Ann Arbor Public Art Commission August 28, 2013 Public Art Administrator's Report

#### **Updated Public Art Program Guidelines**

Sections of the initial draft of the changes to the Guidelines have been shared with Public Art Commission (prior to August 28nd.) New Guidelines will undergo further review by Commission members and City staff. Additions and changes will be shared with several weeks of review time before AAPAC's final approval. Recommended timeline is to conclude final approval before the end of the year. Guidelines will be approved/adopted by City Council.

Commission members can send recommended changes and questions for further information about the content of the updated Guidelines to the Public Art Administrator. P.A. Administrator will be soliciting answers to questions from the appropriate City staff in the coming weeks.

#### **Planning for Annual Plan**

P. A. Administrator met with City Staff regarding planning for future "enhanced" Capital Improvements.P.A. Administrator will share information on potential projects and the planning process. AAPAC will begin participating in the planning process as early as at the next AAPAC meeting.

#### **Bike Sharing**

P. A. Administrator met with Clean Energy Coalition bike share project team regarding the possibility of including public art at the bike share station locations. Project will consider adding public art to the scope of the project and working with public art program. Possible ideas included: adding an artist as a consultant to help visually identify the public spaces at the station locations, incorporating artist designed way-finding, and including reproductions of 2-D art on the bikes.

#### **Radius** Dedication

Dedication will be planned for September or early October. Artist Ed Carpenter will commit to a date in late August after completing his fall travel schedule.

#### **PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:**

**Argo Cascades** 

The Panel had selected three artist finalists and one had removed themselves from consideration due to schedule conflicts with other projects in the upcoming year.

The artist finalists are: Jann Rosen-Queralt, Mags Harries & Lajos Heder

A survey was collected prior to the artist site walkthrough to gather community input regarding the location and any expectations about the artwork. *Summary of survey results are attached.* 

Report on the project sent to City Council in late July updating them on the status and the request requirements for the final artwork. *Attached.* 

Artist site walk-through took place August 3rd. Artist's attended the Farmers Market; received a walking tour of downtown and campus; presented their past work to 18 members of the public; completed a site walk-through; and attended a publicly invited meeting at Argo Canoe Livery.

Concept design proposals are due in October. Artist's presentation of the designs will be the week of October 14th.

#### **Stadium Bridge**

The four artist finalists presented concept proposals on Friday, June 7th. Public feedback was collected in June.

#### Report on public feedback attached.

Selection Panel met in July. Consensus of the Panel was to recommend artist Catherine Widgery for the project and ask for revisions to portions of the conceptual design. Widgery has agreed to revise the concept.

Report on the Selection Panel's feedback to the artist is attached.

The Selection Panel has provided feedback regarding the possible revisions and scheduled a conference call with the artist on September 6th.

City will amend the original Proposal Design Agreement with the artist to complete the revisions.

Revisions to the design will be completed by an October deadline.

#### Kingsley and First, Rain Garden

Contract with artist Joshua Wiener was completed in June. Pre-design survey of the neighborhood completed in June.

The concept design was presented on July 12th.

Wiener participated in public engagement at the Townie Street Party on July 15<sup>th</sup> and a meeting at the site the next day.

Updated projected report delivered to City Council in August. Attached.

Selection Panel met on August 2nd. Panel recommends the concept design for AAPAC's approval. *See agenda business item.* 

Wiener is completing the details of the final design, construction and installation timeline.

#### Jewett Memorial Chair

Agreements between the City and the Ann Arbor Area Foundation have been completed. Fundraising can now take place.

#### **Canoe Imagine Art**

Agreements between the City and the Ann Arbor Area Foundation have been completed. Fundraising can now take place. Campaign and program materials are being written. Project's group did not meet in July.

#### Arbor Oaks Park in Bryant Neighborhood

First Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 5th.

Preliminary discussion has involved acquiring a grant or crowdsourcing donations for funding of the majority of the project.

AAPAC approved an exploratory Task Force to develop a project at this location in June and the Task Force will likely recommend a project in time for the September AAPAC meeting.

#### Wastewater Treatment facility renovation project

Meeting took place in late July between City Staff and Public Art Commission Project Champion.



