

## **Ann Arbor Public Art Commission - Public Recognition Program**

Public recognition by the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission has been an effective cost-free tool the AAPAC has used in the past and we propose expanding on that success. We propose refining and rebranding four award categories.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

This award would be given to career ending artists/art administrators/art promoters whose body of work could be celebrated and displayed at a public event hosted by AAPAC. This award would be given as these individuals are identified with no specific number over any given timeframe.

The award will honor a lifetime body of work, which impacts art in public places, by hosting a public event. If the body of work better fits another organization, like music or film, we want to lead the effort to find a more appropriate hosting institution. We imagine that such an individual will be brought forward with three strong letters of support from community members who are willing to work with us to help prepare for the event.

### **Ann Arbor Public Art Award**

We imagine this award expands on and replaces the Golden Paint Brush Award. We suggest that AAPAC commission a medallion or statuette that will be given annually in a few categories (most popular, most transformative of space, most unique, etc....categories to be determined later....modeled after an Academy Awards like event)

This award will be dated (i.e. – Ann Arbor Art Award of 2013 voted most popular....Ann Arbor Art Award of 2013 for most transformative of space...Ann Arbor Art Award of 2013 for most unique) and it is possible for one individual to receive the same award on different years.

This award is for more classically identified public art – like monument art, streetscapes, installation art, etc. and is differentiated from - creative use of architectural elements, improvisational folk art, creative landscaping, etc. (that art will be celebrated with a new award – Random Acts of Art...see below).

### **Random Acts of Art**

This award will be given randomly and covertly. This award will be for things like architectural elements, snow sculptures, landscaping, guerrilla art and it will award the creative activity more than the specific artwork.

It will require Commissioners to keep their finger on the creative pulse of our community. This will come with a treat as well as recognition (maybe gift certificate to Ann Arbor Art Center, or Zingerman's, or dinner at the Chop House....something worth getting). Commissioners could propose nominees to a non-commission panel (Mel Drum, the Mayor, Dean of Art School, etc. – this will get more outside folks in on the action who will help us raise prize money...the panel will rotate - covertly) but AAPAC will present the Random Acts of Art award publicly (maybe through the Ann Arbor Observer – to get free publicity?)

### **Resolution of Support**

We feel that AAPAC needs some vehicle to publicly support projects other than financially. This would be only in response to requests made by others and after AAPAC feels the project fits into our master vision of a public art program for Ann Arbor. We imagine the resolution could be worded to support the creative activity that the project generates without endorsing the project itself. As an art commission we want to recognize and encourage art making in our community whenever we can. We realize that various projects may not fit into current programs or projects that have been previously identified, however would like a to devise vehicle to recognize these efforts and lend encouragement and direction where we are able. Our goal is not

to limit art or art ideas, but practically there are limited funds and time commission members have available. To these projects and ideas that are outside our scope we suggest there be a mechanism from the city to support others efforts. It may be in the form of a resolution, recognition of efforts or some other such means.