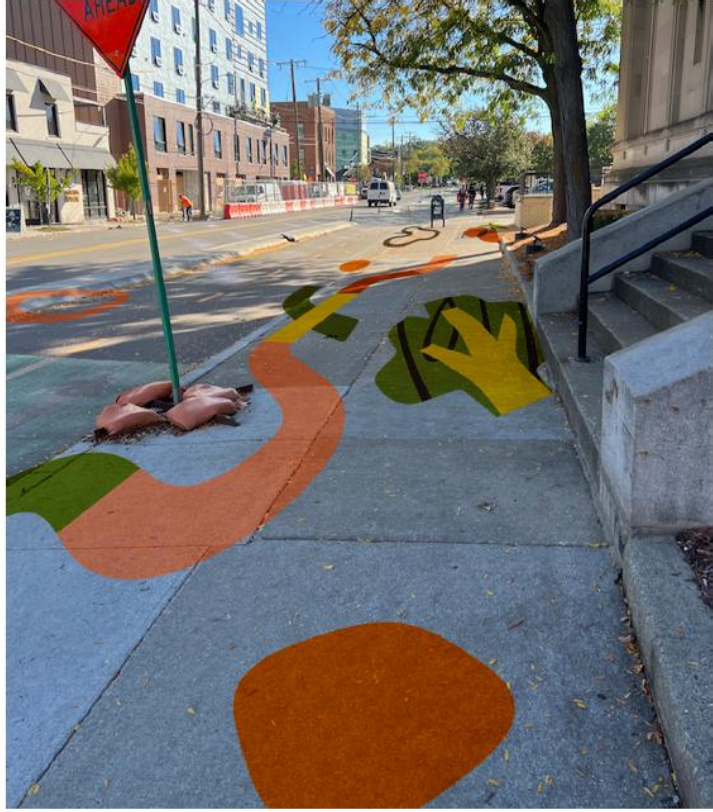
Elevation Sketch



Digital Mock-up









Sidewalk - Destination Mural



2 – 4TH AVE STREETScape PROJECT

LARGE INSTALLATION

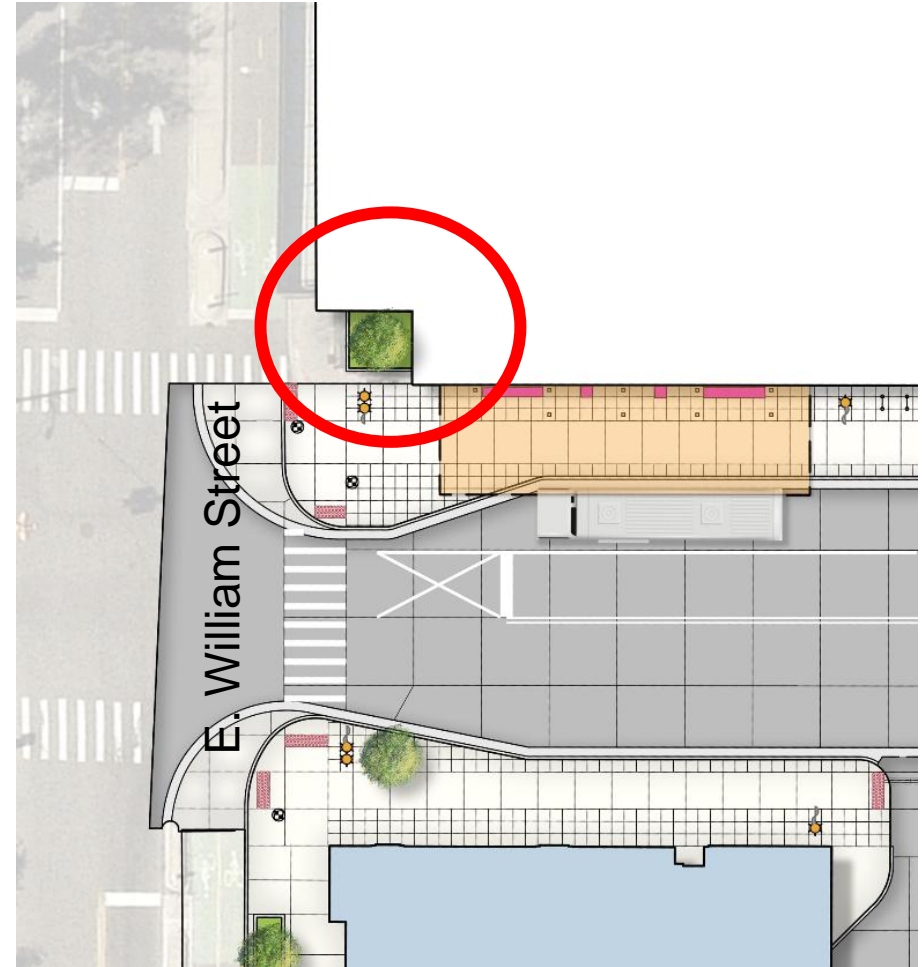
