

Panel Feedback

Catherine Widgery

“Arbor Winds” art proposal

The Selection Panel met on the 24th of July to discuss the proposed “Arbor Winds” art design, by Catherine Widgery. The Panel met to critique the design, as it was proposed, and to discuss feedback that will assist the next phase of design work with the art project. Furthering the proposed concept and modifying the design at this point is the goal of the Panel. The effort is agreed to be a collaborative process that involves the artist and the Panel. Catherine Widgery shall lead the creative and design process in order to complete her artwork in such a manner that includes the outcome of the collaboration.

The Panel sees the artwork as three physical elements unified by a graphic theme. The three elements are the banners along Stadium Blvd., the glass wind-screen, and the stone panels on the underpass of the bridge along State Street. The theme is the interpretation of trees and the graphic “Arbor” overlays and double images. The Panel feels the theme is applied to the different physical elements with a range of successes—the graphic theme works exquisitely with the wind screen. The public responded very positively the *Arbor Winds* proposal and we believe it is fair to say the response can be attributed largely to the theme, but also to the more practical application the physical elements of the artwork’s components.

The Artwork’s Theme:

The Panel responded positively to the theme and thought it was great. As did the community. The images of the trees and their branches on the glass will look dynamic against the changing backdrop in the sky and the graphics will be viewed against the patterns in the sky and surroundings.

Stone Underpass:

The Panel appreciated the use of the State Street underpass in the design—they felt using that area for the artwork was responsive to what they were looking for at the site. Improving the appearance along the sidewalk will benefit the users. Several people who responded to the our request for feedback identified the underpass as an area that could use improvement.

Banners:

The reaction to the banners was mixed. The banners on Stadium Boulevard place the artwork in an important location and add color to the artwork. However, the Panel were not confident in the longevity of the banners—in terms of the materials applied as proposed and in terms of the public’s reaction to fixed banners through the lifetime of the art. Would like some feedback from the artist regarding any similarly situated art and how the audience has reacted to it.

Suggestions and Other Feedback:

To continue the design the Panel would like to reconsider the banners element, and possibly the wind-screen, with different options. We propose the artist offer options in design directions that would include alternatives to the banners.

However, eliminating the banners will also remove the artwork’s color and impact upon the roadway. The Panel would not want to lessen the impact upon the Boulevard, but would rather increase it. It

would be desirable to see the presence on the bridge enhanced, if possible. The Panel feel that an impact piece can function as a gateway.

The Panel discussed options that they had brainstormed. They discussed the option of using the railing area of the bridge for the artwork. A section of landscaping between the bridge and the playing field further West of the north stairway could be used as a location—a location that was not included in the RFP.

One particular idea was discussed in detail. The design element could be a wind-break over State Street. It could be similar to the screen wall, but directly over the two sides of the overpass. It was felt the windscreen could serve the purpose of a gateway and be functional for pedestrians. The underpass design could be incorporated into the design directly above it.

The Panel is very excited to work on furthering the design. They are interested in knowing how the artist would adjust the design based on the feedback. They would also like to gain some insight on how a good collaborative process with project stakeholders, like the members of the Panel, should proceed and any information on how the artist has collaborated with stakeholders in the past, particularly the successful projects that included a lot of work with stakeholders—such as the project in Minnesota.

SUMMARY

PUBLIC FEEDBACK FROM ANN ARBOR BRIDGES PUBLIC ART PROPOSALS

Public Art at the Ann Arbor Bridges
Reconstruction: Public Input

The Survey Itself

- Asked for respondent to identify an artist
- Choose from a list the strengths of the proposed design
- Comment on what they think is the most important factor of the proposed piece
- Comment on how they would feel about the piece if it were to be installed

Data Collection

- Survey Monkey
- A2 Open City Hall
- Venues:
 - At the Artists Presentations
 - Green Fair
 - City Hall Lobby

