



151 Martin St., Birmingham, MI 48009
248-530-1800

NOTICE OF MEETING - PUBLIC ARTS BOARD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a meeting of the Public Arts Board will take place on **Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.** in conference room 202/203 of the Municipal Building. Approved minutes of this meeting will be available on the City's website at www.bhamgov.org.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN in accordance with Act 261, 1968 Public Act 267.

MEETING AGENDA

****** Board members who are not able to attend this meeting are encouraged to notify the staff representative in advance for consideration of a quorum. ******

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2018
- C. Unfinished Business
 - 1. Proposed Loan of *Eastern Hophornbeam***
 - 2. Library Sculpture Selection**
- D. New Business
 - 1. Marketing & Outreach**
- E. Communication
 - 1. Installation of *Windswept***
 - 2. Installation of *Sound Heart***
 - 3. Birmingham Construction Art Contest**
 - 4. Social Media Account**
- F. Public Comments
- G. Adjournment

Upcoming PAB Meeting: April 18, 2018

NOTE: Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algun tipo de ayuda para la participacion en esta sesion publica deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la ciudad en el numero (248) 530-1800 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un dia antes de la reunion para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias.

Public Arts Board

Rooms 202 & 203 Birmingham City Hall – January 15, 2018

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Rabbi Baruch Cohen, Monica Neville, Linda Wells, Jason Eddleston

Members Absent: Anne Ritchie, Barbara Heller, Mary Roberts

Administration: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Sean Campbell, Assistant City Planner
Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2017

Motion to Approve October 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes by Monica Neville, seconded by Linda Wells.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2017

Motion to Approve November 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes by Rabbi Baruch Cohen, seconded by Jason Eddleston.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

D. New Business

Eastern Hophornbeam and Library Board Collaboration

Doug Kosceck was introduced as the Birmingham Library Director. The consensus from the Library Board was that the Eastern Hophornbeam did not fit the vision of what they had in mind for a new sculpture at the library, nor did they approve of the backup sculpture from Hill Gallery. It was indicated that the Library Board would like to leave the space open to consider other opportunities.

It was also noted that the Library Board would like to collaborate with the Public Arts Board on searching for a new sculpture to replace the former Oppenheim piece. A sub-committee consisting of Public Arts Board members and Library Board members to improve collaboration was suggested. There may be upcoming renovations to the library and a potential for more sculptures and art work space as well. Having a sub-committee would

provide earlier input to the Art Board in regards to the Library Board's thoughts about suggested sculptures.

There was some discussion about not wanting to create another layer of bureaucracy, and it was noted that the Public Arts Board already has a sub-committee to help brainstorm ideas and create items for the agenda. An argument in support of the suggestion was that an Arts Board-Library Board sub-committee could set a good precedent for the Public Arts Board working with other entities in the City. Collaborating could speed up the vetting process related to what both boards would like to see.

Establishing liaisons from the Library Board and Public Arts Board instead of a sub-committee was then suggested. The search for a sculpture at the library is more of a short term project and may not merit the creation of a sub-committee. The main goal is communication between the two boards to facilitate plans and there was a consensus that having liaisons was preferred over forming a sub-committee. It was decided that Linda Wells and Barbara Heller be liaisons for the Public Arts Board, and Doug Kosick would speak with the Library Board to determine their own liaisons.

Motion to appoint Linda Wells and Barbara Heller as the Public Art Board's liaisons to the Library Board was made by Monica Neville and seconded by Jason Eddleston.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried

Locations for Eastern Hophornbeam

Tim Hill, the gallery owner donating the Eastern Hophornbeam was provided a map and a list of pre-qualified spaces in Birmingham where the sculpture could be placed. His top three locations were Booth Park near the trail, Barnum Park, and Shain Park.

The Board indicated that location #4 in Booth Park by the trail and creek would be a nice fit for the sculpture due to the proximity to the trail, Rouge River, and the forest. Barnum Park would also be nice, but there are a number of other art projects going on there, whereas Booth Park does not currently have a sculpture. According to the Board, Shain Park has a lot going on right now and was less of a priority.

