

Connecting with Ypsilanti's Arts Commission

Presentation to the Ann Arbor Public
Art Commission

August 4, 2021





Introductions

Jennifer Goulet, Chair
Ypsilanti Arts Commission

Executive Director, WonderFool
Productions (the group known for FoolMoon,
FestiFools + ypsiGLOW)

Former President/CEO, Creative Many MI
Led statewide advocacy + professional practice
support for arts + creative industries in Michigan.

Former Economic Development/DDA
Director, City of Ypsilanti
Led development of Riverside Arts Center.



Background

Created by Ordinance - January 2020

Advisory body to Mayor, City Council + City Manager for all things art in Ypsi. 5 to 9 members (1 non-City resident) + 2 non-voting youth members. First meeting in June 2020 - Zoom!

Promote. Educate. Cultivate. Thrive.

Work to build community awareness + cultivate an environment for the arts + creativity to thrive in Ypsi.

Diversity. Equity. Inclusion.

Further City aims for DEI through inclusive, accessible public art + creative experiences.

Arts Commission Roles + Responsibilities

- Prepare plans/policies to guide development, locations, solicitation, review, and maintenance of art projects, events/experiences in public spaces + places.
- Generate funding + funding opportunities. No City funds to date.
- Identify + nurture collaborative opportunities with public/private partners - local, regional, state, national.
- Promote the arts + creative industries in City economic development.
- Build community awareness of the power of art + creativity thru education, communications + advocacy.
- Annual reporting + budget requests to the City Manager, Mayor + City Council.
- Staff Liaison - Elize Jekabson, DDA Coordinator + Public Engagement Specialist + Artist/Co-Founder Alloy Studios



Current Priorities

Community + Artist Online Survey

Baseline survey to understand community arts interests/participation + gain input from local artists on what they need to thrive in Ypsi. Fall launch with post-pandemic focus + support from the Tremaine Foundation/Artists Thrive.

Public Art Plan + Policies

Develop public art master plan + policies to guide Commission in advisory role. Includes busking policy to encourage street art performances.

Public Art Project/Event Reviews

Advising City on public art proposals -- BLM mural, YCS streetscape banners, seasonal event permits for street art performances in public spaces.



Recent Projects

Ypsi BLM Street Mural Project

Two murals on S. Washington Street in Downtown Ypsi + Riverside Park entrance in Depot Town installed in June 2021. Organized by Survivors Speak activist Trische' Duckworth + artists Barney Judge + Trevor Stone with community funding + installation support.

YCS Student Streetscape Banners

Supported banners in downtown districts featuring student art that missed exhibit opportunity in DC due to COVID.

Seasonal Event Permit Reviews

Advising City on noise permits for seasonal music programming in Downtown + Depot Town where streets are closed for outdoor dining.



An aerial photograph of a city street intersection. The words "BLACK LIVES MATTER" are painted in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the asphalt road. The scene includes a white van and several dark cars parked or moving in the intersection. Pedestrians are visible on the sidewalks. Buildings with various roof types and colors surround the street. A utility box is visible on the left sidewalk, and a set of solar panels is on the right sidewalk.

BLACK LIVES MATTER



BLACK LIVES MATTER













Opportunities

Arts Commission Collaboration

Peer to peer learning + exchange of ideas, policies, models, experiences + ongoing communications.

Public Art Awareness + Advocacy

How might we unite our voices in building community awareness for the power of public art + importance of community investment/commitment?

Future Joint Community Projects?

How might we join forces in collaborative projects that connect our communities? Other ideas?



Q/A + Next Steps