



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, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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](http://www.bhamgov.org).

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

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### 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 – November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- C. New Business
  - 1. Public Arts Board Annual Report**
- D. Unfinished Business
  - 1. 2020 Action List**
  - 2. Terminating Vistas**
- E. Communication
  - 1. Piano has been removed**
  - 2. Michigan Spring**
- F. January Agenda Items
- G. Public Comments
- H. Adjournment

### **Upcoming PAB Meeting: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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**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 Minutes DRAFT**

**Rooms 202 & 203 Birmingham City Hall – November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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### **A. Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Linda Wells, Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Jason Eddleston, Anne Ritchie

**Members Absent:** Natalie Bishae,

**Administration:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner

### **B. Approval of Minutes – October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Motion to approve minutes made by Linda Wells, seconded by Monica Neville

**Yeas: 5                Nays: 0**

The motion carried.

### **C. Unfinished Business**

The Board discussed prioritizing Terminating Vistas for sculptures and updating the pre-approved site map for sculptures. It was brought to their attention that the sidewalk plans for repaving Maple Road indicated a sculpture site at the intersection of Maple and Henrietta. There was consensus from the PAB that this site should be made a priority. It was also brought to their attention the a previously approved location as a priority at Peabody and Maple was going to be modified in a way that reduced the amount of space where a sculpture could be placed. It was determined that the PAB would keep it as priority and see how much space was available after construction. The Board values the intersection of Peabody and Maple because of the adjacent building and its location as an entrance to Birmingham.

The Public Arts Board also discussed updating the map of pre-qualified public art site locations to include their prioritized terminating vista locations. It was determined that the terminating vista locations would have a high priority, but they did not want to place a high weight on ranking each site. They would rather evaluate available art pieces within the context of how it would fit into each site.

The installation of Michigan Spring at the Library was discussed by the PAB. The Board has previously indicated that they would like the sculpture to be put on a pedestal two feet in height. Some of the complications in doing so were brought to the Board. These complications included finding someone to design the pedestal, install the pedestal, and have the funds approved to do so. Another potential issue is the aesthetics of a box that has dimensions of 5 feet wide, 3 feet long, and 2 feet in height in front of the Library could appear bulky and cumbersome.

Without a pedestal the PAB was concerned that the base of the sculpture may be scratched by a lawnmower or weed wacker. One suggestion was to surround the sculpture base with rocks to provide a greater buffer. The rocks could surround the base in a circular manner in order to match the flow of the sculpture.

Anne Ritchie motioned to recommend that a circle of rocks extending 1.5 feet from the base pad be installed surrounding *Michigan Spring*, that the rocks be constrained by a landscape barrier edging, and that small rocks used in landscaping throughout the city such as the area by the skatepark be used. Monica Neville seconded the motion.

**Yeas: 5                      Nays: 0**

The motion carried.

The Public Art Board discussed 2019 accomplishments and 2020 goals to go into the annual report which is submitted to City Commission. The Board reflected on what went well in 2019 and what they believed they could replicate in 2020. There was general consensus that they should do Piano in the Park again and that four Farmers Markets was reasonable considering everyone's summer schedule. For a new project, the Board wants to provide a sculpture tour when the weather is nice, sometime late August or early September.

The Board agreed that in 2020, they would like professional design services to assist with an informational pamphlet about the city's sculptures. They also wanted to work on ways to streamline the sculpture installation process, and provide more incentives for artists to loan and/or donate work to the city. This information would all be included in an annual report for the Board to review at the next meeting.

### **Communication**

A new version of the sculpture map was placed on the website where viewers can click on the sculpture site and have an image with artist and title pop up. The Board wanted the PDF version to remain as well. City Commission approved the purchase of Chris Yockey's "The Counselor" at the October 28, 2019 Commission meeting. The Eastern Hophornbeam has been installed in Booth Park, and the piano has to be removed before December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **Comments**

#### **D. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



## MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

**DATE:** December 13, 2019  
**TO:** Joe Valentine, City Manager  
**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner  
**APPROVED BY:** Jana Ecker, Planning Director  
**SUBJECT:** Public Arts Board Annual Report

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In accordance with the City ordinance establishing the Public Arts Board, an annual report is to be prepared and submitted to the City Commission to advise as to the Board's activities. The following is the relevant language from the ordinance.