There was consensus that Booth and Barnum are top priorities, but Sean Campbell noted that Tim Hill is also open to other suggestions as long as the Board remains engaged in finding a place for the sculpture.

Motion was made to recommend the Eastern Hophornbeam for Booth Park to be installed in the spring within the vicinity of location # 4 by Linda Wells, seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 3 Nays: 1 – Jason Eddleston

The motion failed

It was noted after the motion that their first priority is Booth Park, but if the location does not work out, then they prefer Barnum Park for recommendation.

(Public Arts Board Rules & Procedures; Voting: Four members of the Public Arts Board shall constitute a quorum. The Public Arts Board shall act in the form of a motion, and a minimum of four votes shall be required to adopt any such motion.)

Kindness Rocks

Sean Campbell presented the concept of kindness rocks to the Parks & Rec Board on December 5th, 2017. The proposal was not immediately preferred as the Park and Rec Board had concerns about type of rocks, size of rocks, and only wanted Michigan native rocks.

There was discussion that perhaps they could try to provide more info to Parks Board to show how benign this project is and demonstrate the scale of project, which is minor.

It was also discussed how this grassroots trend may have passed and that the committee should pursue staying ahead of trends. There was a consensus to take no action and table the project and possibly bring it up at a future time if desired.

E. Committee Report

Volunteer slots were allocated among Board members to manage each night of the charity poker fundraiser.

F. Communication:

- Loan of Windswept was approved by City Commission. It is a 5 year loan and Gary Kulak wishes to have it installed at Barnum Park in the Spring.
- Soundhearts donation was approved by City Commission in late November, Kroger would also like to install it in the spring. The plaza has space for the sculpture and Jay Lefkowitz would like it elevated by one foot at most. This message was passed to the Kroger project manager. Kroger is working with an architect to design a pad for the sculpture. The Board thought it was best to wait until a new City logo was approved before installing a plaque.

G. Public Comments

The Board members thanked Sean Campbell for all of his work with the Public Arts Board.

H. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: March 16, 2018

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Loan of *Eastern Hophornbeam*

On November 15, 2017, the Public Arts Board reviewed and subsequently recommended approval for the loan of the Robert Lobe sculpture *Eastern Hophornbeam*. The Hill Gallery had originally proposed this piece as a replacement for the Dennis Oppenheim sculpture, *Sound Heart*, which was removed from its location at the Baldwin Public Library (BPL) southwest lawn. Following this meeting, the application was forwarded to the Baldwin Public Library Board as it falls under their purview.

Prior to the meeting, BPL staff circulated pictures of the proposed sculpture to Library Board members. Members took issue with the sculpture's perceived incompatibility with the building, specifically its scale and overall concept. Library staff requested Mr. Campbell to reach out to the Hill Gallery about proposing an alternate loan in the event the Library Board voted *Eastern Hophornbeam* down. In response, Tim Hill, owner of the Hill Gallery, offered to loan *Stack*, the Tom Joyce sculpture currently installed in front of his gallery on W. Brown Street, as the alternate piece. If the Library Board moved to approve this sculpture, it would then be forwarded to the Public Arts Board for review and a recommendation to the City Commission.

On December 18, 2017, the Library Board formally reviewed both the sculptures. Tim Hill, owner of the Hill Gallery, was in attendance to answer questions and address concerns on behalf of his proposed loan. The Library Board stated their concerns about *Eastern Hophornbeam* and how they had much appreciation for the Oppenheim sculpture in that space. Additionally, the Library Director circulated a survey with Library staff prior to the meeting to generate input on the two sculptures. As it turned out, many of the respondents were not in favor of either sculptures but overall there was more support for *Stack*. The Library Board ultimately voted to reject *Eastern Hophornbeam*, postpone approval of *Stack*, and to keep the southwest lawn open to allow for sufficient review of suitable alternatives in the interim. The draft minutes from this meeting have been attached for your review.

