



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, January 15th, 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 – November 20th, 2019
- C. New Business
 - 1. Public Arts Board Annual Report**
- D. Unfinished Business
 - 1. Art in Public Places Logo and Summary**
 - 2. 2020 Action List**
 - 3. Terminating Vistas**
- E. Communication
 - 1. Piano has been removed**
 - 2. Michigan Spring**
- F. January Agenda Items
- G. Public Comments
- H. Adjournment

Upcoming PAB Meeting: February 19th, 2019

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 20th, 2019

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 16th, 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 25th, 2019.

Comments

D. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: January 15th, 2020
TO: Joe Valentine, City Manager
FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner
APPROVED BY: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Public Arts Board Annual Report

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 18th, 2019 meeting and voted to approve and submit the report to the City Commission.

THE 2019 PUBLIC ARTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

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.

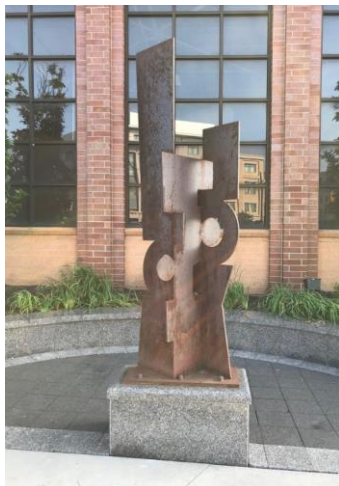
Current Public Arts Board Members

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:

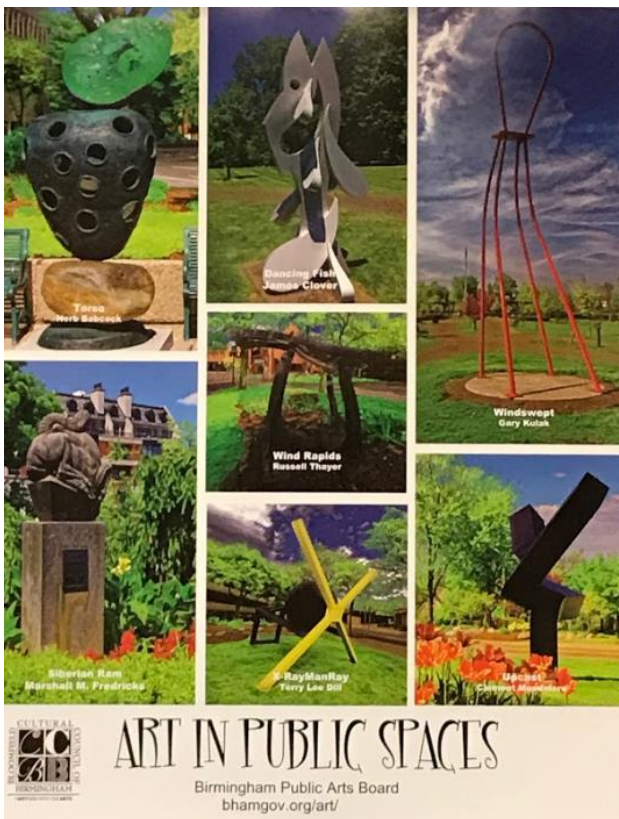
The Public Arts Board indicated an interest in doing more interactive art projects throughout the city for 2019. One such project included Piano in the Park where the Board would find a free piano, host a public painting event, and then have it placed in Shain Park for anyone to play. The painting event 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.

DATE: December 18th, 2019

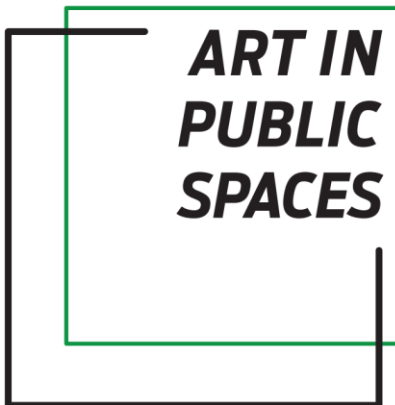
TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: 2020 Agenda Items

The Public Arts Board has discussed updating the logo and information for Art in Public Spaces. Below is a suggested logo for the program created by Effie Steele.



The Public Arts Board has also discussed updating the information regarding Art in Public Spaces. Attached is a rough draft of the updated document. A new logo can be added to it once approved. Edits to be made include:

- Siberian Ram, #6 needs to be added
- LOL and Soundheart should be switched
- Bottom page of map and sculpture description page (5 & 6 need footer and page #)
- Higher resolution logo images placed on page 4 and in header / footer
- Clean up the map
- Center the # labels on sculptures

Once final edits are approved, the document will be posted online.

