



151 Martin St., Birmingham, MI 48009

248-530-1800

VIRTUAL MEETING - PUBLIC ARTS BOARD

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19th, 2020

6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/94395196392> (Click on Blue Link)

Or dial 1 312 626 6799, MEETING CODE 943 9519 6392

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 – July 15th, 2020
- C. Unfinished Business
 - 1. Terminating Vista Report**
 - 2. Call for Entry for Sculptures**
- D. New Business
 - 1. Sculpture Donation**
- E. Communication
 - 1. Laurie Tennent Art Installation Approved**
- F. Public Comments
- G. Adjournment

Upcoming PAB Meeting: September 16th, 2020

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

Public Meeting on Zoom – July 15th, 2020

A. Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: Natalie Bishae

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

Members of the Public: Kathy Walgren

B. Approval of Minutes – June 17th, 2020

Motion to approve minutes by Anne Ritchie, seconded by Jason Eddleston.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The Board reviewed the most recent draft of their report on Terminating Vistas. Barbara Heller had a few spelling corrections to make, but otherwise felt that the report covered what the Board thought was relevant to the subject sites. A new page including final recommendations and implementation recommendations had been added as a request from the previous meeting. The Board discussed whether to put the recommendations and implementation steps in the beginning of the report or the end. City staff mentioned that in general, public policy documents such as corridor plans and master plans for the City of Birmingham have final recommendations and implementation plans at the end of the report, following the content that includes issues and best practices. The Board eventually concluded to keep this section in the end.

The Public Arts Board felt they were ready to present their draft report to City Commission for feedback and were open to having it reviewed by any other relevant Board as well.

D. New Business

No new business

E. Communication

Barbara Heller indicated that she will be leading a tour of Birmingham sculptures for the Detroit Artist Market on July 18th, 2020 from 2-4pm. She requested that staff provide her with multiple Art in Public Spaces posters and sculpture tour brochures created earlier this spring.

F. Comments

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

DRAFT



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: August 19th, 2020

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Terminating Vistas

On May 22, 2019, The Public Arts Board proposed a popcorn box design to City Commission for the electrical box on S. Old Woodward in front of the Birmingham 8 Theater. The City Commission approved the electrical box design and also directed the Public Arts Board to examine possible ways to enhance the City's Terminating Vistas through the use of public art in other parts of the City. 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 all Terminating Vistas in Birmingham as designated on the Regulating Plan were provided for review by the Public Arts Board as directed by City Commission. On October 16th, 2019, the Public Arts Board reviewed photos of the Terminating Vistas and determined that their top five priorities for sculptures are Chester & Willits, Bates & Willits, Park & Maple, S. Old Woodward & Bowers, and S. Old Woodward & Woodward. On November 20th, 2019, the PAB reviewed designs for the repaving of Maple Road. 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.

On April 15th, 2020, The Public Arts Board had come to a general consensus on recommendations for ways to use public art to enhance the City's Terminating Vistas, as well as City policies that could be amended to further the use of public art throughout downtown. Along with these recommendations was a proposal to paint the electrical box at N. Old Woodward and Hamilton Ave as a Crayon Box.

The crayon box painting was presented to City Commission on May 18th, 2020. The City Commission had various opinions on the design, but there was general consensus that they would like to postpone deciding on the crayon box until they had approved a Terminating Vista Report from the Public Arts Board. The City would like public art approvals in Terminating Vista to align with recommendations of the plan.

On May 20th, 2020, the Public Arts Board considered comments and questions from City Commission regarding Terminating Vistas and determined that they should address such issues in a more elaborate Terminating Vista Report. The Public Arts Board wanted to provide a more in depth explanation of possible public art that could be used and include more photos. Staff also noted they would include more thorough recommendations to provide more direction and guidance for decision making.

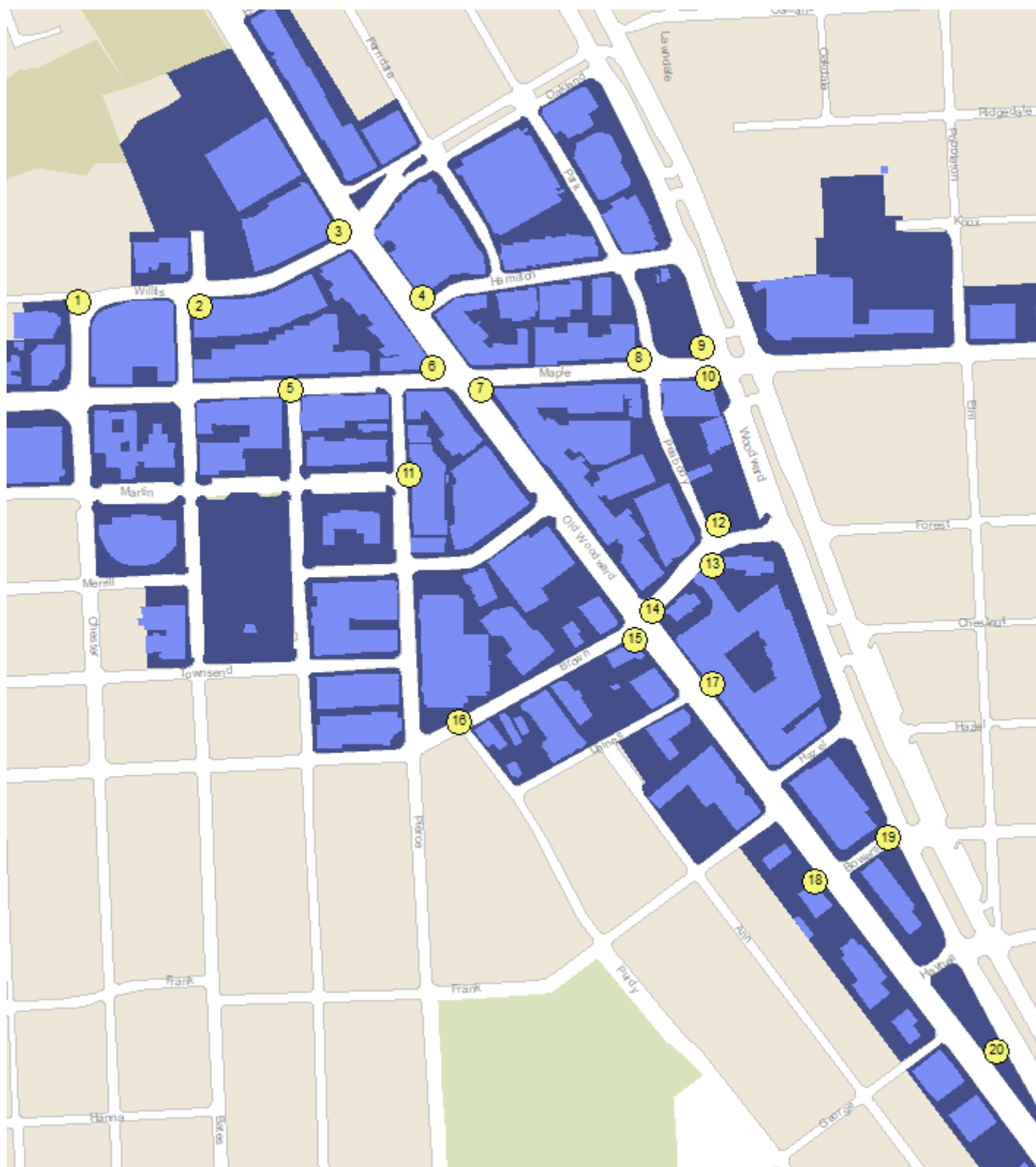
On June 17th, 2020, an updated rough draft for a Terminating Vista report was reviewed by the Public Arts Board. The report went into more depth regarding how sculptures, artistic furniture, artistic utilities, and wall art can interact with surrounding buildings and streetscape to enhance Terminating Vistas. The report included more photos of examples of such art, and how these mediums may improve public spaces. The report also included more in depth analysis of policies affecting public art in Birmingham, as well as recommendations to enhance public art in Terminating Vistas.

Upon review, the Board approved of the general direction the report was going but wanted to have it updated with more formal recommendation lists and implementation priorities. The Board agreed that a designated section on the end summarizing the final recommendations and implementation priorities would lead to a more efficient process of what to address next. Sections for Final Recommendations and Implementation Priorities have been added to the end of the report to summarize what was presented and provide guidelines for moving forward.

The Public Arts Board has been requested to discuss other prominent locations for design enhancements that are not designated as Terminating Vistas and to discuss landscaping as a design feature. New pages and paragraphs have been added to the report for the Public Arts Board to review.

Public Space Enhancements in Downtown Birmingham

A Report by the Birmingham Public Arts Board



August 14th, 2020

Report Summary

On May 22nd, 2019 The Birmingham Public Arts Board was directed by City Commission to evaluate ways to enhance Terminating Vistas in Birmingham's downtown through the use of Public Art.

The concept of Terminating Vistas having enhanced design features was first introduced to the City in the Downtown Birmingham 2016 Plan and the designated locations were approved as a part of the Downtown Overlay District in 1997.