Following the meeting, staff discussed with Mr. Hill his options regarding his proposed loan. Mr. Hill has decided to no longer pursue the placement of a sculpture at the southwest lawn of the library but is interested in bringing *Eastern Hophornbeam* back to the PAB to consider a different location. Staff forwarded Mr. Hill the PAB's list and map of prequalified art site locations to select several potential sites of his choice for the Board to explore. At this time, Mr. Hill has expressed an interest in the following locations:

1. Booth Park along Booth Park Trail (prequalified site location #4)
2. Barnum Park (no specific location but a site that the Board and Community for Barnum Park recommends)
3. Shain Park (potentially at a corner that is currently not overwhelmed with competing structures)

Mr. Hill has also indicated that he does not have a strong preference over any location in the City and would be happy to let the PAB decide where to place it. He also stressed the importance of placing it somewhere with ample foot and or vehicular traffic.

On January 17, 2018 the Public Arts Board discussed potential locations for the site and indicated that location #4 in Booth Park would be a nice fit due to the proximity to the trail and forest. A motion was made to recommend Booth Park as a location for the Eastern Hophornbeam to be installed in the spring within the vicinity of location #4. The motion failed 3-1, therefore it is recommended the Public Arts Board reconsider locations for the Eastern Hophornbeam. A map of suggested locations is attached below.

The Eastern Hophornbeam is currently stored in the parking lot at Springdale Golf Course. The Parks and Recreation Department has indicated that the parking lot space will be necessary for public and department use this upcoming spring and will need the sculpture moved by no later than April 27th, 2018.

SUGGESTED MOTION

To recommend approval of the proposed 1-year loan of *Eastern Hophornbeam* to the City Commission at the prequalified site # _____.

OR

To postpone approval of *Eastern Hophornbeam* until a suitable location has been identified.

OR

To recommend denial of the proposed loan of *Eastern Hophornbeam*.

City of Birmingham - Pre-qualified Public Art Site Locations



Prequalified Public Art Site Locations

1. Millrace Park along Quarton Lake Trail

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium

Additional comments: Hill is on a slope, limiting view



2. Quarton Lake Park #1

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High



3. Quarton Lake Park #2

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium



4. Booth Park along Booth Park Trail

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High



5. Poppleton Park @ Woodward Ave. & Madison St.

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High



6. Triangular open space in Barnum Park

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: High



7. Howarth Park near Emmons Ave. Entrance

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium



8. Courtyard at City tennis courts

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High



9. Derby back entranceway @ Cambridge

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low



10. Derby Well Site #1

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium

Additional comments: Existing evergreen tree might compete or obstruct



or

11. Quarton Lake Park #3

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low



12. Linden Park trailhead @ Shirley

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High



13. Along bend in Linden Park Trail

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium



14. Linn Smith Park close to Southfield Rd.

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium



15. Linn Smith Park near Rouge River

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low



16. Fairway Trail trailhead

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: Medium



17. Along Fairway Trail

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: Low

Additional comments: Standing
water. Possible floodplain hazard



18. Fairway Trail access point at W. Lincoln

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: Low



19. Pembroke Park @ N. Eton and Windmere

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High

Additional comments: Play structure nearby



20. Crestview Park facing Southfield and Norfolk

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium



21. Crestview Park @ Southfield and Southlawn

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low

Additional comments: Existing tree and telephone pole may obstruct view



22. Open space along W. Maple

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low



23. Open space at east side of Park St. parking deck

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: Low/no



24. Street planter @ Maple Rd. & Chester St.

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: Low



25. Edison Passageway open space within recessed wall

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium

Additional comments: Possible 2D art



26. Edison Passageway in open space

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: Low/no



27. Social Passageway terminating vista

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High

Additional comments: 2D wall art only



28. Clark Hill Passageway terminating vista 2

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium

Additional comments: Limited space, possibly 2D wall art only



**29. Clark Hill Passageway
terminating vista**

Public Arts Board Priority
Ranking: Low

Additional comments: Limited
space, possibly 2D wall art only



30. Median at Worth and Woodward

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium



31. Right-of-way at Adams and Woodward

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: High

Additional comments: Not a flat, level surface.



32. Manor Park entrance

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low

Additional comments: Manor nature preserve sign and trees may obstruct.