**Excerpt from Ordinance 1773, Section 78-110 Duties**

*The Public Arts Board shall prepare an annual report of its activities, accomplishments and a description of how the Public Arts Board has attempted to achieve its objectives. (See section 78-109). This report shall be presented to the City Commission.*

The Public Arts Board reviewed the attached report at its December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting and voted to approve and submit the report to the City Commission.

## THE 2019 PUBLIC ARTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

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With the adoption of ordinance 1773 by the City Commission in December of 2001, the Birmingham Public Arts Board was established to provide a level of expertise and objectivity to recommend to the City Commission works of art to become the property of or for display upon property owned by the City of Birmingham. Pursuant to section 78-110 of ordinance 1773, an annual report is to be prepared and submitted to the City Commission outlining the board's activities, accomplishments and a description of how the Public Arts Board has attempted to achieve its objectives. This report outlines the Board's activities over the previous 12 months. This report is separated into two distinct parts: 1) Accomplishments and 2) Goals. The Accomplishments section cites in narrative form the activities conducted by the Public Arts Board over the past year.

The Goals section lists the items the board plans to pursue for the upcoming year in order to fulfill their objectives.

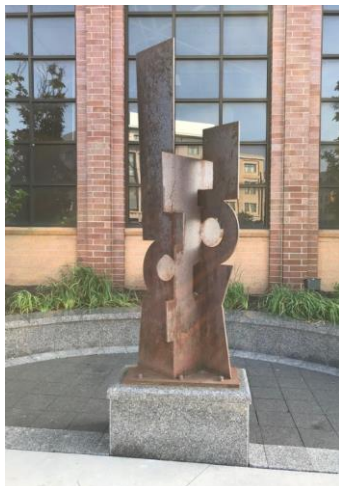
### Current Public Arts Board Members

Barbara Heller – Chairperson  
Linda Wells – Vice Chairperson  
Jason Eddleston  
Monica Neville  
Anne Ritchie  
Natalie Bishai – Alternate

### Accomplishments

#### **Sculpture Installations: *Sound Heart* by Jay Lefkowitz and *Eastern Hophornbeam* by Robert Lobe**

*Sound Heart* was donated to the City in 2015 and the Public Arts Board decided upon the Kroger Plaza at Woodward and Maple for installation. Kroger installed the sculpture piece this past January. The *Eastern Hophornbeam* by Robert Lobe was installed in Booth Park in November. The sculpture is on loan from Robert Lobe and the Tim Hill Gallery



**Donated Sculpture:**

*Michigan Spring* by James Miller-Melburg was donated to the City by the family of the artist in December of 2018. The Public Arts Board and Library Board found this piece to be suitable for the southwest corner of the Library lawn where *Journey Home* by Dennis Oppenheimer used to be located. The artist has passed away, and the Public Arts Board has spent 2019 working on coordinating a sculpture mount and installation process for the piece.

**City Owned Sculpture:**

Chris Yockey's "The Counselor" was a part of the Art in Public Spaces sculpture on loan program from 2008. It is located on the exterior wall of N. Old Woodward parking structure facing the N. Old Woodward Road. The City agreed to purchase the sculpture in October 2019 and make it a permanent fixture in Birmingham.





**Interactive Art:**

The Public Arts Board indicated an interest in doing more interactive art projects throughout the city for 2019. One such project included Piano in the Park where the Board would find a free piano, host a public painting event, and then have it placed in Shain Park for anyone to play. The painting event was held in the parking lot of St. James Church which provided useful respite from the rain. The piano was also placed on industrial grade, lockable wheels so that DPS could move it out of the way in case of another event. Feedback was consistently positive and there were numerous patrons of the piano playing a variety of sounds and songs.