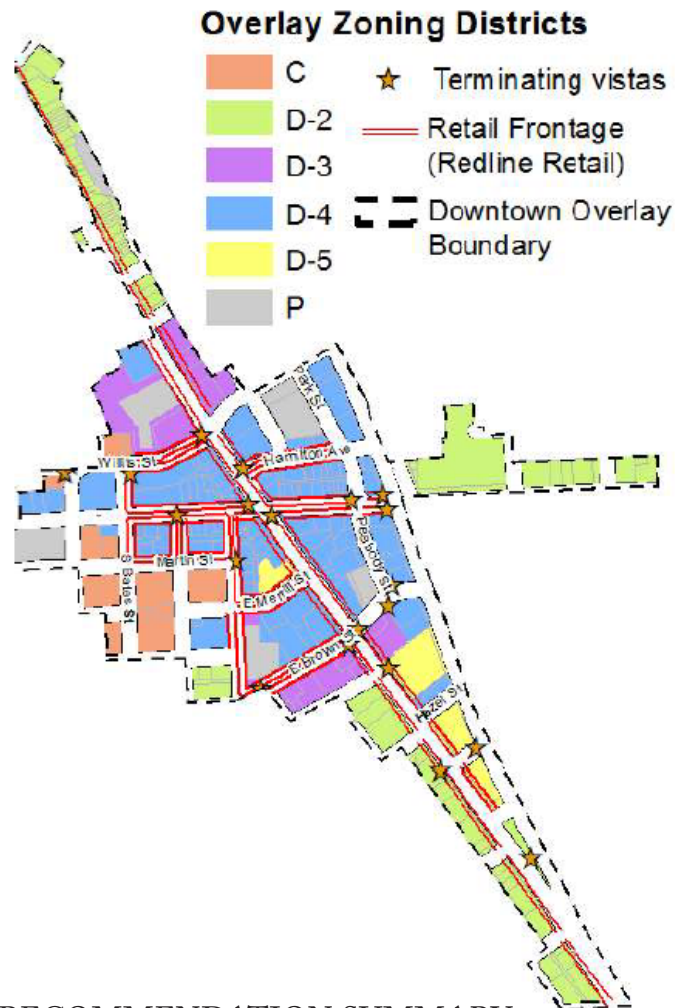
Terminated Vistas are defined in the Zoning Ordinance as *"a building or structure, or a portion thereof, as designated on the Regulating Plan, that terminates a view with architectural features of enhanced character and visibility"* (Section 9.02 Definitions).

Section 3.04(E)(15) of the Downtown Overlay Standards states that *"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."*

The Downtown Overlay Zoning Districts Map has designated 20 locations as Terminating Vistas. The Birmingham Public Arts Board used these locations as a guide to evaluate Terminating Vistas and make recommendations relative to ways in which public art may help enhance the City's Terminating Vistas. Recommendations for prominent intersections that could benefit from enhanced design features were also made.

The Public Arts Board evaluated various types of public art that could be placed in Terminating Vistas such as sculptures, furniture, artistic utilities, landscaping and murals. Current City policy affecting the review process and installation process was also considered and recommendations were made regarding City standard furniture, landscaping, utilities and signage policy.

Lastly, the Public Arts Board evaluated City policy impacting the installation process of public art and has provided policy recommendations to assist in the implementation of the public art recommendations.



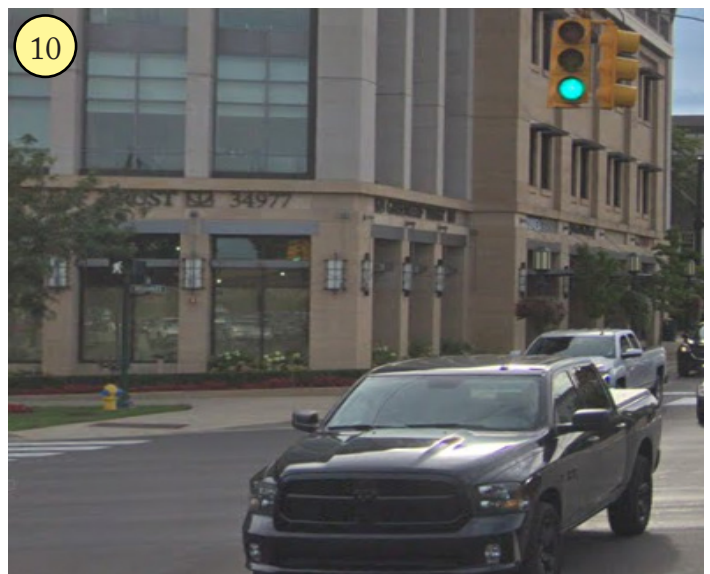
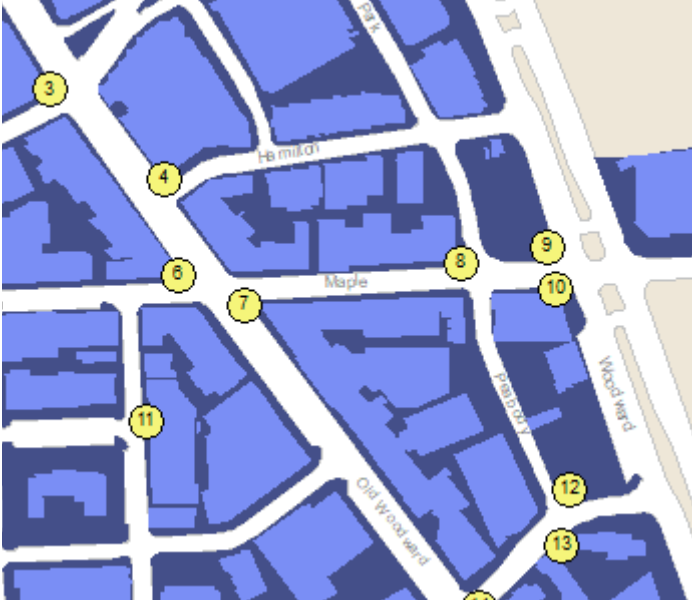
RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- 1.) Use public art such as sculptures, artistic furniture, artistic utilities, landscaping and wall art to enhance the City's Terminating Vistas.
- 2.) Revise the sculpture installation process to incentivize sculptures on loan and to make the installation process more efficient for artists and City staff.
- 3.) Revise City policy towards City-standard benches, light poles and utility boxes to permit an occasional artistic variation.
- 4.) Amend the sign ordinance and create a new design review policy to allow murals to be placed on the exterior of buildings.
- 5.) Create a public notification process for art in public spaces.

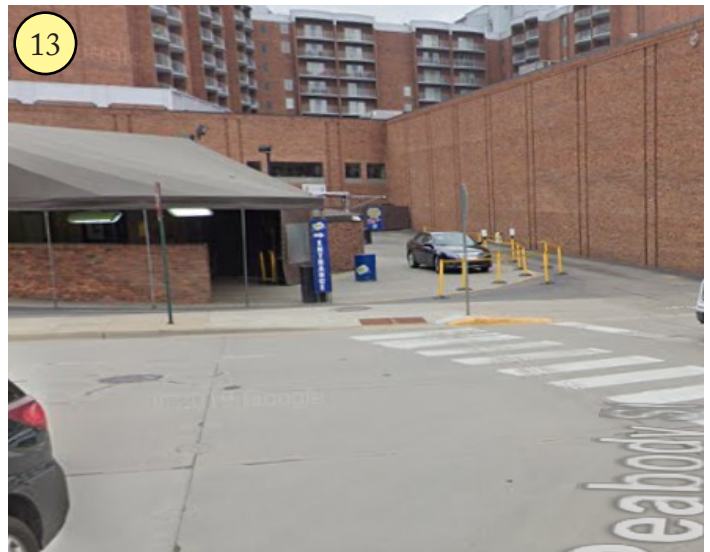
Terminating Vista Locations in Birmingham



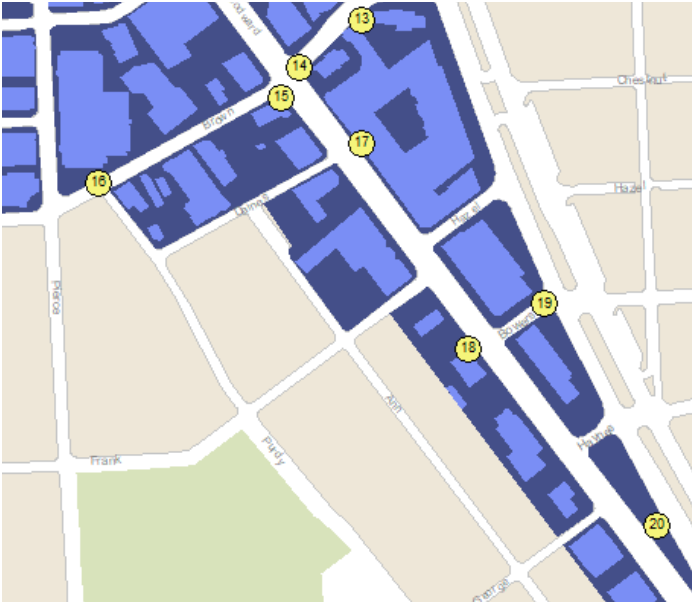
Terminating Vista Locations in Birmingham