33. Linden Park Trail near river

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Medium



34. Quarton Lake #4

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low



35. Edison Passageway - east side

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low



36. Derby Well Site #2

Public Arts Board Priority Ranking: Low





Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield
P.O. Box 465 Birmingham, MI. 48012

ART IN PUBLIC SPACES SITE AND PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

To ensure the thoughtful placement of sculptures in the City of Birmingham and to further the City's vision to enhance public spaces, the Public Arts Board provides the following guidelines:

- Art should be located in a site where it will effectively enhance and activate the pedestrian and streetscape experience;
- Art should be sited where it will create a place of congregation or in a location that experiences high levels of pedestrian traffic;
- Art should be placed in a site where it is not overwhelmed by nor competing with the scale of the site or adjacent architecture, large retail signage, billboards, etc.;
- Art should be sited so as to be either immediately visible or in a location where it will be visible by the most people;
- Art should not be placed in a given site if the landscaping and maintenance requirements of that site cannot be met; and
- Artwork should not block windows or entranceways, nor obstruct normal pedestrian circulation in and out of a building (unless such alteration is specifically a part of the experience or design of the artwork).



Robert Lobe *Eastern Hophornbeam* 1993 Hammered and tempered aluminum Chicago, Burnham Park





ROBERT LOBE

1945 Born Detroit, MI
 Lives and works in New York, NY

EDUCATION

1963-67 B.A., Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
1967-68 Hunter College, New York

AWARDS & GRANTS

2008 Pollock-Krasner Foundation
2001 Joan Mitchell Foundation
1994 Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant
1993 Elizabeth Foundation
1992 Pollock-Krasner Foundation
1985 Guggenheim Sculptor in Residence, Chesterwood, MA
1984 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship
1982 Creative Arts Public Service Award
1979 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY
Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, OH
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Castellani Art Museum, Niagara University, NY
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, HI
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN
Menil Collection, Houston, TX
Mihama-Cho International Outdoor Sculpture Garden, Japan
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY

sculpture

A large, complex abstract sculpture by Diana Al-Hadid. It features a tall, dark, textured column on the left, possibly made of wood or metal with intricate carvings. To its right are several vertical, rectangular blocks of varying heights, some with a light-colored, possibly painted or varnished surface. The base of the sculpture is composed of white, stepped platforms. The overall composition is layered and textured, with a mix of organic and geometric forms.

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International Sculpture Center
www.sculpture.org

Diana Al-Hadid
Arnaldo Pomodoro
Not Vital

\$7.00US / CAN





ROBERT LOBE Nature as Effigy

BY CAROLEE THEA

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's public art program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art throughout the five boroughs. Robert Lobe recently joined a long list of distinguished artists who have exhibited in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, among them, Roxy Paine and Mark di Suvero. But, how many of these artists have told a story so valuable?

In the 19th century, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux gained widespread acclaim for co-designing many well-known urban parks, among them Central Park and Prospect Park. Olmsted arrived at his practice after working as a reporter in the Antebellum South, where he witnessed war's devastating effect on nature. His design criteria aimed to uphold natural conditions rather than to appease the cultural will to control and, ultimately, to destroy. Lobe's three-part sculptural series, "Nature in Nature," reinforced the ideas of Olmsted's natural landscape.

Lobe has been working as a sculptor since the 1960s, when in an effort to disrupt Minimalism, he scattered shards of metal, rubber, wood, and rope on the floor. The Whitney Museum featured one of these scatter pieces in the 1969 exhibition "Anti-Illusion: Procedures/Materials," along with works by Carl Andre, Lynda Benglis, Robert Morris, Bruce Nauman, Richard Serra, and Keith Sonnier, among others. According to Lobe, "Organizing the scatter pieces...permitted variability and implied motion. Today I realize how closely these assemblies resemble the detritus where I forage for ideas in nature."

In the early '70s, Lobe began looking directly to nature, first in the "Stone Clones," a series of large-scale, extrapolated portraits of stones in hollow, laminated wood structures. He then moved to hammering aluminum around construction materials from the World Trade Center, found in the Battery Park landfill. Lobe chose aluminum "because of its artificial and industrial association, distinctly opposite that of weathered wood." Both bodies of work were exhibited at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza in 1977.