Art in Public Spaces

Program of the Public Arts Board

HISTORY

The City of Birmingham has always recognized the importance of having a rich cultural environment. In 2001, Birmingham affirmed this commitment to its civic heritage by establishing a Public Arts Board. Ordinance #1773 assigned the Birmingham Public Arts Board with the responsibility for reviewing and making recommendations to the City Commission as to the placement and display of loaned, donated and/or commissioned works of art within the City.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Birmingham Public Arts Board is to develop Public Art Programs that will enhance the cityscape, enrich the lives of residents and visitors, and promote a vital arts community.



OBJECTIVES

1. Create a vision and develop guidelines and procedures for the placing of public art of high caliber within the city.
2. Identify potential sites for the display of public art.
3. Establish strategies for identifying and securing sources of public funding and support for public art.
4. Work with organizations, businesses, individuals and the city to maximize the opportunity for public art to be an integral part of all public and commercial projects.
5. Foster the exchange of information and ideas on public art.

It is recognized that public art projects may be presented in a variety of forms and that each proposal is unique. Because of the city's limited resources, the Public Arts Board will only be able to recommend programs that further the objectives of City Commission.



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 shall consider the following guidelines in their review of art in public spaces:

Public art shall be located in a site where it will effectively enhance and activate the pedestrian and streetscape experience;

Public art shall be placed in areas of congregation or in a location that experiences high levels of pedestrian traffic;

Public art shall be placed in a site where it is not overwhelmed by the scale of the adjacent architecture or signage;

Public art shall be placed in a location where it will be visible to the most people;

Public art shall not be placed in a given location if the landscaping and maintenance requirements of that site cannot be met; and

Public art shall 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).



PROCEDURES FOR LOANS, GIFTS, AND PURCHASE OF WORK OF ART

The Birmingham Public Arts Board will consider the loan, gift, bequest or purchase of works of art under the following criteria:

The Owner/Agent for Owner must complete an Art in Public Spaces application and submit it to the City at least two weeks prior to a regularly scheduled Public Arts Board meeting for review by the Board. The Art in Public Spaces Application must include all of the following information before it can be considered:

- Name of applicant donor/owner, or agent (dealer)
- Artist/project name, title, date, dimensions, materials and inscriptions
- Complete description of the work of art
- Design load (i.e. wind and dead loads)
- Location and condition
- Footing/foundation requirements
- Rationale for gift or loan of the sculpture
- Relationship of dealer/agent to the artist
- Digital images or slides of the artwork
- Resume of the artist

The application must be filled out to indicate whether it is for a loan, gift or bequest and be submitted to the City. Upon receipt, city staff will then route application to the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield (CCBB) and the Public Arts Board for simultaneous review. The Public Arts Board will conduct its standard review of the sculpture while the CCBB determines whether the sculpture meets its criteria for providing insurance free of charge to the artist.

Loans: All loans will be for a specified amount of time and will be documented and monitored while under the responsibility of the City of Birmingham. The Public Arts Board must provide a recommendation for the approval and placement of all public art loans. The appropriate city agencies must review of the recommended placement, safety concerns and address any other issues as identified. The City Commission has the right of final approval of the acceptance and

placement of all public art loans. There will be an agreement between the Owner/Agent for Owner and the City prior to receipt and installation of the loan. The terms of the agreement, its renewal and return status will comply with applicable laws governing the City of Birmingham. The City shall not absorb the costs to install, maintain, or insure loaned sculptures. However, should the lender wish to seek financial assistance for the temporary installation of a sculpture, they are encouraged to apply for funding for the required insurance from the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield (CCBB) by signing and attaching the agreement to the application. By attaching the executed agreement, the applicant agrees to all terms stated within prior to review.

Gifts, Bequests and Purchases must be duly vetted when offered by an artist, dealer or related party or by the spouse of family of any of the above. The Public Arts Board is responsible for reviewing this information to ensure compliance with City of Birmingham ordinances and policies and for making a recommendation to the City Commission. The Owner/Agent for Owner must submit proof of clear title of the work of art and available provenance data before any work shall be accepted for gift or purchase. The appropriate city agencies must review the recommended placement, and address any safety concerns and other issues as identified. The City Commission has the right of final approval of the acceptance and placement of all public art gifts, bequests and purchases. A Deed of Gift transferring title of a work of art shall be signed by the Donor/Agent for Donor.



PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTING JURORS & CURATORS

The Public Arts Board may select or appoint a jury or hold a competition for the review of any public art project. The jury or competition for any public art project shall serve the Public Arts Board as an ad hoc committee for the duration of the project only.