Terminating Vista Locations in Birmingham



Terminating Vista Locations in Birmingham

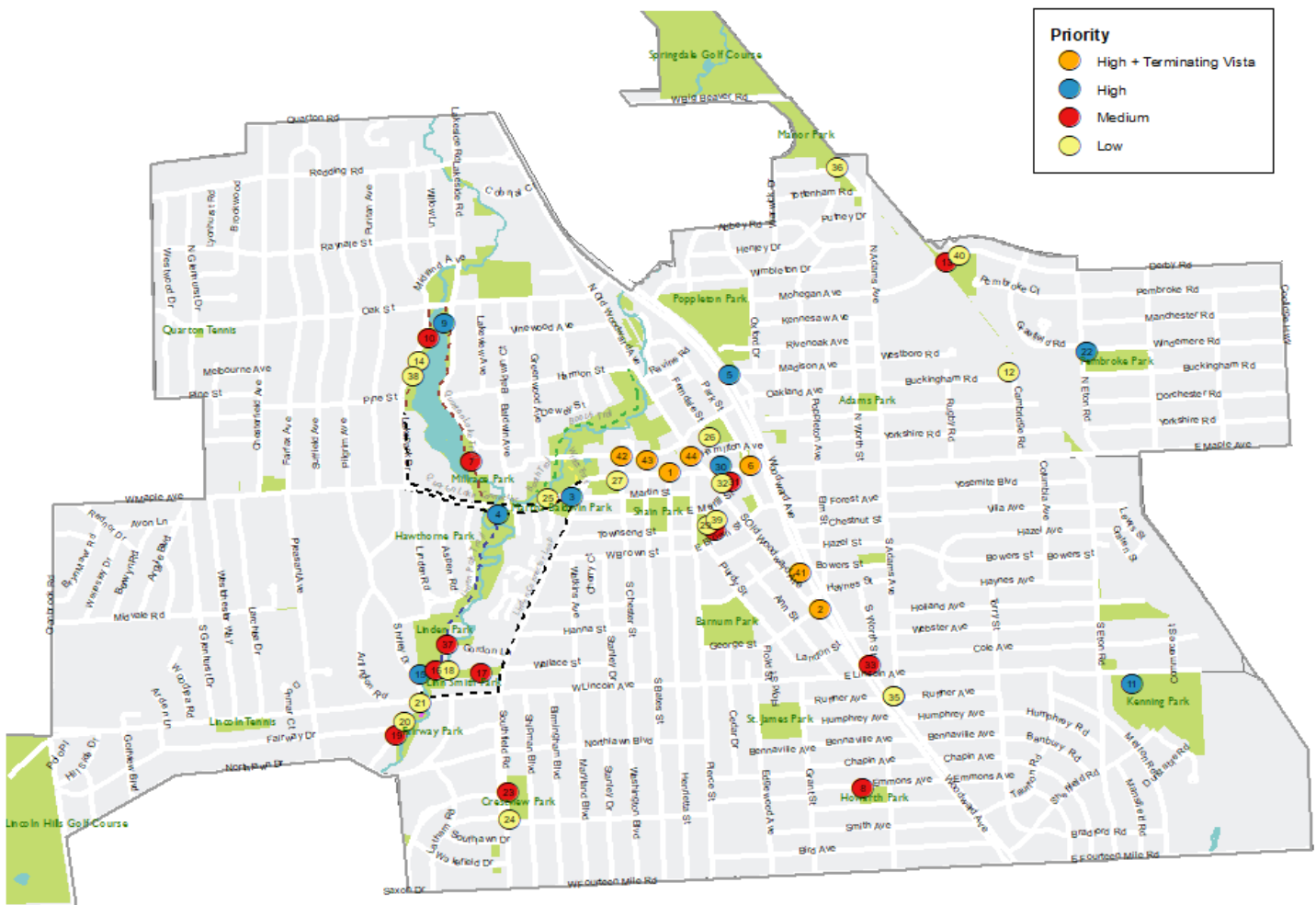


Prioritized Locations for Public Art

The Public Arts Board maintains a map of prioritized locations for public art. It is used as a reference whenever a sculpture for loan or donation is made to the City. Each point is numbered for reference, and the colors indicate areas with higher priority. The priorities are meant to serve as a guideline, though the Public Arts Board has indicated that each sculpture will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis so that it can be contextual with its surroundings.

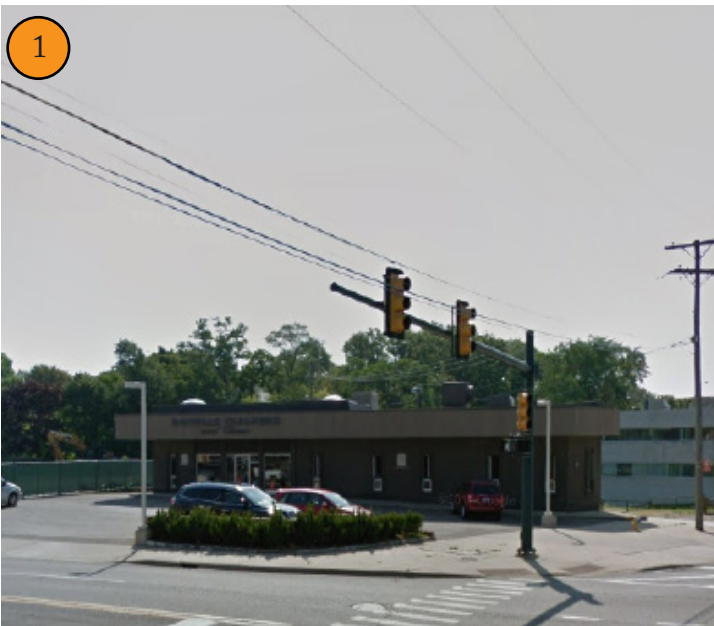
The Public Arts Board reviewed the various Terminating Vistas and selected seven of the locations to add to their priority map for sculptures. These locations include N. Old Woodward and Hamilton Row, Chester & Willits, Bates & Willits, Maple & Henrietta, Park & Maple, S. Old Woodward & Bowers, and S. Old Woodward & Woodward. The updated Prequalified Public Art Locations Map is pictured below where downtown Terminating Vistas were placed as a high priority.

City of Birmingham Prequalified Public Art Locations



Recommended Locations for Public Space Enhancements

Terminating Vista locations are determined by the Downtown Overlay zoning map, as specified in Section 3.04(E)(15) of the Zoning Ordinance. Upon evaluation, the Public Arts Board finds that there are other intersections throughout downtown Birmingham that merit enhanced architectural and streetscape design features to create a positive visual landmark for that intersection which are included in the orange locations in the adjacent map. If the City wishes to officially deem these locations as Terminating Vistas, the Zoning Ordinance would have to be reviewed by the Planning Board and amended by the City Commission.



Recommended Locations for Public Space Enhancements



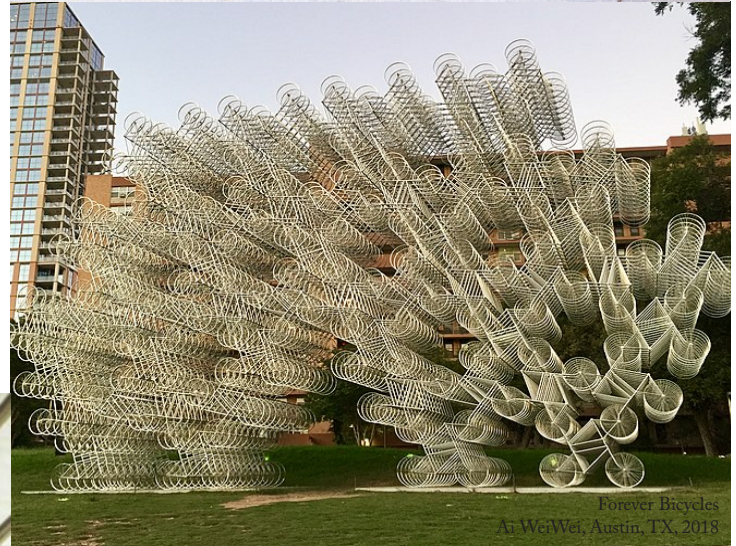
Best Practices in Public Art for Terminating Vistas: Sculptures

Sculptures are one way in which public art can be used to enhance the architectural features of a Terminating Vista. Doing so may effectively draw more attention and bring more prominence to the surrounding buildings. Birmingham currently has fifteen sculptures throughout the City that have either been purchased, donated or placed on loan, though only one is currently in a designated Terminating Vista which is located at the corner of Pierce and Brown Street.