Subsequently, the process of *repoussé* allowed him to work outdoors. In the solitude of the Adirondacks and on the Appa-



Opposite: *Nature's Clock*, 2005. Heat-treated hammered aluminum, 11 x 9 x 14 ft. Above: *Stone Clones*, 1976. Aluminum, view of installation at the Battery Park landfill.

lachian Trail, along the coast of Nova Scotia, he found new freedom and a personal transcendence. Since then, he has worked in a number of natural environments: "It was possibly my memory coupled with those wild landscapes that made my connection to nature more profound."

Lobe describes his process as first wandering around in the woods, then choosing the trees that he will trace. He hammers the sheet metal around trunk and branches with fasteners that leave the joints exposed; seams and bolts remain visible so that viewers can peer inside and see that the object is hollow. So, what might appear excessively heavy is relatively light, and by drawing attention to the gap between the real thing and the image, the artifice is exposed. The sculptor transforms nature into a facsimile, a death mask or an effigy of the natural form.

Lobe's works mimic the natural, while their industrial materiality brings to mind something out of George Miller's post-apocalyptic film *Road Warrior*, a world where nature has been poisoned by humanity's ravaging abuses. As such, the sculptures act as a memento mori, part of a tradition

in art dating back to antiquity and always sharing the same purpose, to remind man of his mortality.

In "Inside/Outside: Treelines," a group show at Abington Art Center in 2006, Lobe's large, outdoor work *Metamorphosis* and the indoor *Angel* created a profound scenario focusing on artifice and how nature has been altered. Lobe's aesthetic is low-key; his work doesn't try to muscle its way into our field of vision. It looks at home in a natural setting, but it also sets up a situation in which you detect its harmony, as well as its departure from the place in which you find it. Libby Rosof, writing on theartblog.org, says, "Robert Lobe's beaten aluminum tree sheaths look like body armor for the trees. His pieces are also a reminder of the gargantuan scale of trees while the surfaces and shapes evoke elephant skin."

Lobe belongs to an American tradition of artists whose work attempts to mirror the beauty of nature and human impact on the land. While 19th-century painters such as Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, and Thomas Moran depicted nature in its pristine grandeur, photographers of the same era, including A.J. Russell, Carleton



Watkins, and W.H. Jackson, not only captured the beauty of the wilderness frontier, but, in documenting human progress, also recorded the damage caused by mass migrations to the West. By the middle of the 20th century, with countless remnants of destruction apparent in and out of American cities, artists like Robert Smithson and photojournalist Eugene Smith attempted to highlight the urgent necessity to restore balance to and understand the ecological relations conjoining humanity, industry, and the natural environment.

When I visited Prospect Park with Lobe, a man was fishing in the lake, where *Invisible Earth* was installed. The fisherman, who defined his sport as catch and release, said that bass are best found near a sheltering object such as the sculpture. In order to install this work, Lobe donned a wetsuit and dove into the Lullwater to make the footings—but the finished work appeared to float.

Just south of Prospect Park's 19th-century boathouse, on a grassy triangular intersection near a massive and ancient Camperdown elm (a variety immune to the Dutch elm disease that wiped out nearly all elms in North America), stood another of Lobe's hammered aluminum sculptures—*Antique Jenny*. The close proximity of the elm (nature) and the aluminum effigy (culture) made the contrast particularly strong. According to Lobe, "The idea of *Antique Jenny* grew out of contemplation of transcendentalism and the industrial revolution when the steam engine tore through the natural landscape." The third and largest of Lobe's three sculptures, *Nature's Clock*, perched on a hillock mimicking the sloped terrain.

The stylized forms of these works evoke the idea of archaic monuments ravaged by time. Their distinct location in the present, or even in some imaginary dystopian future, restructures the eternal dialectic of "man and nature" through artifacts made of reconstructed materials.

Recently, the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill, New York, hosted an exhibition of three works on

Metamorphosis, 2005. Heat-treated aluminum, 116 x 86 x 40 in.



which Lobe collaborated with his wife, painter Kathleen Gilje. In *Kindred Spirits* (2009), *Appalachian Forest* (2010), and *Woodbury Quarry* (2011), Lobe's photographic documentation of his sites is transformed by Gilje into grisaille paintings and framed within a sculptural relief hammered out on rocks and trees from the places where the photographs were made. Lobe says, "We chose grisaille because its richness of grays is enhanced by the play of light in the monochromatic luster of hammered aluminum. But primarily, we wanted to interpret the exact same elements of the same place seen through the eyes of a painter and a sculptor." Lobe's work began as an effort to go past formal issues but migrated into another, more personal and spiritual realm based on a love of nature and a need to memorialize it in the face of inevitable destruction.