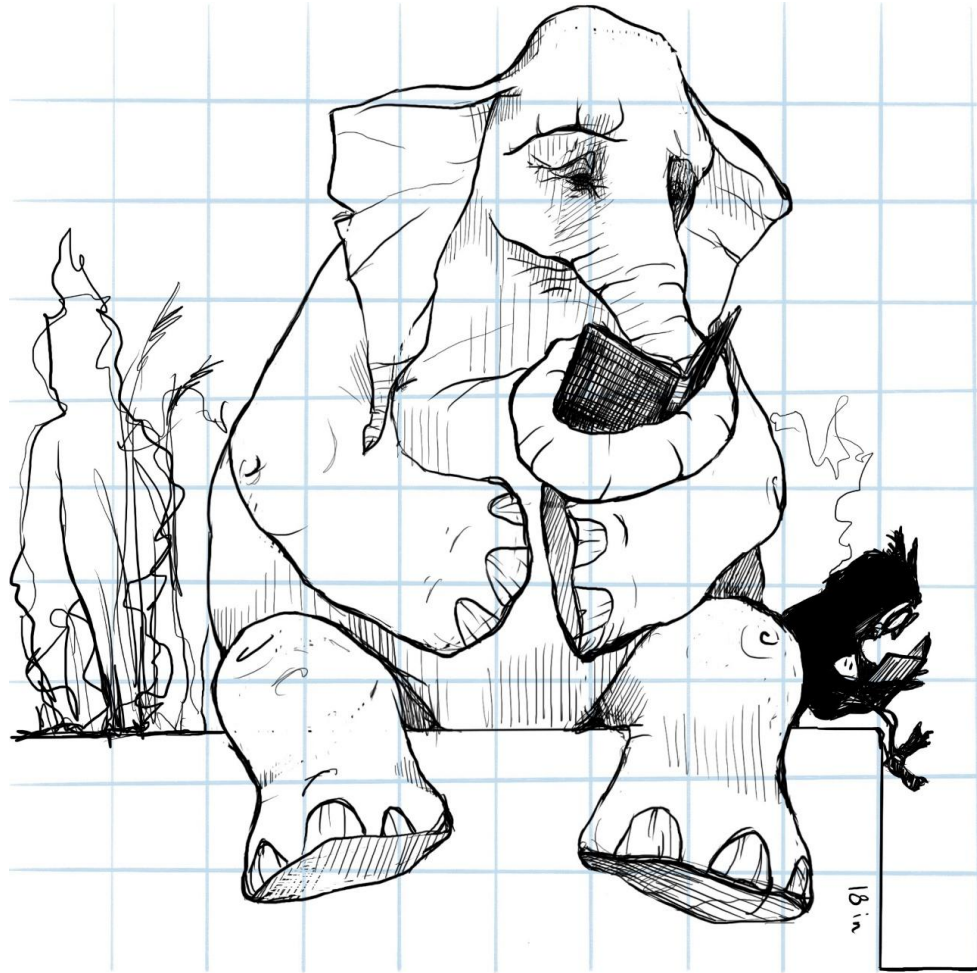
Focus: to add creativity and placemaking to the 4th Ave. Streetscape Project

Update: Authors of *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* working on rough sketches for project area