Public sculptures have the ability to compliment the surrounding buildings and invigorate public spaces. The various colors and shapes of sculptures provide the ability for art to interact with the surrounding building and public right-of-way, potentially enhancing the connection between the two. Unique public art may create a stronger sense of place and identity for the building and intersection where it is placed in a Terminating Vista. Such sculptures may capture the eye of a passer-by, bring more attention to the civic environment and contribute to a greater sense of civic vitality.



Tembo, Mother of Elephants
Derrick Hudson, Toronto, ON, 2002



Forever Bicycles
Ai Weiwei, Austin, TX, 2018



I See What You Mean
Lawrence Argent, Denver, 2005



Flamingo
Alexander Calder, Chicago, IL, 1974

Best Practices in Public Art for Terminating Vistas: Artistic Furniture

Artistic furniture is another way public art can be used to enhance the character of a Terminating Vista. Doing so may accent the surrounding buildings while providing a unique public space for socializing or respite.

The City of Birmingham is a walkable city with pedestrian oriented design throughout its downtown and neighborhoods. Unique public furniture may invite a variety of uses that activate a Terminating Vista and promote social interaction. The shape and color of artistic furniture may also have an aesthetic contribution to the right-of-way and surrounding buildings. An artistic bench can be more inviting for a pedestrian to relax and enjoy a section of the City they may have otherwise walked past, and may provide an enhanced civic experience for leisure and appreciation of the surrounding cityscape. Artistic furniture can provide the opportunity to activate Terminating Vistas with people-oriented architectural streetscape design.



The Wave
dSPACE Studio, Chicago, IL, 2014



Circular Bench
Lucile Soufflet, Bruxelles, France 2003



Swirling Bench



Custom Curve Seats
University of Sydney, Australia



Bench of Expectations
Jeppe Hein, Springfield, MA 2018

Best Practices in Public Art for Terminating Vistas: Artistic Utilities

Artistic utilities may also enhance a space and bring more prominence to the surrounding buildings. Many cities, including Birmingham, Michigan have painted electrical boxes with an interesting design to add more character to a utility box placed in the right-of-way. Cities such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin have commissioned artists to paint numerous utility boxes throughout their downtown with a theme to be determined by the artist. There are other examples of cities having sculptors create artistic coverings for electrical boxes that are equipped with hinges and gates for access to interior controls. These coverings provide opportunities for other types of art to be placed on and around them to compliment the surrounding space and improve the aesthetics of public utilities.

Artistic lighting could also be used to enhance the pedestrian experience and illuminate architectural features in a Terminating Vista. Cities such as Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington have explored various solar powered lights and sculptures with an artistic design and ambient glow to create unique public spaces. A well placed artistic light can enhance the character of the area and create an interesting talking point while highlighting the surrounding buildings.



Best Practices in Public Art for Terminating Vistas: Wall Art

Outdoor wall art such as murals, mosaics, and ceramic tiling are another example of public art that can enhance a public space and the surrounding architectural features.

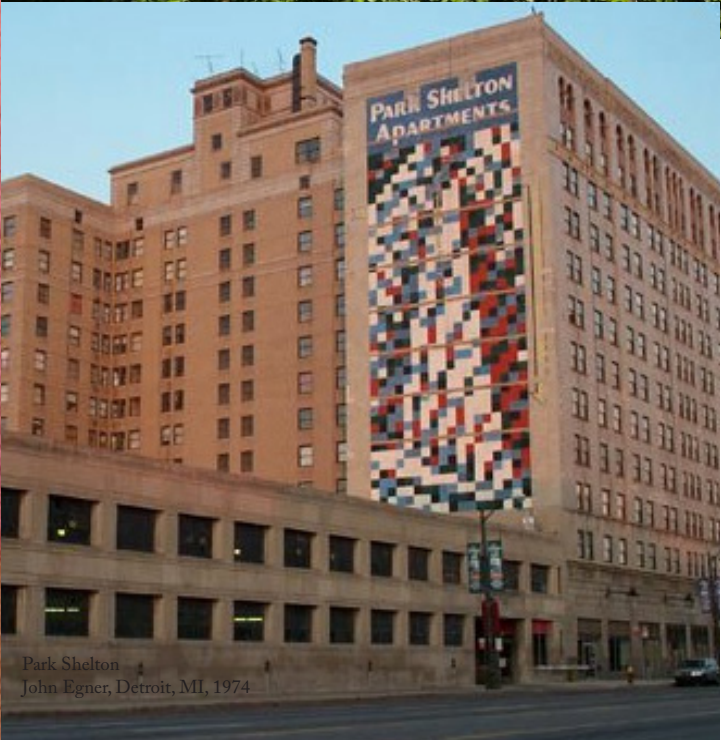
Wall art can be temporary or permanent. For local examples, The Park Shelton mural in Detroit, MI has been up since 1978, meanwhile Detroit's Eastern Market cycles through numerous murals every year.

Temporary murals can be done on materials such as plywood or canvas and be applied to the exterior of a building for a length of time and then be removed, thus maintaining the original design and color and the building. Mosaics and ceramic tiles can also be used to provide an interesting texture to the artistic experience.

The various forms of wall art can be especially effective in activating Terminating Vista spaces that have large sections of blank walls.



Tiger
Arlin Graff, Detroit, MI



Park Shelton
John Egner, Detroit, MI, 1974

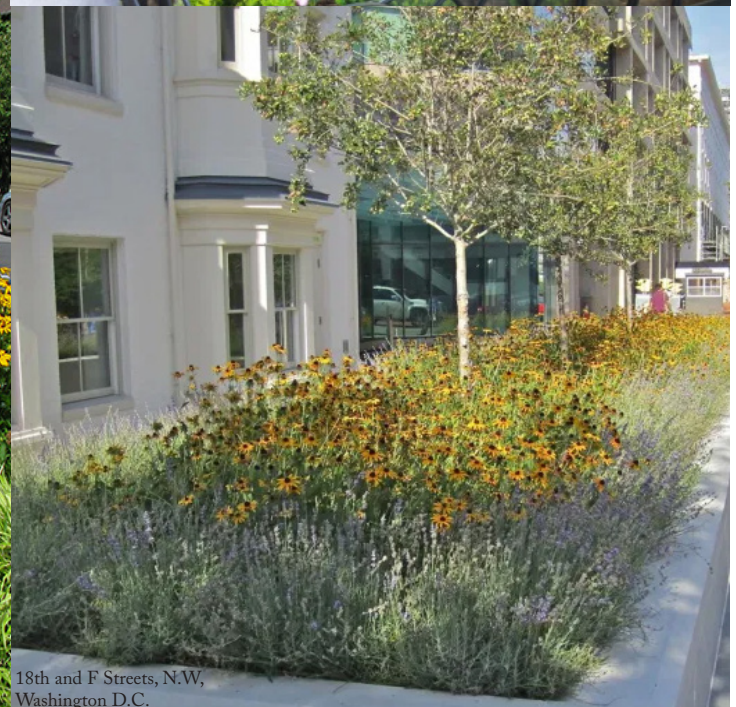


Aretha
Desiree Kelly, Detroit, MI

Best Practices in Public Art for Terminating Vistas: Landscaping

Integrating artistic landscaping with art and design can be another way to enhance Terminating Vistas. Birmingham has a number of green spaces and planters surrounding buildings at prominent intersections. An example is at Park and Maple where a community garden welcomes people into the downtown. This garden blends well with the Pazzi Building immediate behind it, and provided a natural landscaping to screen the electrical box located within it. Landscaping could be an effective medium to connect buildings, utilities, furniture and sculptures together into one cohesive artistic experience.

As another example, the City of Seattle allows property owners and tenants to garden in the planting strip in front of their property as long as a proper street use permit is obtained. Once obtained, the plantings may include low growing perennials, ornamental grasses, shrubs, herbs, or edible plants. Doing so could encourage more interesting variety in landscape design and create a unique space at prevalent intersections.



City Policy Related to Public Art in Terminating Vistas

SCULPTURES

Birmingham currently has sculptures on display that were either donated to the City, purchased by the City, or placed on loan to the City for a certain period of time. If the sculpture is donated and placed on public property, the City is responsible for installation and maintenance of the sculpture. If a sculpture is on loan, the loan agreement specifies that the artist is responsible for installation, maintenance and removal.

An issue with the current policy for sculpture installation is that each piece is unique and may require special care for installation. This includes but is not limited to how the sculpture is transported to the installation site, how to safely secure the sculpture to the location, how to create the necessary base and fabricate proper mounts. City staff may not have adequate experience to handle the installation process of various unique sculpture shapes and sizes. Requiring the artist to be responsible for all installation and removal processes may also create issues related to the artist operating machinery on City property.