TO: Mayor and Council

- FROM: Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator
- CC: Steven D. Powers, City Administrator

#### SUBJECT: ARGO SELECTION PROCESS

The public art project at Argo Cascades is in the artist selection process. The City issued a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in 2012. The deadline for the response was in March, 2013. In April, the Selection Panel for the project selected three artists as finalists for the project. The three finalists will be asked to complete a design proposal for the site. The finalists are pre-qualified to respond to a City issued Request for Proposals (RFP).

Language from the SOQ and RFP sets the expectations for any artwork at the site:

The Cascades have been designed to appear natural and have been constructed using natural materials. Public art at the site shall preserve the natural quality and appeal of the area. Functional art elements are encouraged, wherever possible.

Artwork cannot be an obstruction to the area of the embankment maintained by the State of Michigan and the Water Treatment Services Unit. This area of the embankment is located between the entry to the Cascades and the dam. The embankment cannot be penetrated in that area. All artwork proposals will be subject to a technical and safety review by the appropriate city staff. The feasibility of the artwork's compatibility with the site requirements must meet their approval.

The paths that border the recreation area will not be obstructed. View of the recreational activities cannot be obstructed by the placement, size and shape of the artwork. The artwork should add value to the site and not interfere with the recreational uses or the natural appearance of the area.

The Public Art Commission's artist selection process involves a great deal of <u>public engagement</u> and <u>community input</u> for projects of this size and scope.

<u>First</u>, the Selection Panel is made up of stakeholders of the Cascades. Parks staff and a member PAC are on the Panel. They provide the Panel a perspective that is compatible to the vitality of the Cascades as a recreational highlight of the city.

The Panel membership includes:

- Julie Grand, Chair of the Parks Advisory Commission
- Cheryl Saam, Facility Supervisor of Argo Livery and the Cascades
- Two members of the Public Art Commission
- An artist and former member of the Public Art Commission
- A resident in the neighborhood of the Cascades
- An architect and member of the Ann Arbor Rowing Club

<u>Second</u>, a pre-design survey of the community was sent out and completed this month. Over one hundred respondents completed the survey. The survey was intended to provide information to any potential artist the City contracts with for art at the location. The survey was designed to give the artist input on how the park amenities are used, which are valued by the public and give the artist direction as to what would be the valued art work types, appearance and features. Staff can compile the survey results and share if desired. This information will serve to avoid a design that is not going fit the community's.

<u>Third</u>, an artist visit is planned for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The artists will be given a short tour of the downtown area, give a presentation of their past work, visit the Cascades and be available to the community for open house/meet-and-greet. August 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Saturday and should provide an opportunity for the artists to see the Cascades at their busiest.

<u>Fourth</u>, once the proposal designs are completed, the three artists will present the designs in-person. The proposals will be due in October. Following the presentation of the design, the three designs will be placed on display. The Public Art Commission will gather feedback about the designs online, using Open City Hall, and at the location of the physical display. All the information gathered will be given to the Selection Panel for their consideration before they make their recommended selection. The Panel meets and determines their recommendation for a design on the artwork.