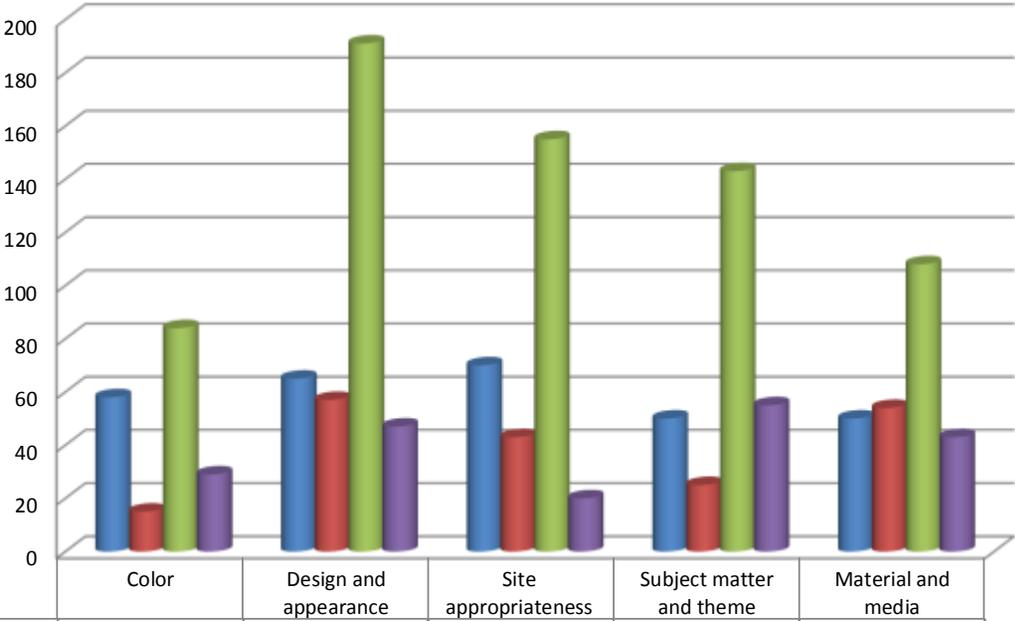
How Surveys Were Analyzed

- Surveys were individually read and divided into groups by Artist and event
- Comments were recorded that were representative of group and constructive
- Respondents Positions
 - Approvals
 - Disapprovals

(note: These were ascertained by participants statements. Some mentioned multiple artists in one form and their answers were appropriately distributed)

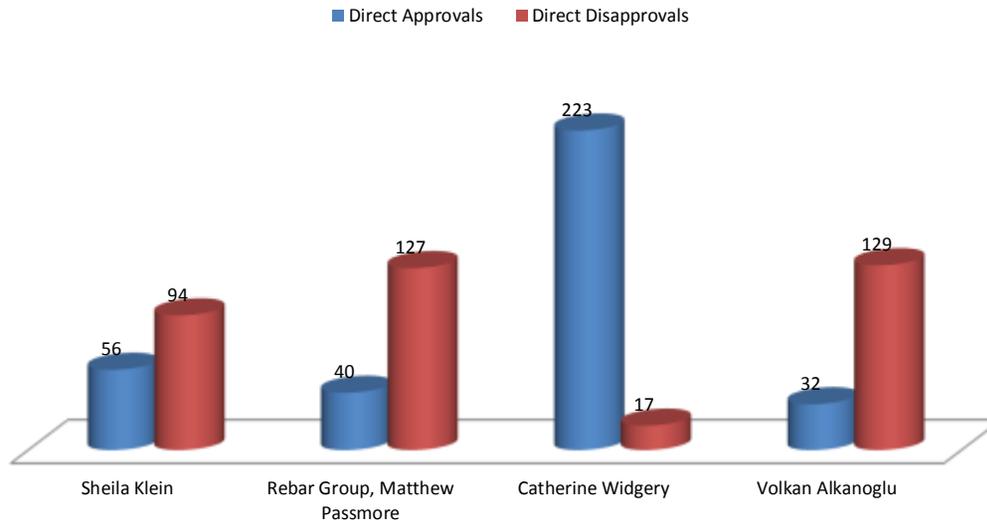
Strengths Tally

Marks From Combined Surveys



■ Sheila Klein	58	65	70	50	50
■ Redar Group, Mathew Passmore	15	57	43	25	54
■ Catherine Widgery	84	191	155	143	108
■ Volcon Alkanoglu	29	47	20	55	43

Compiled Feedback for Public Art at the Ann Arbor Bridges Reconstruction



Artists	Direct Approvals	% of Approvals
Sheila Klein	56	16%
Rebar Group, Matthew Passmore	40	11%
Catherine Widgery	223	64%
Volkan Alkanoglu	32	9%
Total:	351	