Goal of install 2026

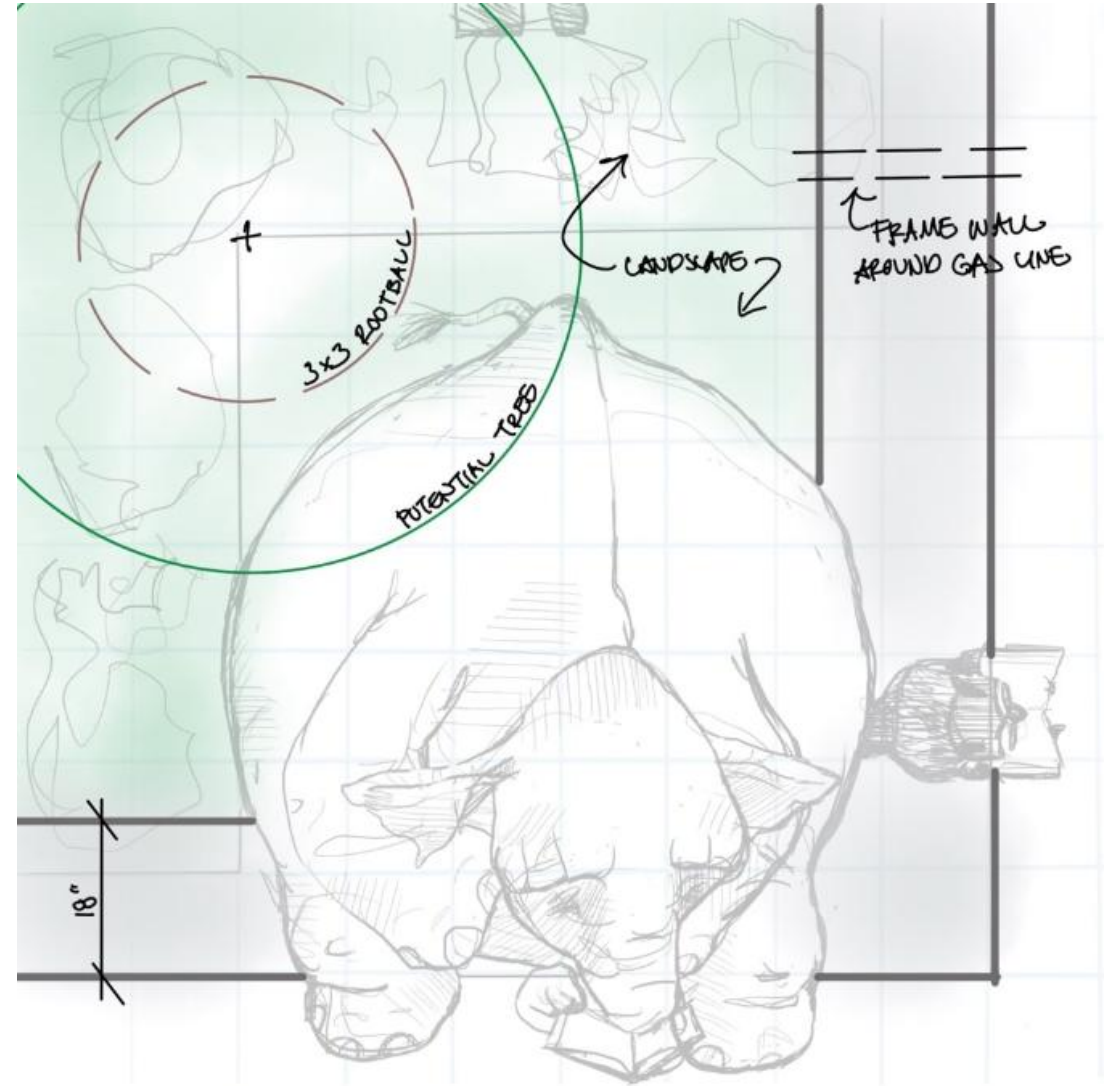