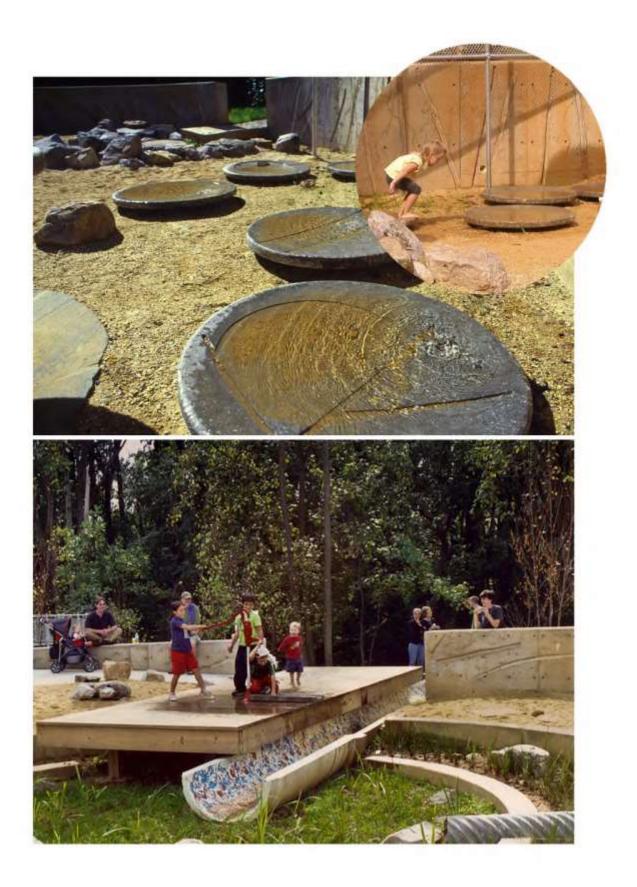
The Selection Panel's recommendation is approved, or not, by the Public Art Commission. The Park Advisory Commission will also pass a resolution supporting (or not) the selection panel's recommendation. The contract with the artist is then placed on the agenda of City Council for approval. For the purpose of the Proposal design, the city will enter into an agreement with the three final artists and provide an honorarium of \$3,000. The \$115,000 for the artist contract comes from the pooled public art funds from water related City projects. The Public Art Commission established a total budget of \$150,000 for the project to include the artist contract, the honorariums, administration, contingency and other expenses related to public engagement.

The final artists for the project were selected primarily because of their body of work at natural areas and in locations near bodies of water. The artists are: Jann Rosen-Queralt, Mags Harries & Lajos Heder, and Andy Dufford. I'm including links to their websites:

http://jannrosen-queralt.com/ http://www.chevostudios.com/ http://harriesheder.com/ IMAGES OF PAST WORK by Harries and Heder



### IMAGE OF PAST WORK by Rosen-Queralt



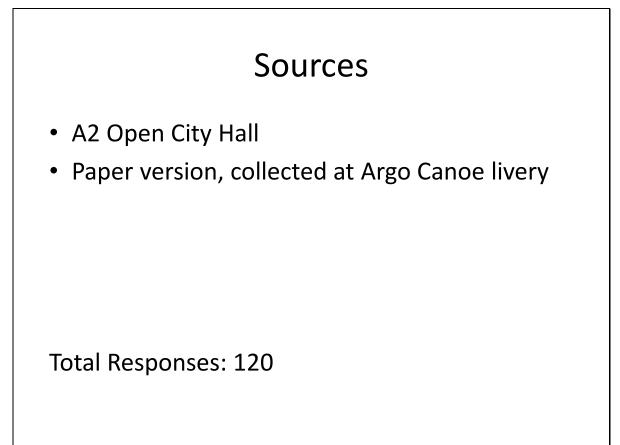
Summary of Public Input Survey (Pre-Design for Artwork)

Public Art at Argo Cascades

Argo Cascades' Survey Responses for Potential Art Instillation

### Survey Structure

- On a scale from 1-5 please rank
  - Activities
  - Features
- Considerations for Artists
- Important to you/suggestions (open ended)



Average score for the Activity Importance at the Cascades on a 5 to 1 scale. (Score of 5 being the most important.)

1	Walking/running/biking	4.26
2	Canoeing/kayaking	4.15
3	Picnicking/relaxing	3.82
4	Tubing	3.24

Average score placed on the Importance of Features on a 5 to 1 scale. (Score of 5 being the most important.)

## **Q2: Features Importance**

1	Natural Beauty	4.66
2	Nature and vegetation	4.43
3	Border-to-border trail	4.29
4	Natural stone boulders	4.20
5	Drops and Pools	4.05
6	The bridges	3.79

Number of Selections from the list.

# Q3: Artist Should Consider

Use of natural materials	71
Structure fits with the site	69
Functional Art	51
Subdued colors that blend in	47
Environmental education	34
History of the site	29
Interactivity	25
Accessibility(ADA)	22
Children's play	19
Use of materials that contrast with nature	7
Bright colors that stand out	4
Structure stands out from the site	4
Notoriety of design	1

# **Overarching Comments**

- 35 comments did not favor public art at the Cascades, i.e. fourth comment
- should function without electricity (unless solar)...money better spent on better access and launch clean up
- I would suggest including benches even closer to the parking lot that the lonely boulders. My dad is 92 and would like to have some place to sit near the top of the cascades. I bet he isn't alone! This has become a favorite place in the city. Also shade!
- That it fit in with the environment surrounding it. Use natural materials. It should compliment the area around it; not be the feature.
- Art work is not required at the Cascades. Why ruin natural beauty. If money is spent here it should be limited to what is needed to bring additional value to the site through function, limiting maintenance needs, etc.
- That it is timeless and brings a smile. That it enhance, rather than compete with, the movement of people and water through and around the site.