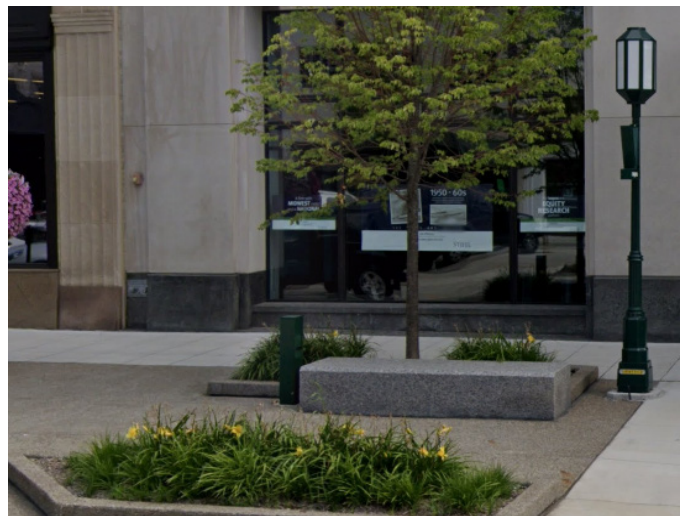
Local art museums such as the Detroit Institute of Arts and Cranbrook Museum have employees who specialize in the installation of sculptures. **The Public Arts Board recommends that the City of Birmingham consult with such specialists for installing sculptures that have been either donated or loaned to the City.** Doing so would enable a more efficient installation process in areas such as Terminating Vistas.



ARTISTIC FURNITURE

Downtown Birmingham has City-standard green metal benches installed along the sidewalks as well as granite benches that were a part of the downtown Old Woodward and Maple Reconstruction projects. This classic design for public furniture fits in with the surrounding streetscape and does not detract from the architectural style of downtown Birmingham.

The Public Arts Board recommends that Birmingham consider allowing more creative and artistic furniture that will contribute a positive design aesthetic to the character of the area. Doing so could enhance the pedestrian space in Terminating Vistas and be used to activate the public space and compliment the surrounding architecture. The City's current approach to streetscape furniture with City-standard benches should remain relatively consistent, but the Public Arts Board recommends that an occasional deviation from City-standard furniture in Terminating Vistas could create a unique pedestrian experience and enhance the character of the area.



City Policy Related to Public Art in Terminating Vistas

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Birmingham's streetscape contains electrical utility boxes and a number of light-poles in the right-of-way in Terminating Vistas. The City-standard light poles and electrical boxes are all painted Birmingham green, with the exception being the recent popcorn box art project at the intersection of Merrill and Old Woodward.

The Public Arts Board has considered a number of different ways to paint and decorate electrical boxes throughout downtown. Various themes were discussed, as well as whether or not the design should be contextual with the surrounding. It was determined that each box should be considered on a case-by-case basis and should not be directly tied to any theme or be required to be related to the surrounding use. **The Public Arts Board recommends the City be open to all types of artistic designs for electrical boxes.**

Sculptural enclosures for such utility boxes have also been considered by the Public Arts Board. **The Public Arts Board recommends that these be considered on a case-by-case situation as well, and not be tied to any theme or surrounding context.** Given the intended function of electrical boxes, any sculpture placed on or around the electrical box should provide easy access to the interior controls and should only be mounted on the ground. **The Public Arts Board does not recommend drilling holes or attaching public art directly to the electrical boxes in order to maintain the integrity of the box.**

The Public Arts Board also recommends that the City consider allowing unique designs in lighting that are in Terminating Vistas. Lighting can be used for either function or form to create a unique aesthetic from the shape of the lantern and the ambient glow of the light. An occasional artistic light pole to replace a city standard lamp in front of a Terminating Vista could enhance the interaction between the streetscape and surrounding buildings. City standard lights should remain relatively consistent, but the Public Arts Board recommends an occasional deviation in this pattern to allow for unique designs.



City Policy Related to Public Art in Terminating Vistas

WALL ART

Artistic paintings such as murals on the front, side or rear of buildings are not currently permitted in Birmingham. Such paintings are considered a sign and section 1.03(D) of the Sign Ordinance states that *“No sign may be painted directly onto any building or surface.”*

The Public Arts Board recommends that the City re-evaluate its policy towards wall art and create a design review process for such art work. There are several Terminating Vistas with large blank walls that the Public Arts Board believes would be ideal for murals, but current policy restricts the building owner from pursuing such design enhancements.

The 2020 Birmingham Plan Draft recommends implementing a mural policy in the Lower Rail District to extend and improve upon the area's current character, though the Public Arts Board recommends that such a policy be implemented throughout the entire City. A temporary mural program is also recommended where the painting could be placed on some type of material which is then attached to the building.

Murals could be another form of public art used to enhance Terminating Vistas throughout downtown. There are some Terminating Vistas that are more suitable than others and the Public Arts Board recommends that the review process engage the public for input so there is support on a community level.

In order to permit murals and various types of wall art, the Public Arts Board recommends that the City amend the Zoning Ordinance and Sign Ordinance to allow wall art and to define a proper review process by the necessary boards. This would also include creating a public notification process for public art in the municipal code.



City Policy Related to Public Art in Terminating Vistas

LANDSCAPING

The City of Birmingham is an excellent example for maintaining high quality landscaping throughout its streetscape in downtown. Well-maintained flower pots can be found hanging from the lamp posts while an array of plants can be found within the gardens along the sidewalks. The landscaping blends well with the surroundings and provides a complimentary aesthetic to the area.

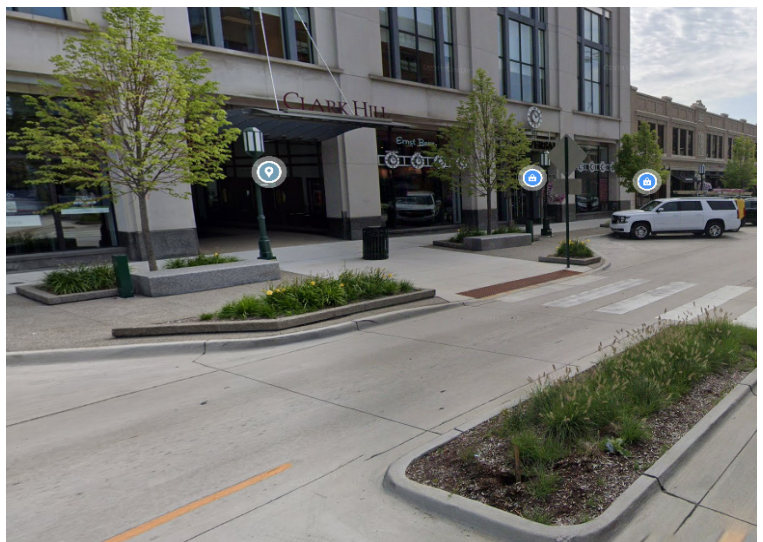
For instances when a public utility is placed within a planter box in a prominent intersection, the Public Arts Board recommends that special consideration for landscaping is made to help screen the utilities from view, especially in cases where no artistic design has been applied to the utility.

When a piece of art is placed within a planter box, the Public Arts Board recommends that special consideration also be made regarding the size and types of plantings surrounding the artwork in order to allow the aesthetics of the art, landscaping and surrounding buildings to work together in a complimentary manner.

The Public Arts Board also recommends the City consider allowing adjacent businesses in downtown design their own planter garden in front of their store. Proper permitting and design process would have to be created and implemented. Doing so could allow some unique designs regarding landscaping and how the plantings interact with the surroundings.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

At the moment, there are no formal requirements for public notification regarding proposals for sculptures, artistic furniture and artistic utilities. The item is posted on the Public Arts Board Agenda and City Commission Agenda, but notifications are not required to be sent to surrounding businesses and residents for public art projects. **In order to promote public input at the Public Arts Board and City Commission, the Public Arts Board recommends establishing a public notification policy for public art projects on City property.**



Recommendation and Implementation Priorities

Recommendation 1: Use public art such as sculptures, artistic furniture, artistic utilities, landscaping and wall art to enhance the City's Terminating Vistas

Implementation: Actively seek artists to provide various forms of artwork. Advertise in the art community for the type of art the City is seeking.

Recommendation 2: Revise the sculpture installation process to incentivize sculptures on loan and to make the installation process more efficient for artists and City staff.

Implementation: Establish an agreement with a professional sculpture installation specialist to consult and assist with sculpture installations in Birmingham. Amend the City's art on loan agreement to require approval of sculpture installation from installation consultant.

Recommendation 3: Revise City policy towards city-standard furniture and utilities to allow for an occasional artistic variation.

Implementation: Amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow an occasional deviation from city-standard benches and light poles where such items may be replaced by an artistically designed light or bench.

Recommendation 4: Create a new policy and review process to allow murals and other various forms of wall art to be placed on the exterior of a building.

Implementation: Amend Zoning Ordinance and Sign Ordinance to allow for placement of temporary and permanent murals and other various forms of wall art. The amendment should include review process by all relevant boards.

Recommendation 5: Establish a public notification policy for art projects on public property.

Implementation: Create a provision in the Public Art Section of the Municipal Code to require public notifications to be sent to residents for public art projects proposed within their area.





MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: August 19th, 2020

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

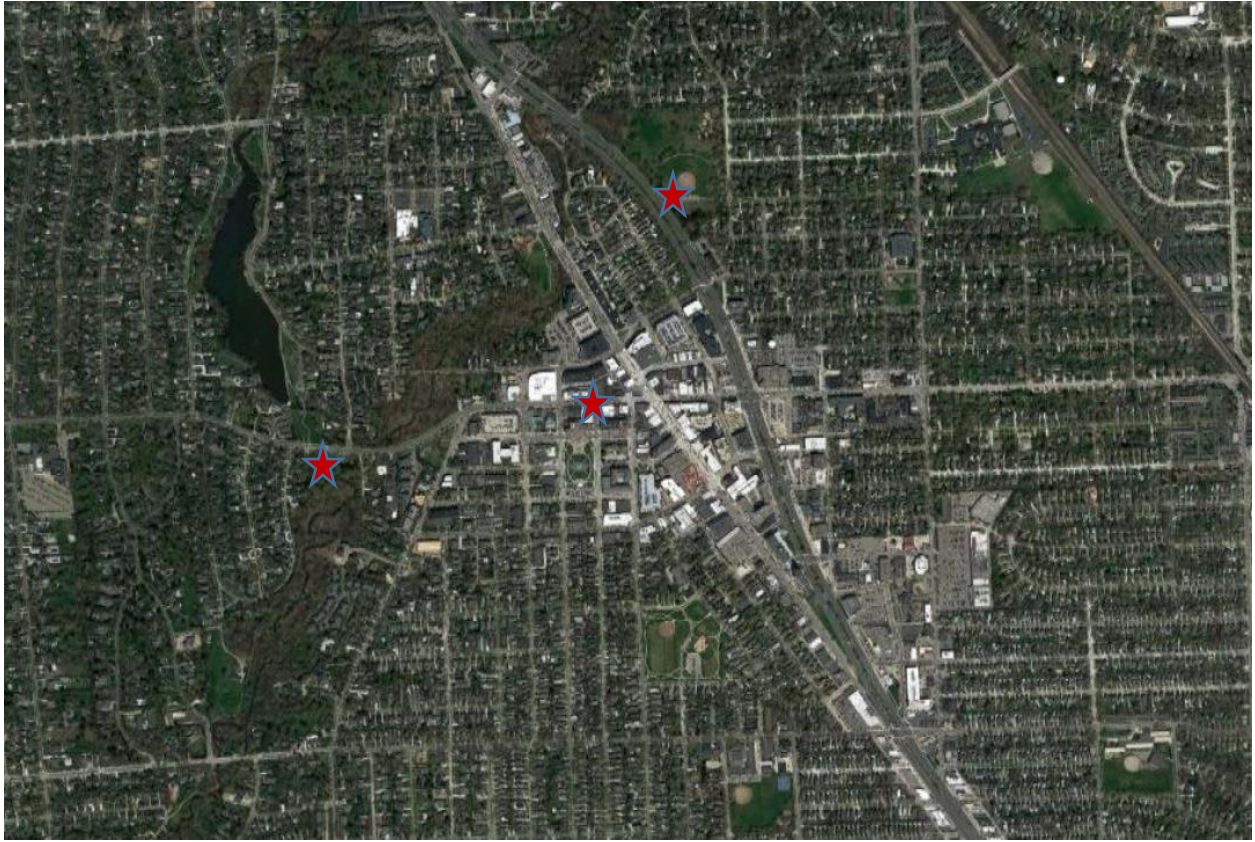
SUBJECT: Sculpture Call for Entry

Birmingham has a number of preferred locations for sculptures throughout the City. In 2019, four sculpture pads were installed in various locations and two have yet to have to be designated for a sculpture. Meanwhile, two sculptures were removed at key entryways into the City on Woodward and Maple. The Board has also updated its map of preferred sculpture locations. The Public Arts Board has previously discussed doing a larger call for entry and possibly offering financial incentives.

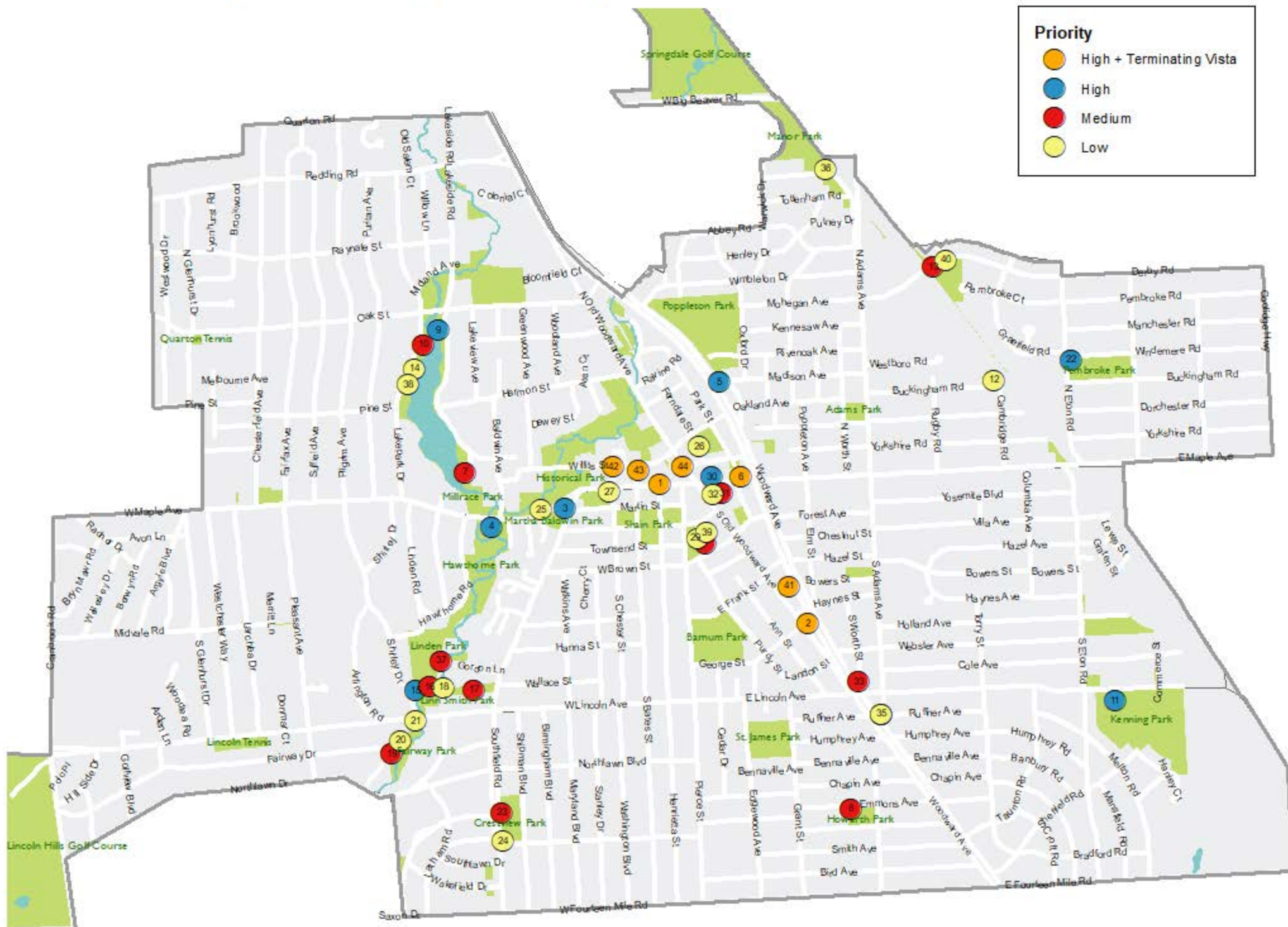
On January 15th, 2020, the Public Arts Board discussed recruiting new sculptures as one of their goals for 2020. On May 15th, 2020 the Public Arts Board reviewed a rough draft flyer for a call for entry and discussed possible information to include with it. There was general consensus that the Board wanted to pursue sculptures for the vacant pads at Linden Park and Poppleton Park, as well as the Terminating Vista location at Henrietta and W. Maple Road.

The Board had also determined that they would like to see what happens with the budget for 2020-2021 which begins July 1st, 2020 because they are interested in asking City Commission to provide an installation stipend for artists who install their work in Birmingham. They also wanted to wait until the construction is done on Maple before posting a call for entry so that artists know what the area is like. The Public Arts Board would also like to finalize the report for Terminating Vista recommendations before pursuing a sculpture for Henrietta and W. Maple as well.

A map of the three recommended locations to pursue the next round of sculptures for is provided below. The Public Arts Board may wish to discuss if they would like to pursue other locations as well. They may also wish to discuss if they would like to request City Commission to provide an installation stipend.



City of Birmingham Prequalified Public Art Locations



Birmingham Call For Sculpture Entry

Birmingham, Michigan's Public Arts Board is seeking sculpture applications for donations and loans to be placed in public spaces throughout the City.

Please visit their website to download the application. Here you can also learn more about Birmingham's Art in Public Spaces Program, view the City's Public Art Tour Brochure, the City's sculpture coloring book, and an interactive map of each sculpture and its respective image.

https://www.bhamgov.org/culture/public_art.php

You may also learn more about the City's sculptures on their Pinterest Page.