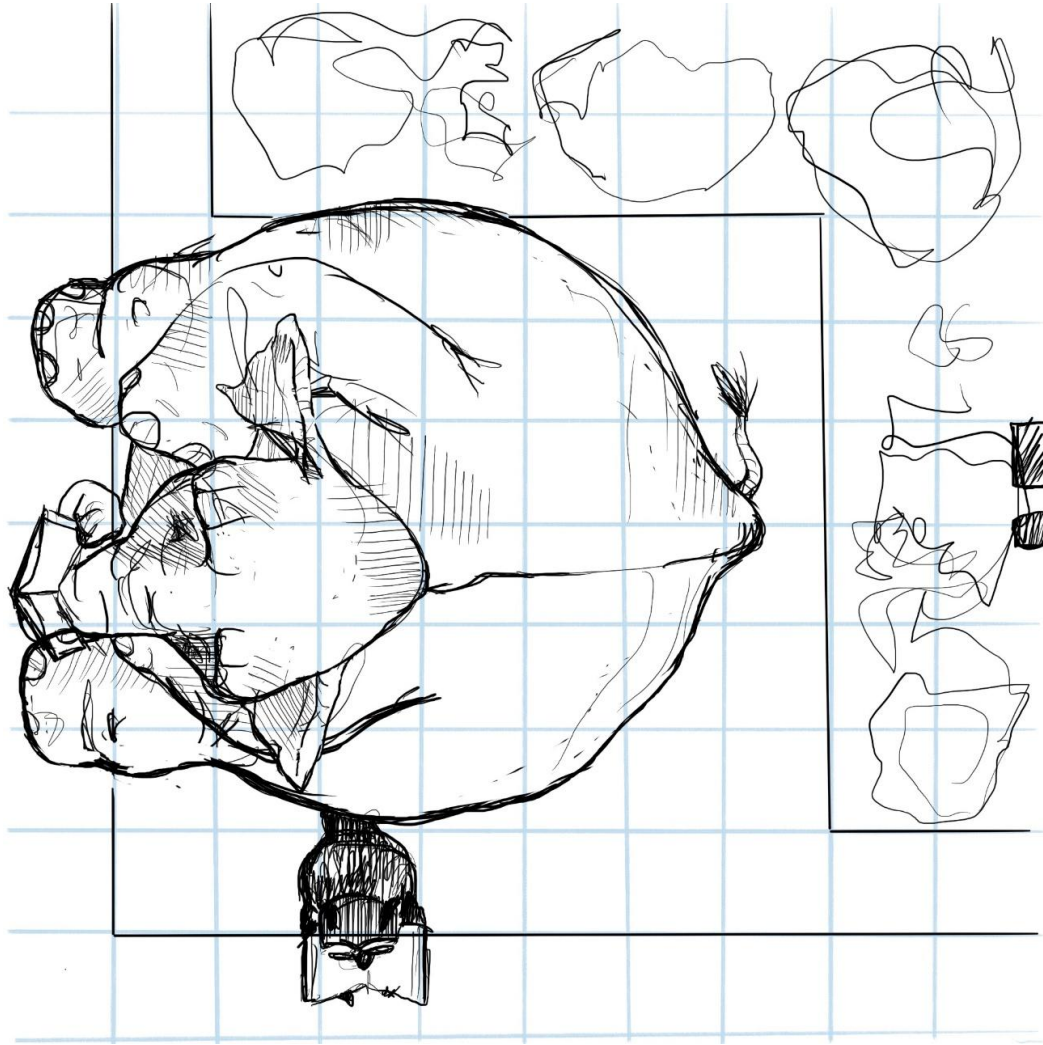