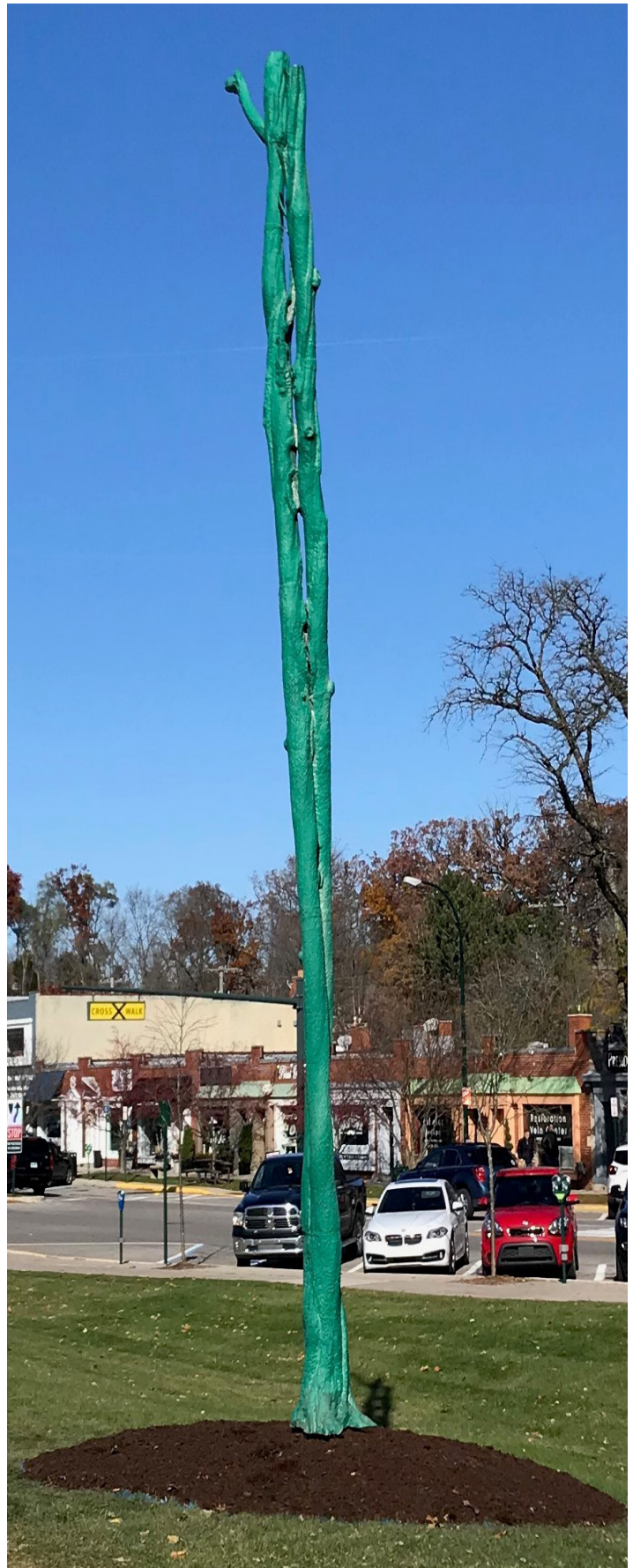
The Board may appoint an individual to serve as curator for an artwork display or public art program. A curator shall serve at the discretion of the Board.

Prior to appointment of any curator, the curator will present his/her qualifications to the Board for consideration along with a detailed program plan and associated budget of the program's full expenses. Any deviations from this submitted plan and budget must be presented to the Board for further approval. Upon approval by the Board, the curator shall implement the approved program plan consistent with these Rules of Procedure. Failure to comply may result in termination of the curator arrangement. The curator will report to the Board on the status of the program at the regular meetings of the Board or as requested by the Board.