Above: *Invisible Earth*, 2007. Heat-treated hammered aluminum, 9 x 5.5 x 13.5 ft. Below: *Antique Jenny*, 2011. Heat-treated hammered aluminum, 11 x 5 x 14 ft.



Carolee Thea is a writer and curator living in New York. Her most recent book is *On Curating: Interviews with Ten International Curators*, published by D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers.



BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
December 18, 2017

Board Committee Reports:

Building Committee: Pisano introduced Sean Campbell, Birmingham's Assistant City Planner. Campbell described the piece of art—*Eastern Hophornbeam* by Robert Lobe—recommended by the Birmingham Public Arts Board to replace the prior sculpture, which had been sold to the University of Michigan. He also described another possible piece for the southwest lawn, called *Stack* by Tom Joyce. At Aidenbaum's request, Tim and Pamela Hill then provided background on the concept and construction of the proposed piece as well as the possible alternate piece. Underdown stated that he thought *Hophornbeam* didn't fit well in the space in front of the Library and stated that he hoped we had other choices. Tera also spoke out against *Eastern Hophornbeam*. Suhay expressed his disapproval of the color and the dissonance between it and the building.

Motion: To deny approval of the proposed loan of *Eastern Hophornbeam*.

1st Pisano

2nd Suhay

Further discussion ensued. Underdown and Aidenbaum expressed the desire for more time to consider, now that they had a greater understanding of the pieces. Koschik expressed his reasons for not liking *Eastern Hophornbeam* in this particular setting. In general, staff preferred *Stack* to *Hophornbeam*. Craft echoed similar sentiments. A member of the public asked about the cost of installation, maintenance etc. Campbell mentioned that insurance is covered by the Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield; he did not know the cost of installation but stated that the City does not cover the cost of installation. Hill stated that the installation cost could be worked out collaboratively, if necessary. Koschik gave a little background on the City-Library tenant-landlord relationship and noted that the Library has never spent money on outside art installations. The City has the right to do what it wishes with the exterior of the Library property and has ultimate responsibility for any required cost. Capone stated that she feels that *Hophornbeam* is not optimal for the site. Another member of the public agreed with Koschik and Capone that *Eastern Hophornbeam* was not the best choice for the site. In his view *Stack* looks more natural and has the added advantage of looking like a bunch of books. Mark mentioned that this sculpture had been vetted by the City and that the artist was responsible for the installation (page 20 of the December board packet). Campbell stated that this referred more to the process of installation and not the cost.

The motion was re-read and a vote was taken:

Yeas: Suhay, Tera, Underdown, Aidenbaum and Mark.

Nays: Pisano.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved by 5 to 1.



Motion: To postpone approval of the proposed loan of *Stack* until a thorough review has been conducted of suitable alternatives for the site.

1st
Pisan
o 2nd
Tera

Another motion was made to amend the prior motion by adding the following: and furthermore to instruct the Library Director to initiate discussions with the City of Birmingham on how to carry out such a review.

The complete amended motion for consideration was: To postpone approval of the proposed loan of *Stack* until a thorough review has been conducted of suitable alternatives for the site, and furthermore to instruct the Library Director to initiate discussions with the City of Birmingham on how to carry out such a review.

1st Pisano
2nd Tera

Yeas: Suhay, Pisano, Tera, Underdown, Aidenbaum and Mark. Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.









MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: March 16th, 2018

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED BY: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Library Sculpture Selection Committee

In fall 2017, the Hill Gallery removed the Dennis Oppenheim sculpture *Journey Home* from its location of nearly 5 years at the Baldwin Public Library's southwest lawn and sold it to the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. To replace the sculpture, the Gallery offered to loan *Eastern Hophornbeam*, which was ultimately denied by the Baldwin Public Library Board to keep the space open until a different sculpture they deem appropriate comes to their attention.