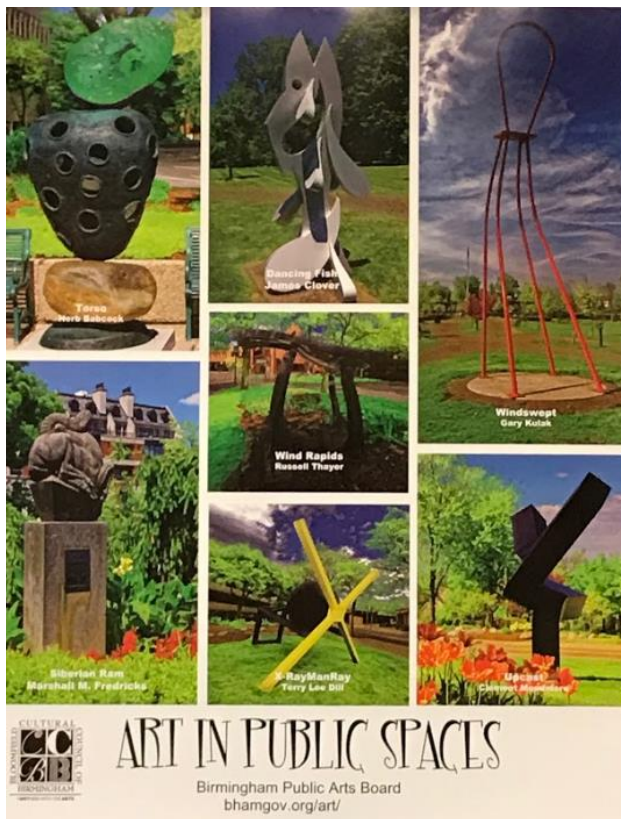


The Public Arts Board had two student representatives from Seaholm High School in 2018 and 2019. The students wanted to incorporate musical performances with an art event and came up with Art in the Alley. The event was to be held in Willits Alley with multiple singers and bands performing while Seaholm art students displayed their work on easels and walls. Student volunteers were also planning to host an arts and crafts station for kids to make pinwheels, do coloring, and have their faces painted. Unfortunately the event was moved indoors due to rain, but the student representatives gained valuable experience in event management and coordinating with government departments, local businesses, and high school organizations.





To go along with more interactive projects with the city, the Public Arts Board volunteered on four weekends of the Farmers Market throughout the summer. The Board had posters created that included a collage of sculpture photos taken by Carroll Deweese. These posters were handed out along with maps and informational pamphlets about the city's sculptures. Volunteers from the Board also provided arts and crafts opportunities such as coloring books and crafting pinwheels. Over 100 pinwheels were made over the summer.





The Public Arts Board helped coordinate another successful Birmingham in Stitches event in Shain Park. The granite balls in Shain Park were decorated with various creative yarn designs.



### **Art in Public Spaces:**

The Public Arts Board coordinates with Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Council with Art in Public Spaces and the City's sculpture on loan program. One of the difficulties this program faces is the installation process for the sculptures and having an acceptable base pad. The Public Arts Board was able to work with the Engineering Department's concrete sidewalk program this year and have three 6'x6' concrete pads installed to be used for sculptures on loan. The locations include Booth Park, Poppleton Park, and Linden Park.

### **Terminating Vista Planning**

The Public Arts Board was asked to consider placing a sculpture on top of the electrical box at the intersection of Merrill and S. Old Woodward. There was consensus from the Public Arts Board that this was not a good site for a sculpture, although they would like to paint the electrical box with a creative design. They wanted a design that was thematic with the surroundings and added some flavor to downtown; something that would really pop. The Board decided on a popcorn box design and board member Anne Ritchie and her husband John Ritchie volunteered to paint it. The Project has received great feedback from the public.

The Public Arts Board has also been studying how other electrical boxes in downtown could be designed, as well as how terminating vistas could be enhanced through the use of public art.



## 2020 Goals

The Public Arts Board would like to replicate some of their successes from 2019 such as Piano in the Park and volunteering at the Birmingham Farmers Market. Their goal for 2020 is to have another piano painting event and to have the piano placed beneath the bandstand in Shain Park once again. They would also like to volunteer at four farmers markets while offering arts and crafts activities and providing sculpture posters and pamphlets. In regards to informational pamphlets, the Board would like to contract out to a professional designer to put a professional pamphlet together about sculptures throughout Birmingham.

Another interactive project the Public Arts Board would like to take on in 2020 is providing a sculpture tour. This would involve walking from site to site and detailed explanations of the artist and the context of each sculpture.

The Public Arts Board would like to finish its report on ways to enhance terminating vistas in 2020. This report would include design suggestion for electrical boxes on the southwest corner of Merrill and S. Old Woodward and the west sidewalk at N. Old Woodward and Hamilton.

The Public Arts Board would like to expand their online social media presence in 2020. Their goal is to coordinate with the Birmingham communications liason at least once a month and have an informational post on the City's social media about a sculpture or Public Arts Board event.

In regards to sculptures, the Public Arts Board would like to do a call for entries to recruit three to five new sculptures on loan. The Public Arts Board has prioritized their preferences for sculpture locations, but will consider the context of each sculpture in relation to the location on a case-by-case basis. The call for entry will include using online social media through the City, as well as sending information to various art programs.