Ground Level Art Concept

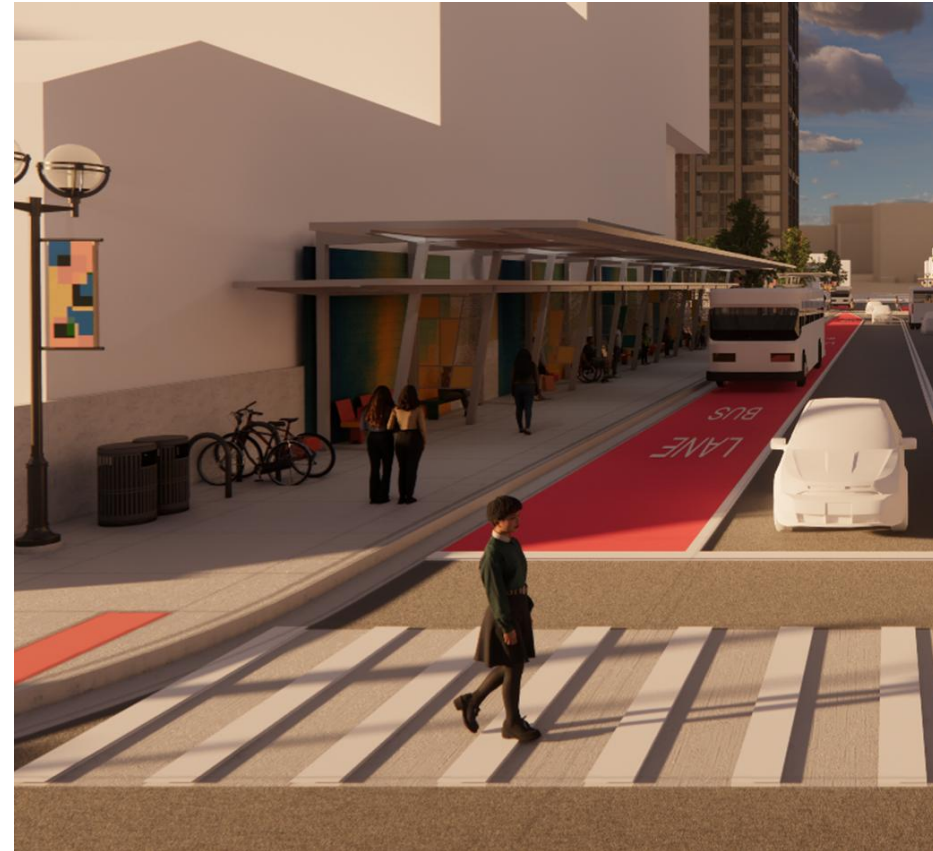
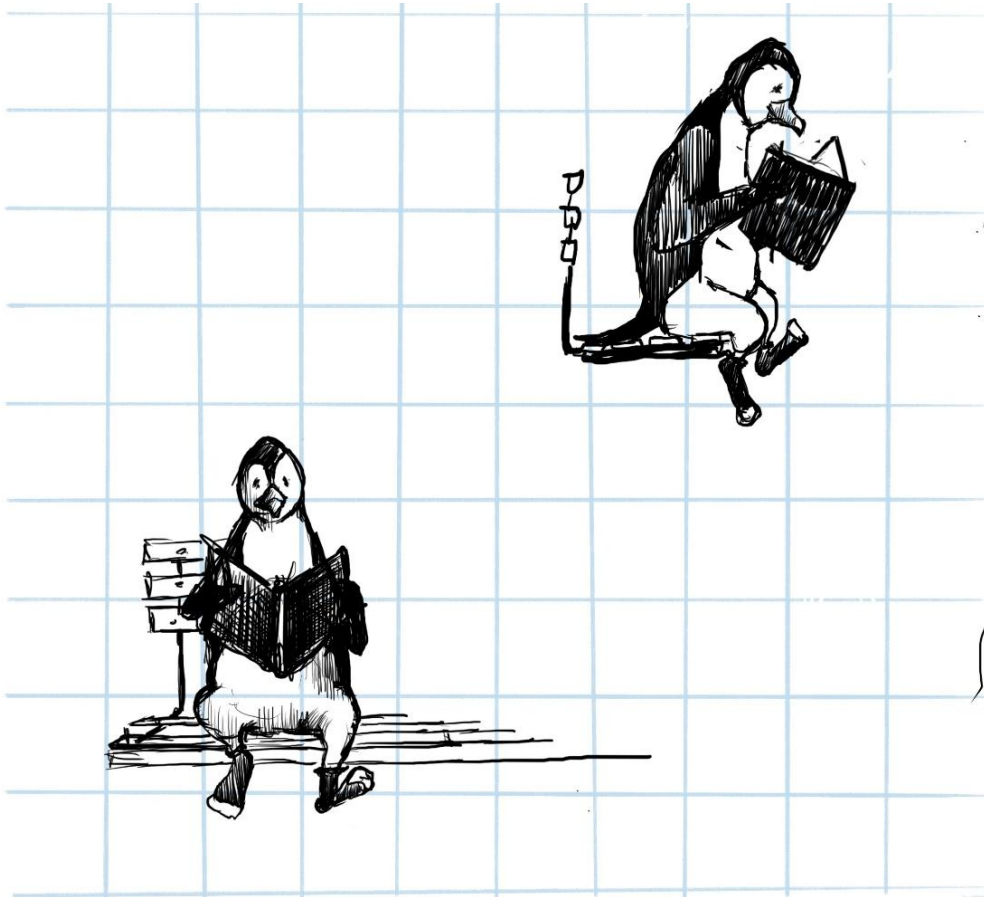


Bronze Elephant and owl reading (northwest corner of William and 4th)

Ground Level Art Concept



Ground Level Art Concept



Penguin reading at a bus stop (bench to match AAATA bench design)

3 – ELEVATING HISTORY: A MURAL SERIES FROM THE LIVING ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Large Mural Series

Focus: To honor the area's history as a vibrant center for Ann Arbor's Black community, businesses, families, and civic leaders.

Update: Will review finalist proposals with A2AC, AACHM, AADL, and two west side residents.