The Library Board expressed a desire to form a special committee that oversees the selection of a sculpture for this space. While the Library Board has the authority to recommend approval or rejection of proposed public art installations on its premises, it is the Public Arts Board's (PAB) primary role to exercise its expertise and objectivity to recommend public works of art to the City Commission.

On January 17th, 2018 the Public Art Board decided to create a sculpture selection committee composed of two Public Art Board members and two Library Board members. These committee members will serve as liaisons for their respective Board's for selecting a new sculpture for the vacant space at the library. The first meeting occurred Thursday March 15th, 2018.

The Library Board indicated that they are looking for a sculpture to fill the same spot as *Journey Home* and use the same pad. They would like it to be contextual in size and to compliment the building. They also indicated that at this moment, they would prefer to have the art piece be on loan for 2-5 years before considering a permanent or purchasing option. The Public Art Board members indicated they would create an open request for a sculpture and extend it to the local art community. They will then review the requests and present them to the Library Board.

Suggested Action:

The Public Arts Board create an informational document to provide to potential donors about the site at the library and the terms of the loan, and create an outreach strategy for contacting artists, galleries, and schools for a potential sculpture loan.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: March 16th, 2018

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED BY: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Marketing & Outreach

It has been expressed that the Public Arts Board would like to extend its outreach efforts in order to help fundraise and to create more interactive arts projects throughout the community. Items such as posters, t-shirts, and bookmarks that showcase art pieces throughout Birmingham could be sold for fundraising efforts as well as raise awareness for Public Arts Board projects.

The Public Arts Board has indicated it would like to be more involved with the various City departments to help advance artistic projects. Suggestions include working with the Parks and Recreation Department for a public piano that could be placed in a city park or on the sidewalk near areas with high foot traffic such as the Palladium or Birmingham 8 Theater. For example, the project "Play Me, I'm Yours" on streetpianos.com has placed more than 1,850 street pianos in 55 cities across the country. The City of Royal Oak, Michigan has placed six pianos throughout its downtown. Their art commission makes arrangements with business owners on where the pianos can be placed, generally in areas that are covered or have an awning. The pianos were all donated, and the Royal Oak Arts Commission is in charge of finding storage for the pianos in the winter.

Another project considered for public engagement with City departments is working with the Birmingham Shopping District to set up an informational booth and drawing easels at the Birmingham Farmer's Market. Marketing material could be passed out or sold at the booth, while people were given the opportunity to set up drawing easels. This project could be similar to Drawing in the Galleries on Friday nights at the DIA. Users could potentially set up along the Rouge River, throughout the Farmers Market, on North Old Woodward, or in Booth Park.

A third idea proposed is an art walk event potentially partnered with Birmingham Shopping District, local businesses and art galleries. Historically, art events have been held at the community house. The goal of the art walk event would be to create more interactive spaces with the local business community and having artists' artwork more spread out throughout downtown. Examples in other cities include Cincinnati Ohio's Over The Rhine Final Friday Art Walk, Denver Colorado's Santa Fe First Friday Art Walk, and Montauk Philadelphia's First Friday. In all cases, local galleries collaborate with local restaurants and businesses for an interactive downtown event. Please see websites listed below for more detailed examples.

- <http://finalfridayotr.com/> – Final Friday Over the Rhine, Cincinnati, Ohio
- <https://denversartdistrict.org/first-friday/> - First Friday Art Walk, Santa Fe Art District, Denver, CO.
- <https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/events/first-friday/> - First Friday Art Walk Manayunk, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Suggested Action

Prioritize outreach efforts and coordinate board members to create an implementation plan for prioritized outreach efforts.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: March 16th, 2018

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED BY: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Installation of *Windswept*

The City Commission approved Gary Kulak's loan of *Windswept* 6 to 1 on December 11, 2017. The sculpture will be installed at the circular concrete pad in Barnum Park for a term of 5 years. Staff has begun coordinating the sculpture placement with the artist who has stated he is planning to perform the installation early this year. While the Department of Public Services will have no involvement in this project, they have advised performing the installation during a week of consistently freezing temperatures in order to ensure the ground is firm enough to lessen the impact of a large boom truck driving through the park.