In order to streamline the sculpture installation process, the Public Arts Board would like to adopt a formal policy for the installation of the sculpture and footing. Every sculpture has unique details for installation that requires a certain level of expertise. The Public Arts Board would like coordinate with a professional mount fabricator for third party review in order to ensure each sculpture is installed in a safe and efficient manner. Art institutions such as the DIA and Cranbrook employ these professionals and the Public Arts Board would like to reach out to them to consult on project installations. The Public Arts Board would also like to secure \$500 to \$1000 of funding to assist each artist with installation for costs such as transportation, mount fabrication, and installation fees. Providing funding would help incentivize sculptures on loan and contribute to a more vibrant art scene throughout Birmingham.



## MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

**DATE:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner

**APPROVED:** Jana Ecker, Planning Director

**SUBJECT:** 2020 Agenda Items

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The Public Arts Board planned multiple events for 2019 and carried through on a number of their goals. These plans included:

- Art in the Alley
- Piano in the Park
- Popcorn Electrical Box
- Birmingham in Stitches
- 4x Sculpture Pad installations
- 4x Farmers Markets
- 2x Sculpture Installations (Eastern Hophornbeam & Sound Heart)
- Updated map placed on website

On November 20<sup>th</sup> the Public Arts Board discussed goals for the upcoming year to be included in the annual report. The next step is to prioritize these goals and create an action list so that the agenda items are provided in an efficient manner and can be agreed upon each meeting. The Action List may be updated throughout the year depending on projects and issues that arise. The Public Arts Board may wish to discuss which items should be prioritized, and what could be added to the list.

2020 Action List		
Priority	Item	Completion Goal
	Terminating Vistas	
	Sculpture Installation Policy	
	Electrical Box Designs	
	Sculpture Call for Entry	
	Piano in the Park	
	Farmers Market	
	Sculpture Tour	
	Birmingham in Stitches	
	Social Media Post	Monthly





## MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

**DATE:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner

**APPROVED:** Jana Ecker, Planning Director

**SUBJECT:** Terminating Vistas

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The Public Arts Board has been directed to examine possible ways to enhance the City's Terminating Vistas through the use of public art. Birmingham's Downtown Overlay Plan identifies multiple intersections as Terminating Vistas where Section 3.04(E)(15) of the Zoning Ordinance states:

Any building that terminates a view, as designated on the Regulating Plan, shall provide distinct and prominent architectural features of enhanced character and visibility, which reflect the importance of the building's location and create a positive visual landmark.

Photos of Terminating Vistas are provided below. As of now, an electrical box has been painted as a popcorn box at S. Old Woodward and Merrill, while it has been recommended that the electrical box at Oakland and N. Old Woodward be painted as a crayon box while the box on Merrill in front of Chase Bank be painted as a Game Boy. Meanwhile, the Terminating Vista site at S. Old Woodward and Woodward has a vacant sculpture pad since Mark DiSuvero's Choopy was removed in July of 2019. It is also of note that the intersections with designated Terminating Vistas of Willits and N. Old Woodward has the sculpture *Torso* by Herb Babcock, and *LOL* by Kirk Newman is placed at Maple and Peabody.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, The Public Arts Board reviewed photos of the Terminating Vistas and Determined that the ones they want to prioritize for sculptures are number 1,2,9,16, and 17.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the PAB reviewed designs for repaving of Maple Rd. The Terminating Vista at Maple at Henrietta (#3) will have design elements meant for an art sculpture. The Public Arts Board agreed to make this location a priority for a sculpture as well. The priority sites for terminating Vistas (Organized by numbers in the photos attached) are as follows:

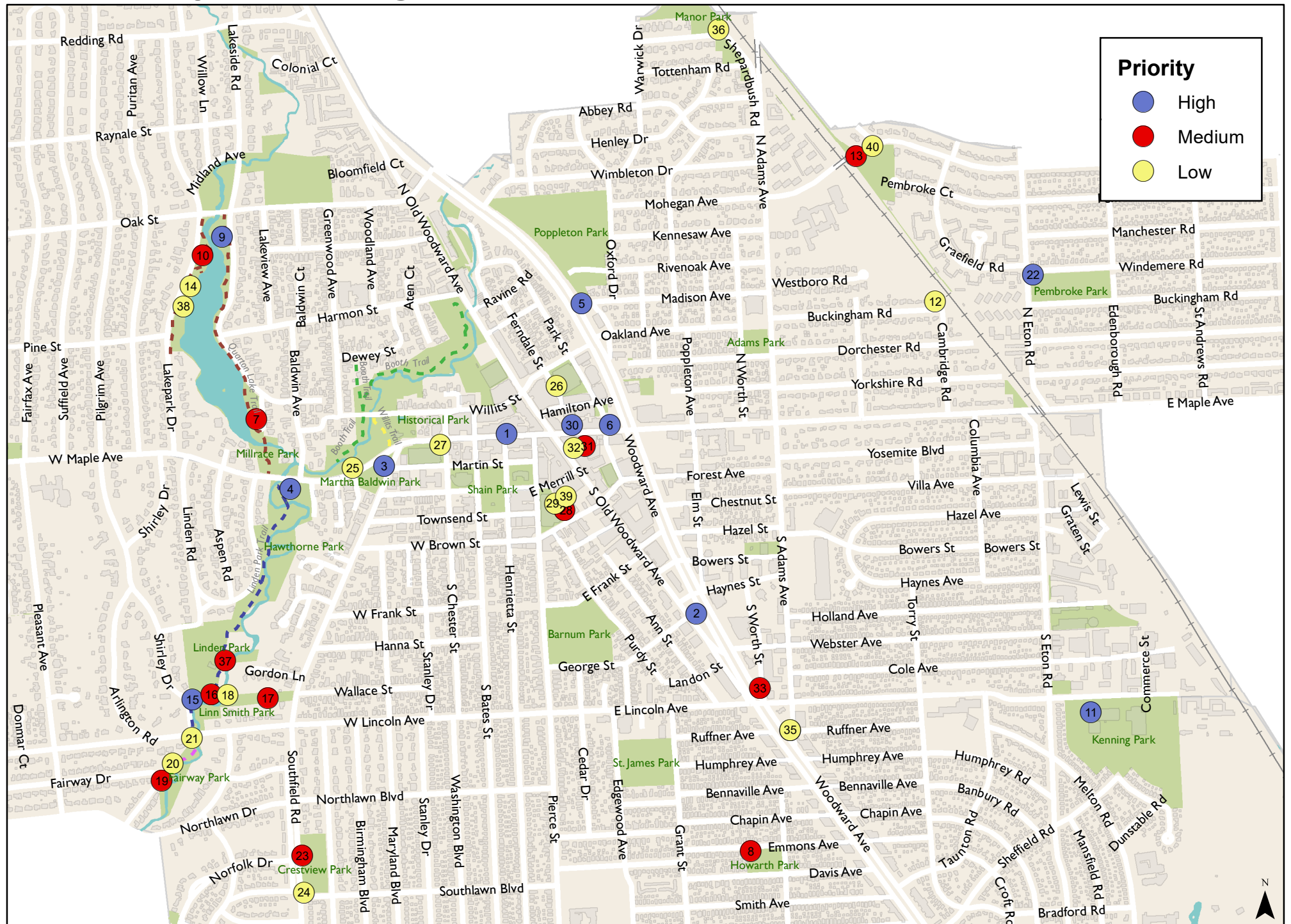
- 1.) Chester and Willits
- 2.) Bates and Willits
- 3.) Maple and Henrietta
- 16.) S. Old Woodward and Bowers
- 17.) S. Old Woodward and Woodward
- 9.) Maple and Peabody (depending on layout after Maple Rd construction)

Although the above sites were selected as priorities, there was consensus that the PAB did not want to place too much hierarchy in the priority of sites because they believe each site should be evaluated within the context of each art piece provided.