Process Timeline

A2AC Drafts
Call to Artists
for Project

Call is Posted

Submission
Deadline

A2AC
Reviews
Submissions

Selection
Committee
Ranks
Submissions

Top
Submissions
Advance to
Final Round

Selection
Committee
Selects
Artists

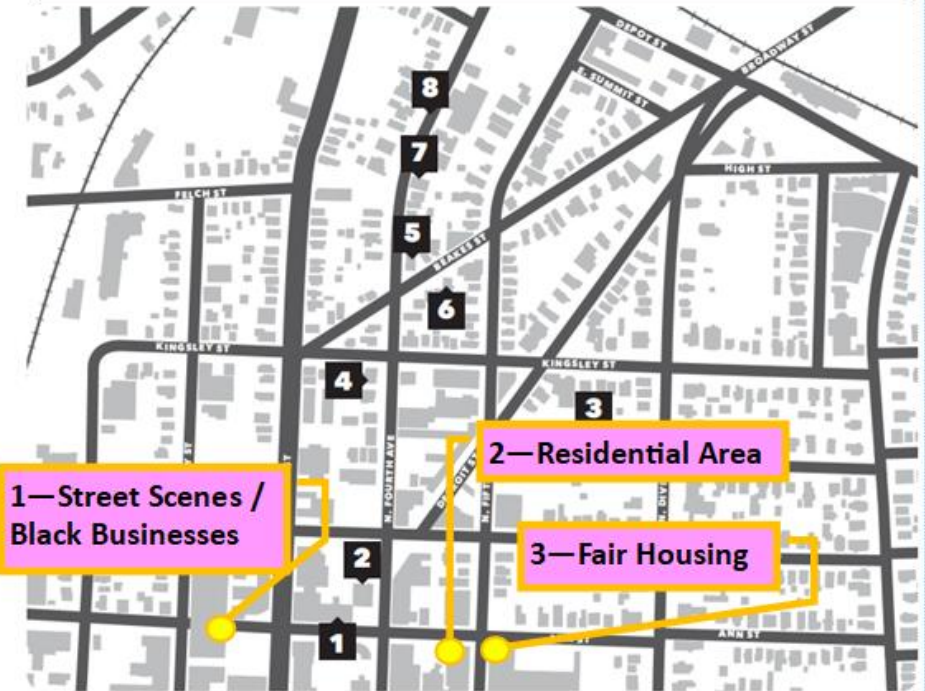
Artist
Contracts
Signed

**Project to be
Completed**
Fall 2027

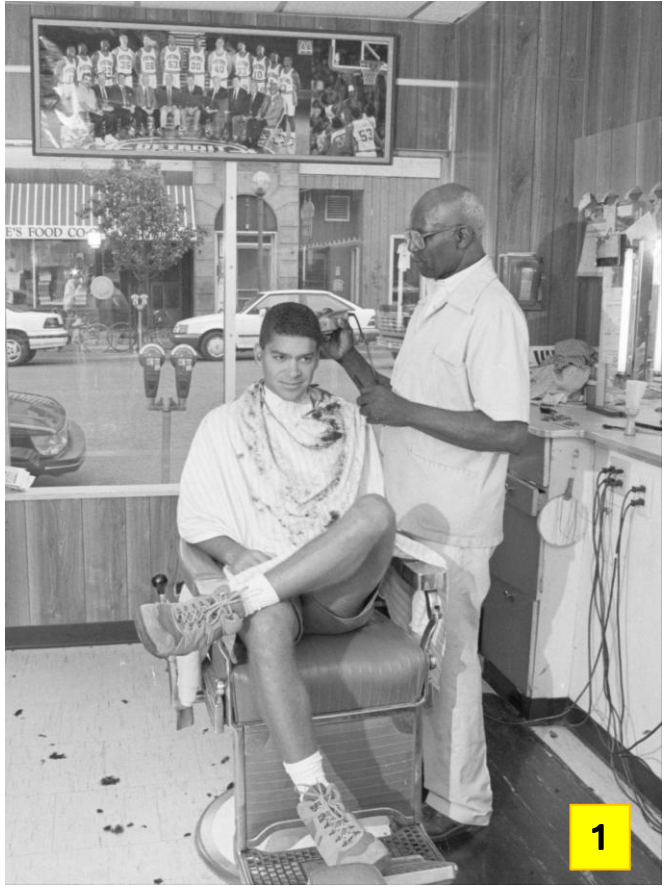
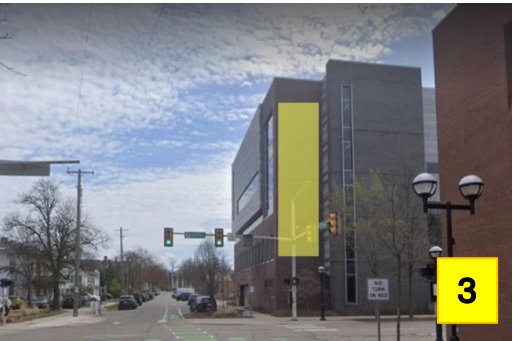
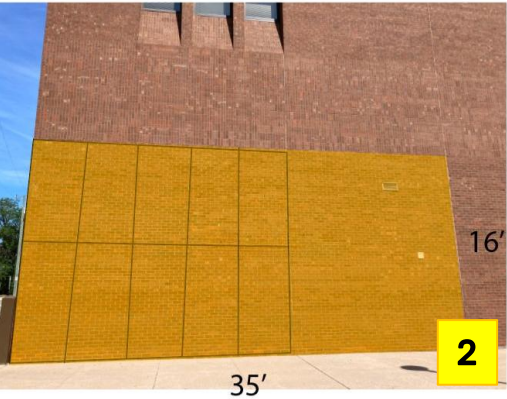
LIVING ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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



