

## SOUTH STATE STREET ROUNDABOUT

### Potential Public Art Project

October, 23 2013



#### For Consideration:

**Approval of continuing a public art project at the South State Street and Ellsworth Road roundabout and approval of a project budget between \$70,000 and \$100,000 (from Streets pooled funds for art).**

#### Overview

The roundabout at the edge of the City of Ann Arbor on South State Street and Ellsworth Road, recently constructed, was selected by the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission as a potential location for public art in 2012. This decision was made when the Public Art Ordinance of the city code included an annual one-percent of the capital improvement budget to go to fund public art. The ordinance change this year removed the Percent for Art funding mechanism. Funding for the South State Street roundabout project, along with other projects, was suspended in late 2012 by City Council.

Roundabouts are increasing in number in the US Mid-West. They are more efficient at regulating congestion and reduce dangerous accidents. Art in these locations are isolated by traffic and therefore connected to the surrounding vehicular travel. The Project for Public Spaces online article, *Traffic Calming 101*, lists one of the benefits of roundabouts, is when: “Enhanced with fountains, sculpture or attractive landscaping, the island can serve as a striking gateway.”

#### Location

The new roundabout construction creates a marked traffic pattern. Roundabouts slow traffic and create an island of space adjacent to the road that is very visible. The center of the roundabout is available for an installation and really only suited for aesthetic improvements. The South State Street roundabout is located on the border of the city. Art here can be a welcoming symbol for the city.

South State Street is a highly traveled street. Public art at the location will be seen by drivers and passengers in 15,000 vehicles daily. This location is not en route from I-94 to downtown, but State Street is used to reach downtown, the mall and the university from US-12.

A large retail business has recently opened near the site. The Ann Arbor Airport is almost directly adjacent to the site. Travelers from the airport would pass by traveling to downtown and to the university.

The city boundary, the amount of traffic and the features of the site make this an ideal place for art that can serve as a gateway to the city.

### **Examples of Artwork in Roundabout Locations**

The public art program at El Paso, Texas selected 6 roundabouts for art installations, 3 have been completed. They represent a significant plan to place public art within roundabouts executed by a city public art program. The Public Art Manager of El Paso, Patricia Dalbin, replied to questions by email and said there have not been any negative concerns with the artworks from the public.

The three examples on the following pages are the completed works in El Paso. They were completed with budgets ranging from \$70,000 to \$90,000.

### **Artwork Theme**

The site, situated at the city border, within an isolated traffic island, presents an opportunity to create a symbolic gateway into the city limits. More specific goals will develop from a community profile and a project Task Force. Art can be thematically linked and support any future public art projects outlined as an objective in the South State Street Corridor Plan.

### **Public Art Planning Criteria**

- **City Area:** South  
The South City Area is a high priority area. The ongoing art project at Stadium Blvd. Bridges project borders the City Area and no city-owned public artworks are located there.
- **High Use and Visibility:** This is the highest priority location. This stretch of South State Street has the highest Average Annual Daily Traffic of all the potential projects AAPAC is currently considering.
- **How is the location Underserved?** Aesthetic improvements are the only useful opportunities for the space within the traffic island.
- **Other considerations:** Large volume of city visitors in the area due to retail and travel from the airport.

### **Project Process and Timeline**

- Step 1. **One month out** – Approve the membership of a Task Force
- Step 2. **Three months out** – Complete a community profile of the location; the profile will be research of the area and established goals for the project

- Step 3. **Four months out** – Release Request for Qualifications, or review qualifications of artists within a pooled artist roster
- Step 4. **Six months out** – Deadline for review of artist qualifications and selection of finalists
- Step 5. **Seven months out** – Site visit by artist finalists
- Step 6. **Nine months out** – Review design proposals
- Step 7. **Ten months out** – Selection of a proposal
- Step 8. **Eleven months out** – Approval of contract
- Step 9. **Sixteen months out** – Completion of fabrication
- Step 10. **Eighteen months out** – Installation



**Artist:** Michael Clapper



*Upper Valley Sails*

**Artist:** Doug Taylor



*Octoillo*, Artist: Howard Kallish

## Current Calls to Artists for roundabout projects

### **Jackson Hole Airport Roundabout - Jackson Hole, Wyoming**

**OPEN DATE: 10/1/2013**

**DEADLINE: 11/1/2013**

The Board of the Jackson Hole Airport wishes to commission a work of art for the airport roundabout. Up to three finalists will be invited to submit a conceptual design and ultimately one artist will be selected to enter into a design and fabrication contract with the airport. A successful design should tell the important cultural heritage story of the themes expressed in the Wyoming state's logo; make a memorable first impression for airport visitors; contribute to the overall identity of the airport.

**The City of Carlsbad** seeks to commission an artist/artist team to design, fabricate and install a permanent piece of original art to be located in the center of a roundabout at the intersection of Carlsbad Blvd and State Street. The design of the roundabout is complete and the plans are being finalized. The project will begin construction in January and completion is expected by June 2014. The total project budget is \$100,000, all inclusive of travel expenses, taxes and other project costs. The application deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, November 8, 2013. The call is open to professional artists residing in the United States.

<http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/departments/cultural/Documents/Roundabout-Call-for-Artists-Rfq.pdf>

As a prominent gateway to the city, the public art element of the circle will enhance the cultural environment for Carlsbad visitors and residents. The roundabout is designed to improve the safety and connectivity of all modes of transportation at the intersection and across the Buena Vista Lagoon with a new trail, bikes lanes, and sidewalk to connect two cities (Carlsbad and Oceanside, CA). The project site represents a significant entry location into the city. It is expected that this artwork will become an important symbol welcoming residents and visitors to the community. City of Carlsbad Cultural Arts Office Karen McGuire Gallery Curator Karen.Mcguire@carlsbadca.gov(760) 602-2022