<https://www.pinterest.com/BhamPublicArt/>

For more information, please contact:

Brooks Cowan

BCowan@Bhamgov.org

(248) 530-1846



**ART IN
PUBLIC
SPACES**



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: August 19th, 2020

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Sculpture Donation

Metro Detroit artist Kegham Tazian has applied to donate his sculpture "Pyramid Earth" to the City of Birmingham. The sculpture is bronze with patina plus foundation, is 72" in height, 12" in width, 42" in length, and weights around 400 pounds. The footing foundation requirements indicate a concrete poured base covered in stone or marble.

T. R. W. Headquarter
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI.





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

APPLICATION FOR ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

Kegham Tazian
APPLICANT NAME

248 892 8606 vtazian@hotmail.com
DAYTIME PHONE EMAIL

Kegham Tazian
DONOR, OWNER, OR AGENT (DEALER)

Kegham Tazian
ARTIST (first and last) or PROJECT NAME

Pyramid Earth
TITLE

1995 Bronze
DATE OF ARTWORK MEDIUM/TECHNIQUE

PROPOSED ☒ DONATION ☐ LOAN (would also consider a loan)

A monument to our world. Realistic representation of globe set on two "pillars", a sign of trajectory and strength.
DESCRIPTION OF ARTWORK

72" x 12" x 42" ~ 400 lbs.
HEIGHT x WIDTH x LENGTH/DEPTH WEIGHT

Bronze with patina, plus foundation
OBJECT TYPE(S)/MATERIAL (i.e., metal, glass, stone, etc.)

none
DESIGN LOADS (i.e., wind, and dead loads)

none
INSCRIPTION/FOUNDRY MARKS (if multiple, please include edition number)

Storage facility in Clinton Township, MI
PRESENT LOCATION OF ARTWORK (where is the work of art?)

Excellent
CONDITION

periodic update to patina and foundation
MAINTENANCE REQUIRED (long term care/annual)

\$50,000
VALUE ☐ APPRAISED ☒ OWNER'S STATED VALUE

Concrete poured base, covered in
FOOTING/FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS
stone or marble facade.

NARRATIVE/RATIONALE FOR GIFT/LOAN/TEMPORARY INSTALLATION

When immigrating to the Detroit area over
55 years ago, Birmingham was where I first lived. I've
been a prolific artistic in the community and would like to

 July 30, 2020
SIGNATURE DATE

give
back
to
my
roots.

***Submit application together with prints or digital images of artwork,
foundation plans, completed Outdoor Sculpture Agreement (if temporary
sculpture), and a vitae or resume of the artist to:

City of Birmingham
Attn: City Clerk – c/o Public Arts Board
151 Martin St.
P.O. Box 3001
Birmingham, MI 48012

PAB Action (Office use only)

Date Received: _____

Presented for Public Arts Board discussion: _____

Board Action: ☐ Recommended for approval ☐ Not recommended for approval

Insurance: ☐ Provided by CCBB ☐ Provided by City ☐ Other _____

Recommendation(s)/Action Taken _____

Routing and dates approved (Office use only):

Y N

☐ ☐ Planning _____

☐ ☐ Engineering _____

☐ ☐ Public Safety (Police/Fire) _____

☐ ☐ Parks and Recreation _____

☐ Approved by CCBB _____

☐ Approved by City Commission _____

Y N

☐ ☐ Building _____

☐ ☐ Other _____

☐ ☐ Other _____

Site Location _____

(If artwork is to be permanently donated, the City of Birmingham has the right to relocate and /or remove the artwork from public display. If permanently donated, the City of Birmingham may provide the required insurance. If artwork is to be on temporary loan, the CCBB may provide required insurance.)





KEGHAM TAZIAN

Artist | Sculptor | Painter

Kegham Tazian is a globally-renown, award-winning multi-media artist, who has studied, taught, painted, and sculpted in the greater Detroit area for more than 50 years. His artwork has been exhibited, collected and publicly-commissioned around the world. Tazian has gained much notoriety for the diversity of his work and the variety of media exemplified in his pieces. A blend of modernism, realism and abstraction are commonly depicted in his paintings and sculptures.

Biography

Born in 1938 to Armenian parents, Kegham Tazian was relocated with his family to a refugee settlement in Lebanon by a French mission during his first year of life. Later, in 1960, he immigrated to the United States, initially residing in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where his older brother had settled. Without any prior art training or exposure, he began pursuit of his art career while studying at the Fort Wayne Institute of Art in 1961. Tazian received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965 and a Master's degree in education in 1966 from St. Francis College in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 1967, Tazian received a Master's in Fine Arts in sculpture from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Soon after receiving his MFA degree, Tazian began teaching a variety of art classes at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, Michigan in 1967, and continued as a full-time art professor at its Orchard Ridge Campus until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 2014. Tazian has been a prolific sculptor and painter since the early 1960s, bringing a high degree of originality to his creations. His award-winning abstract pieces explore, in a variety of mediums, the relationship between texture, shape, position and color. He is known for expressions of humanity and broken landscapes that his art captures from the refugee experience, the thread of hope emerging from the conditions of despair. It is not unusual for Tazian to introduce an archaeological look and feel to his work. He also searches for personality in natural objects and brings that to life in his sculptures. In 2000, during a year of academic sabbatical, Tazian explored the inclusion of digital techniques into his media tool kit, adding another dimension to his traditional genre.

Tazian's artistic creations are displayed in collections around the world: private, municipal, corporate, embassies and museums. For several decades, he has been among the Detroit area's most noted artists. Tazian has been extensively featured in local and national newspapers and magazines for more than five decades. Furthermore, his sculptures and paintings are permanently displayed in prominent positions at city halls, libraries, public parks, municipal buildings, universities and churches throughout the Detroit Metropolitan Area and Southeast Michigan. In the global Armenian community, Tazian's artwork is sought after around the world.

Genre

- a. Contemporary and abstract art
- b. Faces and landscapes of refugees
- c. Archaeological concepts integrated into contemporary art
- d. Elements of nature integrated into contemporary art
- e. Mixed media in painting and sculpture

Tazian is reluctant to classify his own body of work into a single 20th century art movement. He might say that his life's work falls into all of them, or perhaps none of them. It certainly could be encompassed by the broad category of contemporary abstract art. Tazian takes pride in his versatile command of medium, technology, and style. His creations

demonstrate a courage and confidence that few artists possess. In spite of the fact that Tazian should be considered a specialist, or expert, in a number of mediums, his mark on the art world reflects his own belief that artists face a platform of panoramic potential across many mediums, available for unlimited exploration. While rooted in a foundation of traditional painting and sculpture skills, the techniques Tazian uses are of his own making, drawing on six decades of self-performed experimentation and discovery. His paintings have moved from early watercolors and oils, to mixed media with uniquely textured surface results. His sculptures have moved from limestone, marble, bronze and wood to fiberglass, foam, raku, and mixed media, often drawing inspiration from natural or found objects to archaeological motifs. Frequently, Tazian paints or sculpts a hidden face or human form within the piece he is working on, intended as a hidden treasure for the attentive viewers to discover. To Tazian, mystery is part of the creation. It is the surprise a viewer is touched with when looking beyond the first glance. The wonder. The uncertainty. The instant of a lightbulb illuminating in one's brain. It is the same mystery and surprise Tazian experiences with nature. For example, in autumn, looking at a turning maple leaf, suddenly he finds a human face within the leaf's color and texture staring back at him.

Tazian typically creates from the heart, producing a piece that moves him. While it is not necessary for Tazian to make a statement with each piece, producing something that pleases him may be enough, it is not unusual for Tazian to take pause at the human condition and express its contrasts, distortions and inequalities in his art. Old and new. Hope and despair. The birth of humanity from a cauldron of antiquity. Tazian has addressed the plight of the refugee, the experience of the immigrant, and the confinement of the captive with a human hope that inherently strives to overcome struggles in its path. Much of his art has an uplifting theme, as if in some way reaching toward the heavens. His distortion of the human form intentionally reflects and exaggerates the imperfection of humanity while at the same time finding its beauty. Tazian paints and sculpts widows of surreal hope. Windows into the past. Windows into the soul. Windows into the mind. And windows into utopia, a ruined structure framing a keyhole look into a Garden of Eden, often with faces and figures that transcend the decay of the window framing them. Tazian's art reaches past the superficial bling of today's world by connecting directly with the soul to show humanity itself, with its scars and weathered brokenness, as the world's most relevant importance.