The Parks and Recreation Department was contacted on March 13, 2018 and they indicated that now is a good time for installation because the snow has cleared but the temperatures are still below freezing at night. Gary Kulak was emailed on March 13, 2018 and responded that he is out of town doing installations and is looking at a time after April 3rd.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: March 16th, 2018

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, Assistant City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Installation of *Sound Heart*

The City Commission approved Christina Heidrich's donation of the Jay Lefkowitz sculpture *Sound Heart* to the City on November 20th, 2017. The sculpture will be installed in Kroger's semicircular pedestrian plaza at the northeast corner of E. Maple and Woodward. Staff is currently coordinating the installation of the piece with Kroger who has stated that they are working on the architectural drawings for the foundation and are estimating that the installation will be performed in spring 2018.

Kroger was contacted on March 15th, 2018 and reported that they are waiting on plans from a structural engineer for plans on the base, and are also waiting on warmer weather for installation.

The City Commission has requested to see a plaque identifying the statue as being owned by the City of Birmingham as well as the artist, name of sculpture, and the donor. The Public Arts Board decided to wait on plaque installation at the January 17th, 2018 meeting until the city decided on a new logo.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: March 16th, 2018

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED BY: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Construction Art Contest

The Old Woodward Reconstruction Project in Birmingham's downtown is expected to begin March 26th, 2018. Barricades will be set up to separate pedestrian walkways from the construction zones. The Birmingham Shopping District is looking for local artists to collectively paint/decorate/enhance the barricades. Each space will be approximately 8' wide by 4' in height. The theme is "Pave the Way" and the art will be judged by a public jury. The winning artwork will be displayed in downtown Birmingham at the completion of the construction project. Artist may apply for the opportunity to paint up to three spaces. The Public Arts Board is encouraged to help spread the word about the construction art contest. More information can be found at http://www.allinbirmingham.com/visitors/construction_art_contest.php and the application form is attached below.



Birmingham Construction Art Contest

What: The Birmingham Shopping District (BSD) is looking for local artists to collectively paint/decorate/enhance the approximately 3,000 feet of barricades that will be erected during the Old Woodward Reconstruction Project. Winning art will be selected by public jury.

When: Painting will take place April 25th – May 11th. Judging will begin May 12th.

How: Artists will submit the application below by April 6th including three samples of their work.

Guidelines:

- The theme is "Pave the Way" which can be interpreted in many ways, at the discretion of the artist.
- Each space will be approximately 8' wide by 4' high.
- Artists are not limited to using paint, but artwork may not protrude more than 6-inches from the barricade and cannot be sharp/pointy or in any way dangerous to passers-by.
- All art must be weatherproof and will become the property of the BSD.
- Artists are asked to volunteer their time. They will not be paid for their work.
- Businesses located within the BSD are also eligible to participate in this event.
- Winning artwork will be displayed in downtown Birmingham at the completion of the construction project.
- Artists may apply for the opportunity to paint up to three areas.

Apply to become a Birmingham Construction Artist:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Please circle one: Student Enthusiast Professional BSD Business

Number of 8' areas requested (maximum of three) _____

If you are selected as an artist you will receive further details via email.

Please return this form along with examples of previous artwork by April 6th to:

Birmingham Shopping District
151 Martin St., Birmingham, MI 48009

or email to:

info@ALLINBirmingham.com

For more information call the Birmingham Shopping District at 248-530-1200



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: March 16th, 2018

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED BY: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Social Media Account

The Public Arts Board has expressed interest in having a social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram. The intent of these accounts would be to promote the City's art program and Public Arts Board on a broader scale. They would be used to make announcements about various projects, installations, and events that are underway or scheduled to take place. Doing so could help attract potential volunteers, sponsors, and applicants for public art loans and donations. The City of Birmingham has a new Communications Director who monitors all social media outreach from the City, and only City staff members will have access to post on these sites. The Public Arts Board social media strategy must be approved by the Communications Director and the City Manager in order to put into implementation.

Suggested Action

The Public Art Board create a social media strategy to submit to the Communications Director and City Manager.