Panel Feedback

Catherine Widgery "Arbor Winds" art proposal

The Selection Panel met on the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 windscreen, 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

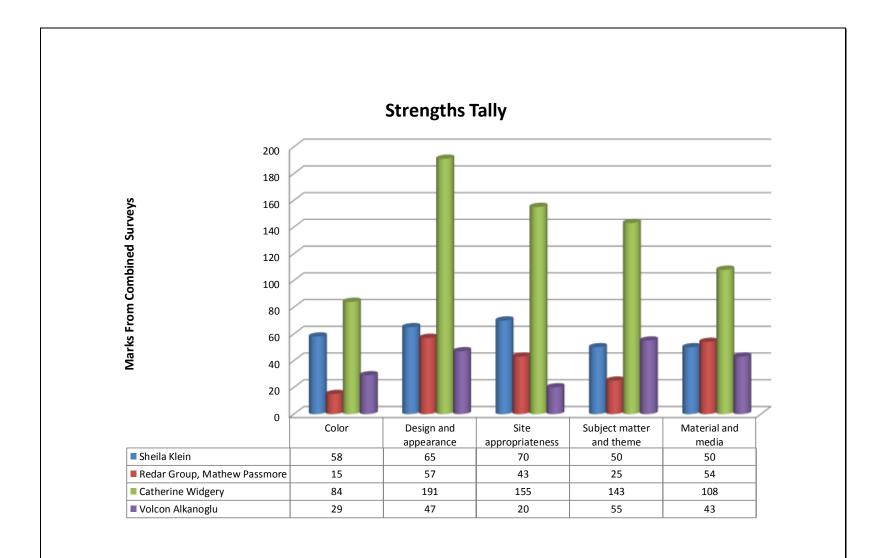
# **Data Collection**

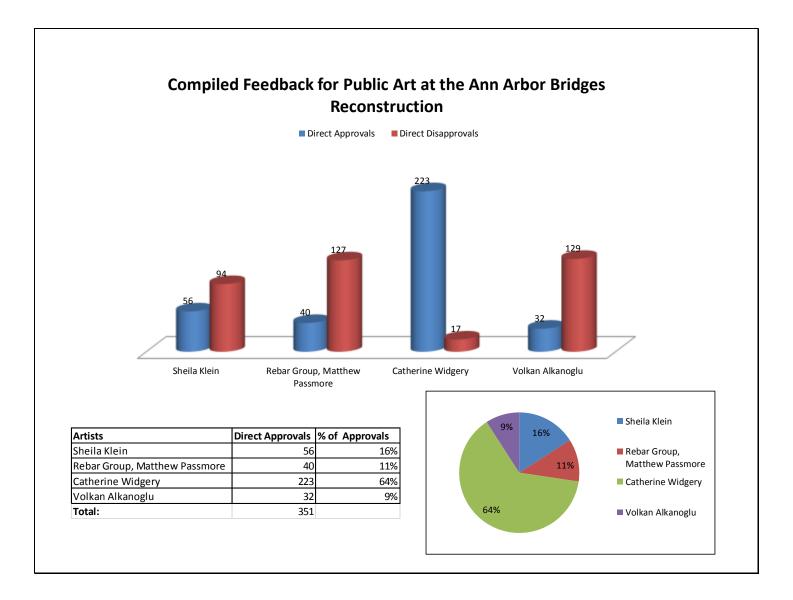
- Survey Monkey
- A2 Open City Hall
- Venues:
  - At the Artists Presentations
  - Green Fair
  - City Hall Lobby

