

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator

DATE: March 28, 2013

SUBJECT: ANN ARBOR PUBLIC ART COMMISSION'S ANNUAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

On November 5, 2007, the Mayor and City Council of Ann Arbor adopted an ordinance establishing a Percent for Art Program through the City of Ann Arbor Public Art Ordinance, Section 1:238 of Chapter 8 Title 1, and added a new Chapter 24 to Title 1 of the City Code to be directed by the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission. The City of Ann Arbor, recognizing the importance of promoting art in government spaces and facilities, and determining that public art will improve the aesthetic quality of public spaces and structures, has enacted a percent for art ordinance to foster a sustained commitment to public art. The City of Ann Arbor has placed the responsibility of oversight of the implementation of public art projects funded through the Ordinance with the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission.

There are several current projects underway for the City's public art program and are unaffected by the suspension of the Percent for Art funding on December 3, 2012. Those projects include the following locations for art and programs:

- Argo Cascades, a new park amenity and a great setting for art
- East Stadium Boulevard bridges, located at a cross-section of traffic
- Kingsley Street and First Street rain garden, to be coordinated with the rain garden's design and installation
- Detroit Institute of Arts' Inside|Out program, the City is acting as a Community Partner with the museum to display famous works from their collection in public spaces
- Memorial to Coleman Jewett, using Mr. Jewett's Adirondack chair design as the inspiration
- Sidewalk Chalk project focusing on stormdrain education in conjunction with the Huron River Watershed Council
- A Canoe project using recycled canoes as the medium for an art display in partnership with several community organizations.

Robust public engagement is planned for each project to coincide with the artist selection process and the artist design proposal review process. The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission approved two other locations for public art in 2012, at Forest Avenue Plaza and at the future site of the State Street and Ellsworth roundabout. A Mural Program to establish the creation of new murals in Ann Arbor continues to be an objective.

The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission's Annual Plan is submitted to City Council and is "a plan detailing potential projects and desirable goals to be pursued in the next fiscal year" (City Code, Chapter 24, Section 1:837.2.B). For this year's Annual Plan, the Commission has identified several

goals. Those goals will serve as a framework for the selection of new projects and are detailed in the attached Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2014. The plan can be achieved absent the continuation of the Percent for Art funding or with its continuation.

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Reviewed by: Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator

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Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2014

The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC) is committed to meeting three goals for all upcoming public art projects in the City of Ann Arbor.

AAPAC will coordinate the creation of public art in more areas of the city and are committed to balance the number of artworks **throughout the city** and its neighborhoods.

AAPAC will value **areas of high use and visibility** as locations for public art because they contain the greatest potential audience.

AAPAC will site public art at **underserved areas**.

These goals will be used as a framework, and as criteria, to determine future public art projects. A more detailed explanation of each is below.

Public Art Throughout the City

The Public Art Commission created a four year Strategic Plan in calendar year 2012. A goal in the plan was to place public artworks throughout the city, in locations downtown and in the neighborhoods outside of the downtown. An objective of the Strategic Plan was to coordinate an ongoing public art project in each city area every fiscal year, using the Land Use Planning Areas in Ann Arbor's Master Plan as the city areas.

The West city area currently lacks any public artworks. Most public artwork in the city is located in the Central area.

Areas of High Use and Visibility

These are areas of the city that have greater concentrations of people and thus contain a larger audience for the art. How these concentrations of people are defined will depend on the type of city location. For example, Parks with high use are determined by the number of people attending the park, and streets with high use are determined by the amount of traffic. The types of locations that will be examined to establish their density of people are parks, playgrounds, bus stops, streets, paths, city gateways, plazas and public buildings. Already established data and studies will guide the prioritization of the areas of higher use. The

appropriate city staff, departments and entities will be consulted to assist AAPAC in determining what would qualify as high use areas. For example, city staff can provide the information on traffic volume on city streets and those streets with the most traffic will be potential sites for public art of higher priority.

Factors that might decrease the visibility of an artwork in locations that enjoy a great deal of use will be considered. Some site issues, such as, terrain, the amount of public space available, audience safety (is there high speed traffic; is it site safe for pedestrians) and visual competition, could cause art in a high use area to be potentially less visible.

Underserved Areas

These are locations and areas in the city that are lacking something in the built environment. There are a number of ways in which a place might be underserved—and are not necessarily limited to the following—but some description is needed to further develop what will be considered for future potential public art locations of this sort.

First, they are found to be unattractive spaces. They contain spots or sections that are not aesthetically pleasing. For example, the plaza near Forest Avenue and the parking garage contains a line of several large electrical boxes that diminish the use of the plaza. Second, they do not have a strong identity related to place. An identity might result from historical connections or healthy neighborhood networks and it becomes connected to the physical and built environment. AAPAC understands how public art can reinforce, or even contribute to the creation of, a place's identity and will place a priority on spurring that connection in locations that could benefit. Lastly, those locations that do not have a successful, or a recent, attempt at "placemaking." Ann Arbor offers many attractive destinations for residents and visitors. Many more can be designed and fostered, and AAPAC will use the creation of new public art as a way to increase the vitality and well-being of neighborhoods and zones.

Public engagement will be the first tool AAPAC will use to determine what locations are most like what is described above. The City's Master Plans and other city planning documents will also be referred to.

By using these established goals as the framework for determining potential projects in fiscal year 2014, AAPAC will have a general blueprint for deciding upon projects and locations. The Annual Plan for 2014 will serve AAPAC's mission: To bring public art to the City of Ann Arbor that improves the aesthetic quality of public spaces and structures, provides for cultural and recreational opportunities, contributes to local heritage, stimulates economic activity and promotes the general welfare of the community.