MURAL LOCATIONS AND THEMES



Themes include:

- 1 – Street Scenes / Black Businesses
- 2 – Residential Area
- 3 – Fair Housing

PARKING STRUCTURE
BLACK BUSINESS +
STREET SCENES



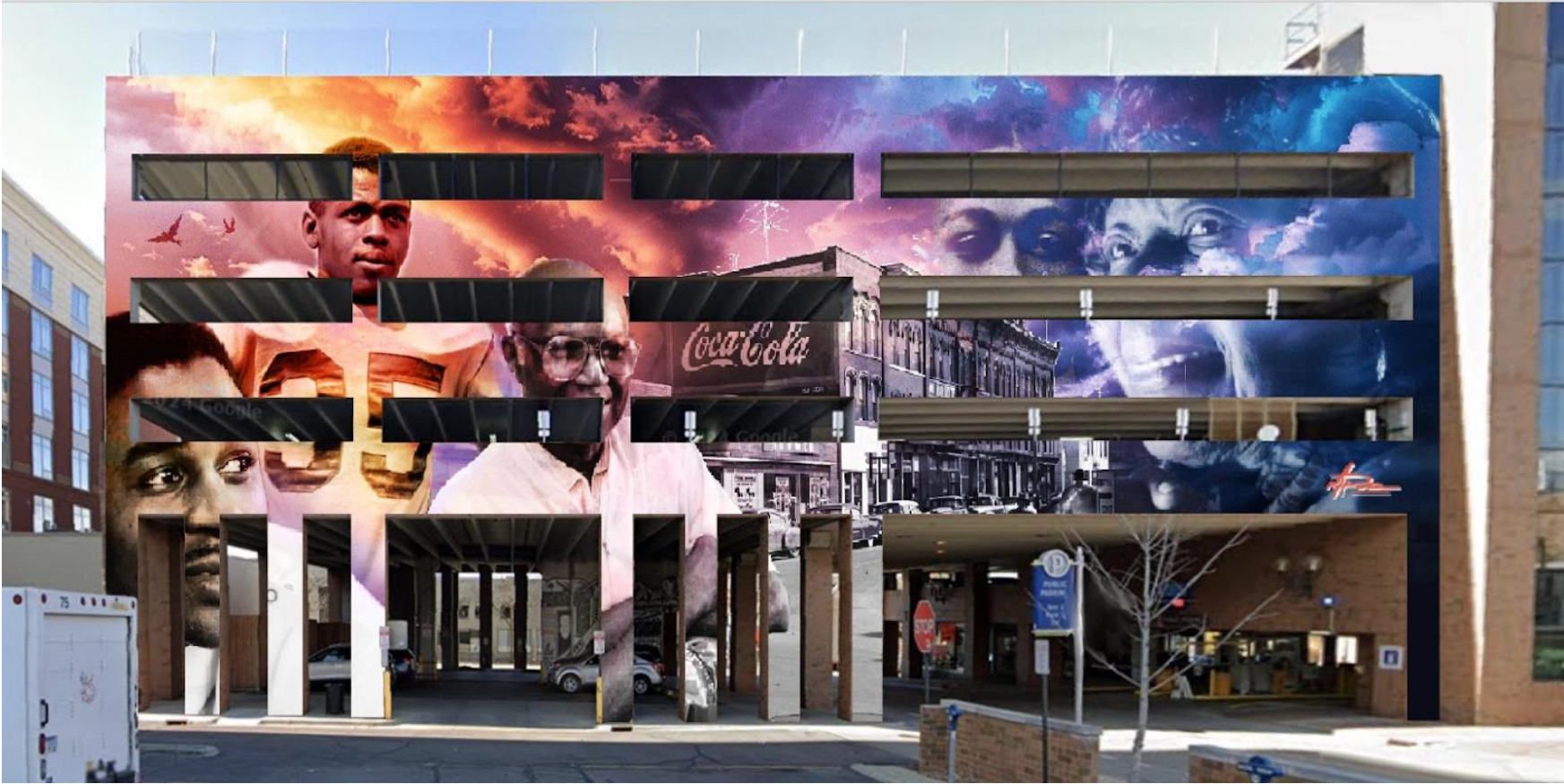
Artist Selected: Michael Rice

Hartford, CT

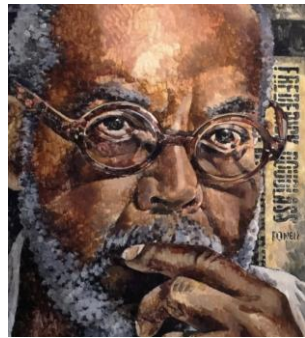
<https://www.michaelriceart.com/>



Michael Rice Proposal



FIRE STATION