## 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)







TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator

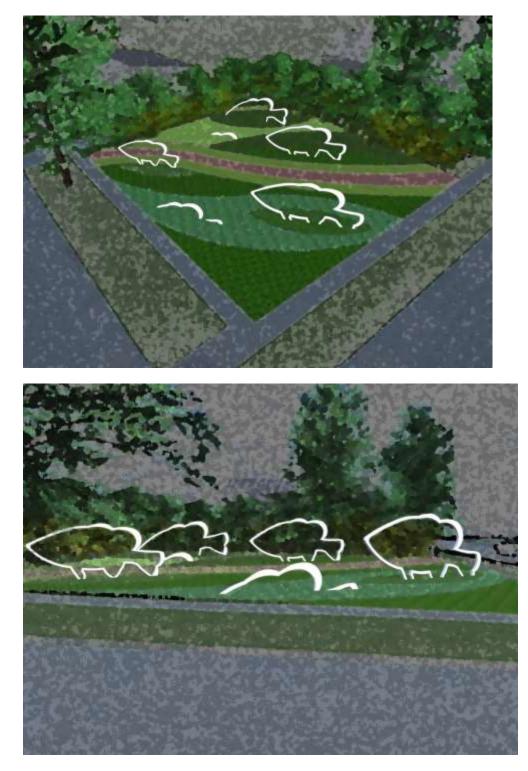
DATE: August 5, 2013

#### SUBJECT: PUBLIC ART AT KINGSLEY AND FIRST RAIN GARDEN

The City of Ann Arbor entered into a contract with artist Joshua Wiener, of Boulder, Colorado, to design fabricate and install a public artwork at the location of an upcoming rain garden on Kingsley and First Street in May, 2013. The artist was selected based on his submission to the City issued Request for Proposal #841, which had a January, 10<sup>th</sup> deadline. The artist has been contracted for \$23,380 to complete the artwork. The funding for the art project comes from the pooled public art funds established by the Public Art Ordinance sourced from storm water capital improvement projects. Public art funds are not being used for the installation of the rain garden.

This location and rain garden was approved by the Public Art Commission as a location for artwork. The City of Ann Arbor began plans to use the location as a rain garden after it was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to purchase properties at 215 & 219 W. Kingsley St., Ann Arbor (one vacant and the other with a structure), demolish the structure, and stabilize the site. Separate from the FEMA Grant, the rain garden installation at the site was determined to be necessary to prevent/minimize flooding in the area by increasing the potential for stormwater infiltration. The site is located within a floodplain. This location will be maintained as open space in perpetuity. The City of Ann Arbor released RFP (#796) to select a firm for the design, installation, and management of the Rain Garden Project. As a result, Conservation Design Forum (CDF), of Ann Arbor, was selected and has been contracted as the landscape architect for the project.

The artwork and the rain garden have been designed in a collaborative process between the rain garden's landscape architect and the artist. This design process enabled a fully integrated design for both the art element and the rain garden.



The conceptual design for the artwork at the Kingsley and First rain garden.

The artwork will be steel sculpture outlines of large-mouth bass. They will be placed in the landscaped rain garden to give an impression of motion through a river bed. The vegetation surrounding the

sculptures will be designed to have distinct color separation into shapes of land meant to resemble a river's surface. The fish outlines will be raised and lowered at different heights from the ground's surface--some sculptures appearing to be buried. They will also be placed in various positions to give the appearance moving through a space suspended by water. When driving along the one-way street, the sculptures will take on a false perspective of motion--as if swimming. The quality of the Huron River is connected to the functional purpose of the rain garden. The sculptures of the bass will be a visual, symbolic depiction of that connection.

The initial design process has included public engagement. The artist has participated in three meetings with the public since entering into a contract with the city. In addition, survey was conducted prior to the start of the design's creation to gather public input about the location and the desired art work.

A public presentation of the conceptual design for the artwork was held on July 12th. The artist presented his design to the public and to the project's Selection Panel for the first time. The meeting was conducted virtually, through online meeting software. There were approximately 12 members of the public in attendance.

The artist attended public engagement meetings the week following the design presentation. He attended the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission's information table at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Townie Street Party. A meeting at the project site the following day, Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> was also scheduled, however, it was not well attended, but CTN did conduct an interview with the artist at that time.

The meetings were promoted using: an email to the Public Art GovDelivery list and to residents who had already expressed an interest in this specific project; an email to area Neighborhood Associations; a post on the AAPAC website; a post to the AAPAC Facebook and Twitter account; and a press release was forwarded to the media by email.