Select Solo Exhibits

2018 Galerie Camille, Detroit, MI
 2008 Armenian Community Center, Dearborn, MI
 2005 Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills, MI
 2001 Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills, MI
 2000 Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills, MI
 1998 Civic Center Library, Livonia, MI
 1997 Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, Washington, DC
 1997 Skyline Club, Southfield, MI
 1995 Farmington Hills Area Arts Commission Artist-in-Residence Show, Farmington Hills, MI
 1993 Galerie Internationale, Bloomfield Hills, MI
 1992 A.G.B.U. Gallery, Saddlebrook, NJ
 1992 Armenian Cultural Center Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada
 1989 Armenian Community Center, San Francisco, CA
 1988 Cade Gallery, Royal Oak, MI
 1985 Oakland County Galleria, Pontiac, MI
 1984 G.M.B. Gallery, Birmingham, MI
 1984 Oakland County Cultural Council, Pontiac, MI
 1982 A.G.B.U. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 1982 G.M.B. Gallery, Birmingham, MI
 1981 Armenian Society of Los Angeles, Glendale, CA
 1980 Hamazkaine Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada

1980 Detroit Hunt Club, Detroit, MI
1979 Headquarters of the Armenian Apostolic Church, New York, NY
1977 Diamond Art Gallery, Flint, MI
1975 Boycourt Gallery, Harbor Springs, MI
1975 Birmingham Gallery, Birmingham, MI
1973 AGBU Gallery, New York, NY
1972 Birmingham Gallery, Birmingham, MI
1971 Fort Wayne Art Institute, Fort Wayne, IN
1965 Saint Francis Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN

Select Group Exhibits

2019 The Community House, Birmingham, MI
2018 Art in Fall, The Hovnanian School, New Milford, NJ
2017 Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham, MI
2016 The Community House, Birmingham, MI
2016 Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham, MI
2015 Art in Fall, The Hovnanian School, New Milford, NJ
2013 Art in Fall, The Hovnanian School, New Milford, NJ
2009 ArtPrize, Grand Rapids, MI
2006 Walsh College Gala, Novi, MI
2005 Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham, MI
2005 Galerie Z, Providence, RI
2004 Livonia Annual Art Exhibition, Livonia, MI
2003 Alfred Berkowitz Gallery, The University of Michigan – Dearborn, Diversity in Harmony, Dearborn, MI
2002 Connoisseur of Carmel Galleries, Carmel, CA
2000 Polk Technology Exhibition, Birmingham, MI
1999 Michigan Annual, Mount Clemens, MI
1996 The Community House, Birmingham, MI
1994 National Raku Invitation, Ann Arbor, MI
1994 Alma Library and Museum, Watertown, MA
1993 Michigan Fine Arts Exhibit, Birmingham, MI
1993 Michigan Annual, Mount Clemens, MI
1993 Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Sculpture Exhibit, Cambridge, MA
1992 Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI
1991 Oakland County Galleria, Pontiac, MI
1990 University of Massachusetts Gallery, Boston, MA
1988 Motown Madness: Creative Configuration – Artlink, Fort Wayne, IN
1988 Signature Art, Troy, MI
1988 Gallery G, Pittsburg, PA
1986 AGBU Art Center, Los Angeles, CA
1985 Armenian Art! – Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, MA
1984 World Expo, Dallas, TX
1983 Celebrate Life Art Show, Congregational Church of Birmingham, Birmingham, MI
1983 Brener Gallery, Boca Raton, FL
1981 The Mall Galleries, London, England
1981 The Third Annual Channel 56 Art Preview, Somerset Mall, Troy, MI
1981 Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, MA
1980 16th Annual Art Exhibit of the Michigan Education Association, Lansing, MI
1979 Garrett Studio and Gallery of Farmington, Farmington, MI

1979 Armenian Art Association of America, Soviet Exhibit, Yerevan, Armenia
1979 Michigan Annual VII Juried Exhibit for Michigan Artists, The Art Center, Mount Clemens, MI
1979 Hall Art Gallery, Portland, MA
1978 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston – Federal Reserve Plaza, Boston, MA
1978 W. F. Mullaly Galleries, National Small Exhibition, Birmingham, MI
1978 AGBU Alex Manoogian School Exhibit Hall, Southfield, MI
1978 Troy Art Gallery, Troy, MI
1974 Texas Fine Arts Association 63rd Annual Exhibit (World Art Show), Dallas, TX
1973 Indianapolis Museum of Art – 64th Indiana Artists Exhibit, Indianapolis, IN
1973 Michigan Art Council Traveling Show, Art Train, Michigan
1972 40th Annual Exhibition – Indiana Artists Club, Indianapolis, IN
1971 Fort Wayne Art Institute, Fort Wayne, IN
1971 Indiana 63rd Annual Artist Show, Fort Wayne, IN
1970 Bloomfield Art Association, Bloomfield Hills, MI
1969 Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Fine Arts Section, Ann Arbor, MI
1969 Ball State University Art Gallery, 15th Drawing and small Sculpture Show, Muncie, IN
1968 Ball State University Art Gallery, 14th Drawing and Small Sculpture Show, Muncie, IN
1968 National Art Show at Ball State University, Muncie, IN
1967 Herron Museum of Art, 60th Annual Indiana Artists Exhibition, Indianapolis, IN
1966 31st Regional Artists Exhibition, Fort Wayne, IN
1964 Indiana Artists Exhibition, Fort Wayne, IN

Museum Collections

Museum of Modern Art, Yerevan, Armenia
Detroit Institute of Arts Rental Galleries
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan
Manoogian Art Museum, Southfield, Michigan

Municipal, Corporate and Private Collections and Displays

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, Washington, DC (three paintings and one sculpture)
National Education Association, Lansing, MI
Oakland County Executive Offices, Pontiac, MI (raku sculpture)
Michigan Education Association, Lansing, MI
Armenian Prelacy, New York, NY
Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills, MI (30 paintings and one large outdoor sculpture)
Farmington City Hall, 125th Anniversary, Outdoor Bronze Sculpture, Farmington, MI
Farmington Hills City Hall Entrance, Farmington Hills, MI (two large indoor mixed media sculptures)
Wayne State University, Gordon Scott Hall, Detroit, MI (two paintings in the lobby)
Forest Lake Country Club, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Saint Francis University, Fort Wayne, IN (10 paintings and sculptures on permanent display)
City of Brighton, Michigan, City Hall (outdoor sculpture)
City of Brighton, Michigan (outdoor bronze sculpture in city park)
Beirut, Lebanon, Armenian Religious headquarters (three bronze indoor sculptures)
Yerevan, Armenia, Armenian Religious headquarters (two indoor bronze sculpture)
Yerevan, Armenia, Political Headquarters Library (large mixed media painting)
Farmington Hills, Michigan, Caustic Center (two sculptures)
Farmington Hills, Michigan Public Library (three large paintings, one bronze sculpture)
Saint Sarkis Armenian Church, Dearborn, MI (bronze entry doors, bronze dome cross, and two paintings)

Saint Albon's Church, Fort Wayne, IN (bronze sculpture)
Toronto Armenian Community Center, Toronto, Canada (nine sculptures and paintings)
Rental Collection Detroit Institute of the Arts, Detroit, MI
Wabeek Country Club, West Bloomfield, MI (relief sculpture commissioned for the lobby)
Hovnanian Armenian School, New Milford, NJ

Awards

Tazian is the recipient of several prestigious local and international awards and honors, including the International Artists in Watercolor Award in London, England in 1981, winner of the Michigan State Fair Art Competition in 1984, the Michigan Education Association Purchase Award, the Michigan Academy of Arts and Letter Award at its 29th Annual Exhibit, First Place Birmingham Community Center Annual Show, Birmingham, Michigan and, in 1995, he was named the Farmington Area Arts Commission Artist-in-Residence. In 2009, Tazian's sculpture was featured at the prestigious ArtPrize international competition in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Featured Publications

The Oakland Press, October 2018
Rust Belt Arts, September 2018
Metropolitan Woman, January 1992
The Armenian Weekly, January 5, 1980
Detroit Artist Monthly, December 1976
The Armenian Reporter, March 29, 1973
Art News
Art in America
American Artist
The Detroit Free Press
The Detroit News
The Eccentric Newspapers, Birmingham-Bloomfield Edition
The Eccentric Newspapers, Farmington Edition

Education

BA in Art, Saint Francis University, Fort Wayne, IN (1965)
MA in Education, Saint Francis University, Fort Wayne, IN (1966)
MFA in Sculpture, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (1967)

Personal and Professional Life

- Professor of Fine Art, Oakland Community College, 47 years, Farmington Hills, Michigan
- Director, Smith Theatre Art Gallery, Oakland Community College, 25 Years
- Art Chairperson and Exhibit Organizer, Michigan State Fair, 1968 – 1978
- Organized and Adjudicated Annual Oakland Community College Art Exhibit
- Demonstration in Painting & Collage, 20th Annual Art Conference, University of Michigan, 1972
- Adjudicated the National Ice Carving Competition, Plymouth, Michigan, 1988 and 1989
- *Professor Emeritus*, Oakland Community College
- Frequent lecturer, speaker and panelist on various art topics and trends
- Father of three children, and has four grandchildren
- Currently resides in Farmington Hills, Michigan

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

KEGHAM TAZIAN

TAZIAN@SBCGLOBAL.COM | 248.892.8606

WWW.KEGHAMTAZIAN.COM



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: August 19th, 2020
TO: Public Arts Board Members
FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner
APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Communications

1.) Laurie Tennent's public art installation was approved by City Commission