RESIDENTIAL +
COMMUNITY LIFE



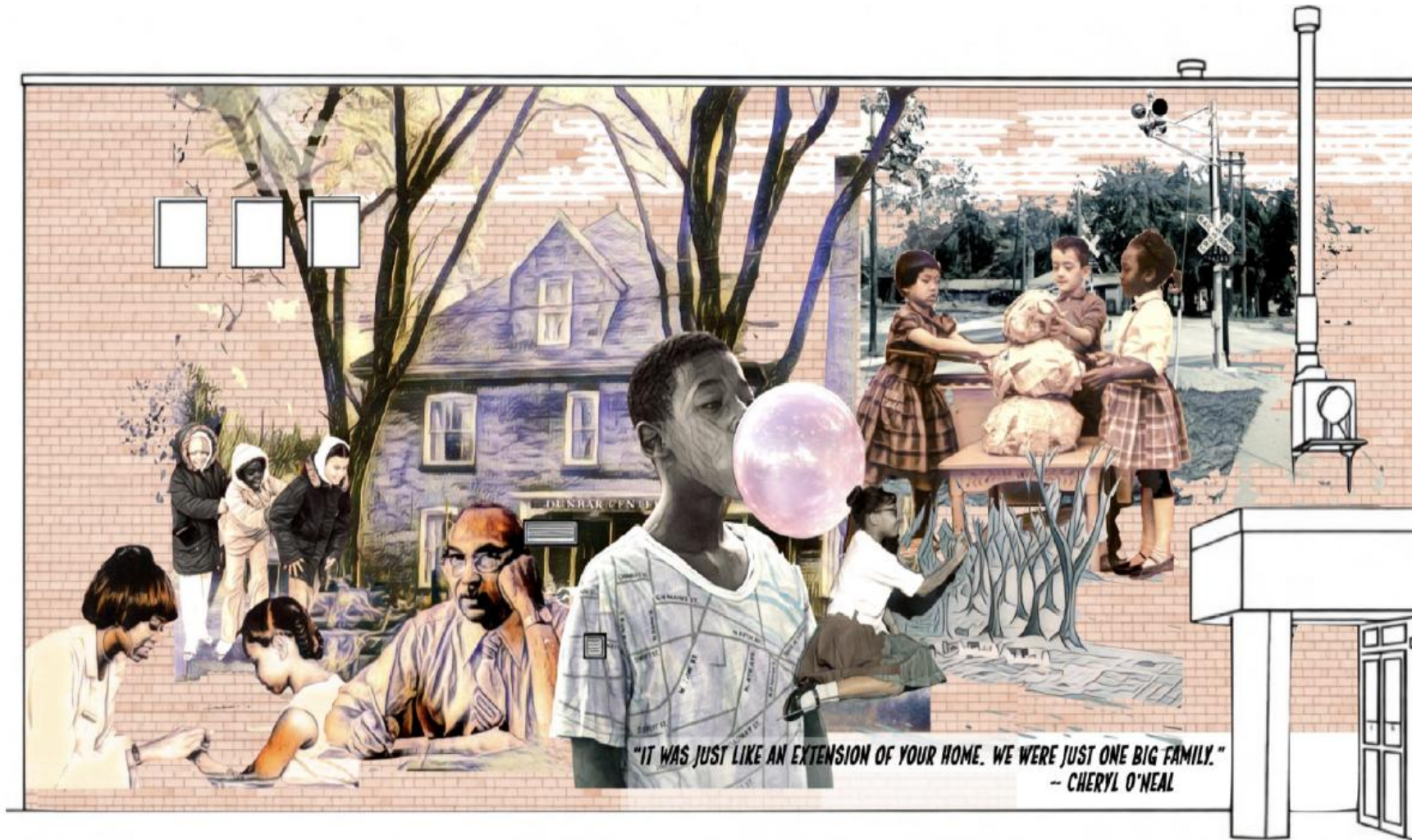
Artist Selected: Nicole Macdonald

Detroit, MI

<https://www.ncolemacdonald.com/>



Nicole Macdonald Proposal



ELEVATING HISTORY NEXT STEPS

1. Complete City Hall selection process (still in progress)
2. Ann/Ashley Parking Structure install fall 2026
3. Fire Station and City Hall install spring/summer 2027