#### SURVEY FEEDBACK

from the Selection Panel and the public attending the July 12<sup>th</sup> presentation of the art design

#### Question One:

#### What do you think is the most important factor presented in this design?

- Cost effectiveness and use of material with goal of rain garden
- It is responsive to the site and the ecology of Ann Arbor. Sense of movement-fish rising and lowering-jumping, creates a fun experience. It is clever to create movement with a static piece
- Visually in motion
- Effectiveness of rain garden to address over-loading of sewer system.
- Design is excellent; playful yet sophisticated; very pleasant approach to solving a problem

#### Question Two:

#### How would you feel about this artwork at the rain garden location?

- I think it is a cost effect and appropriate solution to this problem and budget
- Nicely done
- Excellent
- Definitely would not want the fish to be white—I think it looks cartoonish. As it happens, it would be less expensive not to have white coating, and the look of oxidixed steel is more natural and appealing. I did not see white in the artist's other wonderful designs.
- Love it! In white
- Don't really care for it there haven't been fish there in 10,000 years

#### Question Three:

### <u>Comment on how the artwork is integrated with the rain garden? What do you like and dislike about the design?</u>

- Nicely integrated. More development regarding the final proposal but a lovely start.
- Well integrated with rain garden
- I like everything, particularly the white color
- Like the idea of bringing the imagery of the river into the neighborhood. And having a couple of benches that would be comfortable as seating but not for sleeping. Also like that figures will be more or less visible at different seasons.
- I like all the considerations—benches, paths and vegetation.
- Worried about the installation holding up and also interfering with the garden function.

### AAPAC Project Tracker – August 2013

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### AAPAC Project Tracker – August 2013

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#	Project	Name	Priority	Submitter	Site Locatio	n Project	Timeline	AAPAC Funding	Funding	Artist(s)	Media	Current Status	Members	
1204		Street Ac Covers fo and sewe	or water	Approved for investigation	AAPAC	Multiple locations	2013	TBD		TBD	Designs for Iron Casting	Suspended	John Kotarski	
	<b>roject Description:</b> AAPAC approved an investigation into a project that would coordinate design competitions or Street Access Covers used by the city.							Monthly Update:						
1302		Jewett M Chair		AAPAC approved March 6, 2013	Mayor and Commission	Farmer's Market	2013	none	yes	Mr. Jewett	bronze sculpture	Stakeholder approval underway		
Project D Market.	<b>roject Description:</b> A memorial replica of the Adirondack Chair designed by Mr. Jewett located at the Farmer's larket.						d at the Farmer's							
1303		Canoe ar		AAPAC approved		Downtown, river and parks	2014	none	yes	several artists will be commissioned and community groups will participate	Recycled canoes	Establishing a fundraising and marketing plan	Marsha Chamberin, Cheryl Saam, Shoshana Hurand, Mary Kerr, Maura Thomson, Laura Rubin	
display do	owntown, i	hear the i	river and	ycled canoes that ha at parks. Artists will	be asked to create			Monthly Update	: Project title is Car	noe Imagine Art.				
<u>communi</u> 1304		<u>will be ab</u> Arbor Oa Park/ Bry neighborl	ks vant	AAPAC approved for investigation	e an artwork. neighborhood	Arbor Oaks Park	2014	yes	yes	TBD	TBD	Establishing a fundraising plan and initial Task Force meeting	Malverne Winborne, Nick Zagar, David Jones, Derek Miller, and members of the neighborhood	
Project D	Project Description: A participatory community art project that will result in a permanent artwork at the park.							Monthly Update: First Task Force meeting in September						
1305		Wastewa Treatmer administr building a	iter ht Plant, ration		City staff	Wastewater Treatment Plant	2014	Public Art Pooled Funds, from Wastewater capital projects	no	TBD	TBD	Establishing cost estimate to use treated water inside the lobby and the design of the building is currently underway	John Kotarski	
site of the	e Wastewa	ter Treat	ment Plar	interactive artwork and reconstruction. Interactive attents attended to the second structure attend	ended to educate the			Monthly Update	: Meet with Wastev	vater Treatment St	aff.			