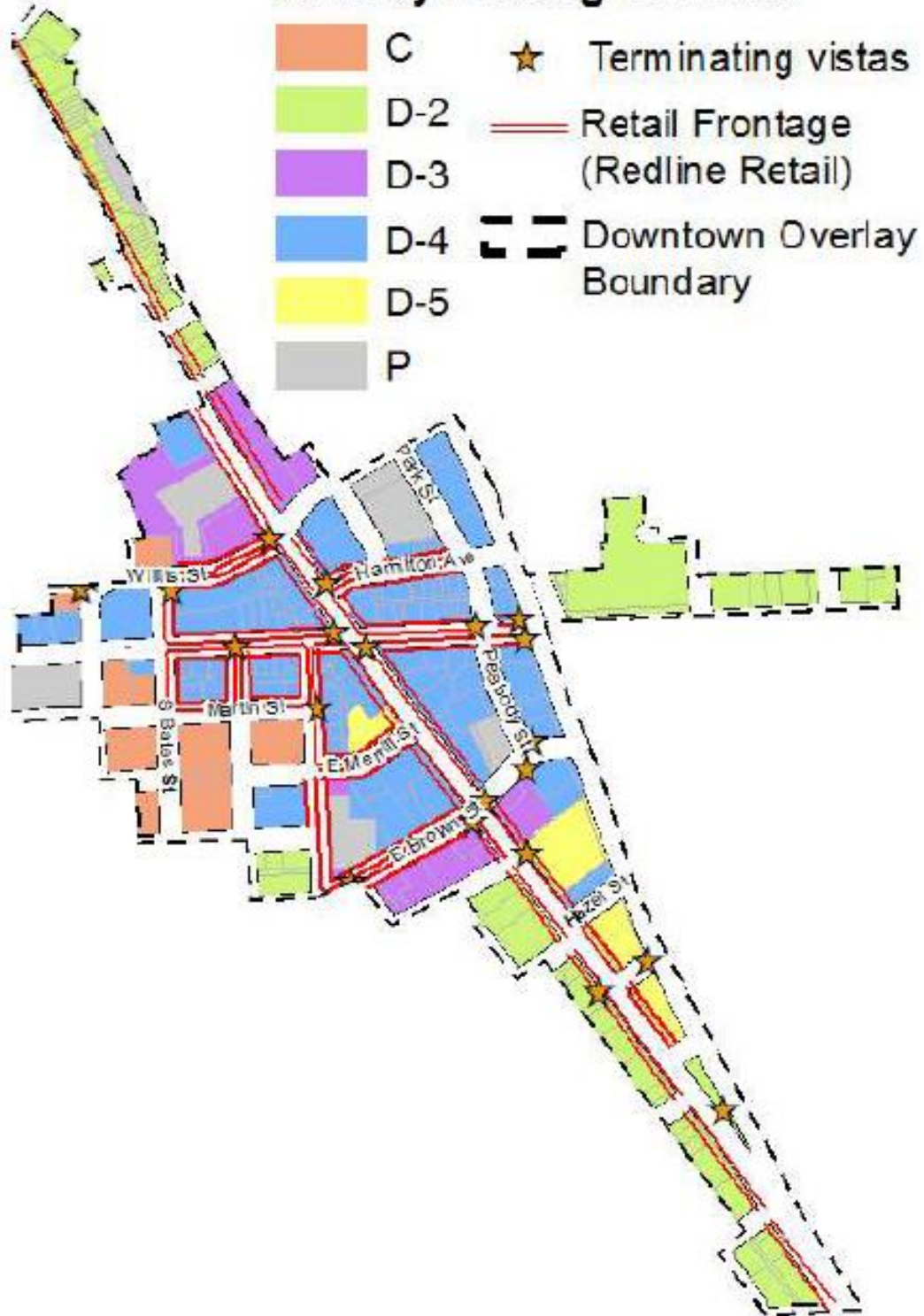
The PAB has previously approved a map of pre-approved sculpture locations throughout the city which highlights the location's priority as either high, medium, or low. The prioritized Terminating Vista locations have been added to this map and have all been prioritized as "High".

Now that the Public Arts Board has prioritized Terminating Vista locations, the Board may wish to discuss other design elements that could possibly be used to enhance these locations.

# City of Birmingham - Pre-qualified Public Art Site Locations



## Overlay Zoning Districts





1.) Chester & Willits:



2.) Bates & Willits:



3.) Maple & Henrietta:



4.) Martin & Pierce





5.) Old Woodward & Maple (NW Corner)



6.) Old Woodward & Maple (SE Corner)



7.) Hamilton and N. Old Woodward



8.) Willits & N. Old Woodward





9.) Park & Maple



10.) Maple and Woodward



11.) Peabody & Brown (South)



12.) Peabody & Brown (North)





13.) S. Old Woodward & Brown



14.) S. Old Woodward & Daines



15.) S. Old Woodward & Bowers (West Side)



16.) S. Old Woodward & Bowers (East Side)





17.) S. Old Woodward & Woodward





## **MEMORANDUM**

**Planning Division**

**DATE:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner

**APPROVED:** Jana Ecker, Planning Director

**SUBJECT:** Communications

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1. The Piano in Shain Park has been removed
2. Staff are coordinating with DPS and a mount fabricator on next steps for sculpture installation