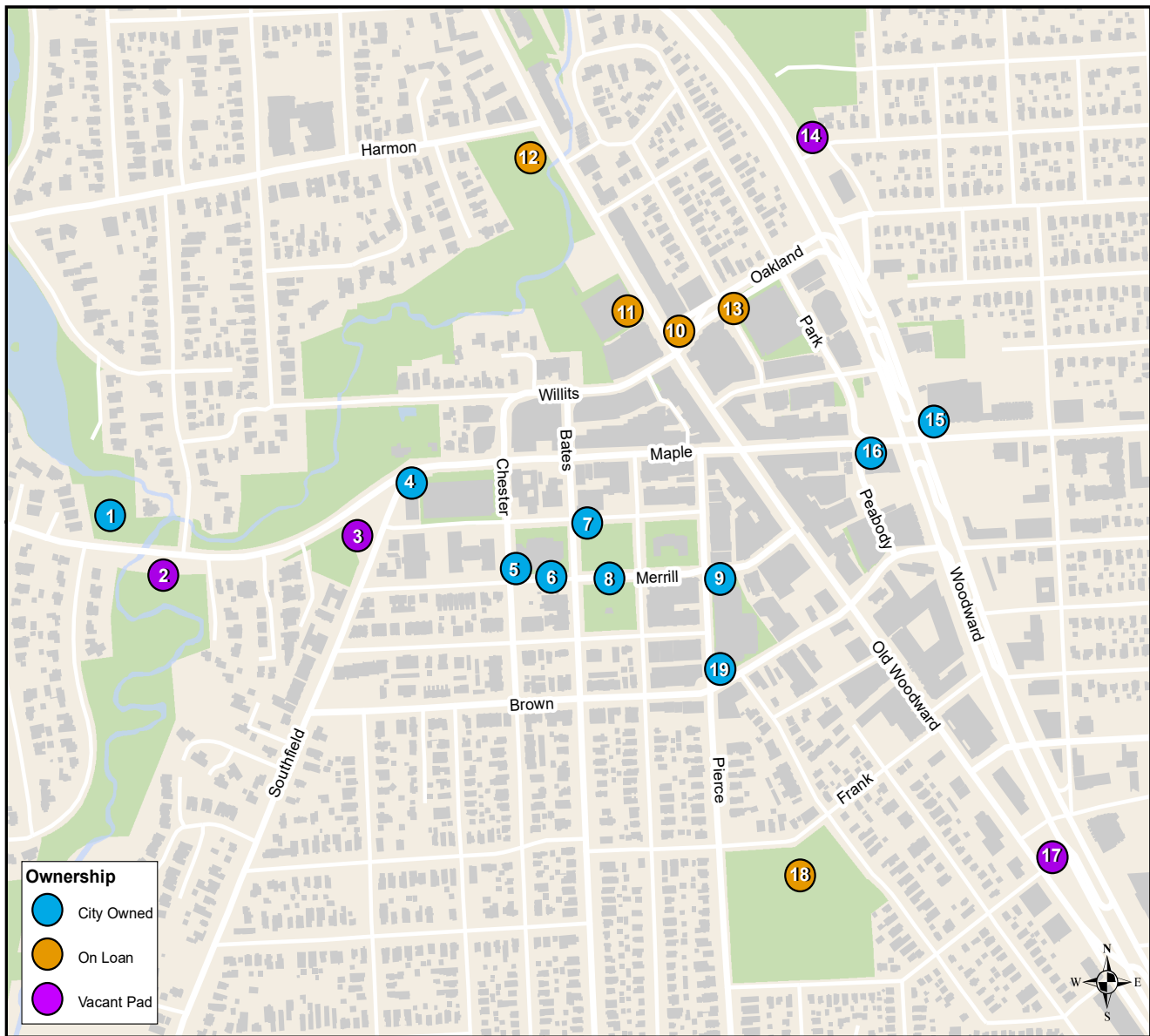
If you are interested in offering public art for display in the city or becoming involved in the promotion of public art in the city, please contact Brooks Cowan at (248) 530-1846 or bcowan@bhamgov.org.



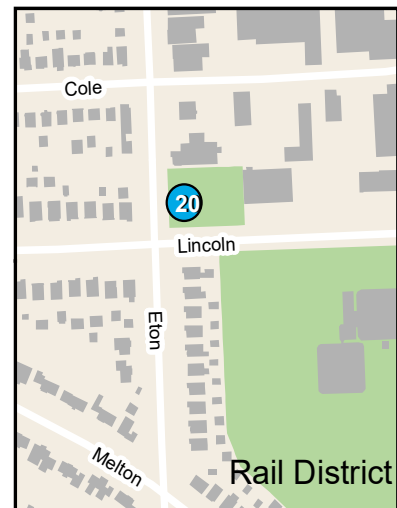
Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield
P.O. Box 465 Birmingham, MI 48012



Birmingham Sculpture Locations



- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1, Dancing Fish | 11, The Counselor |
| 2, (Vacant) | 12, Eastern Hophornbeam (TBI) |
| 3, (Vacant) | 13, Untitled |
| 4, Upcast | 14, (Vacant) |
| 5, Michigan Spring (TBI) | 15, Sound Heart |
| 6, Siberian Ram | 16, L.O.L. |
| 7, Peace Memorial | 17, (Vacant) |
| 8, Freedom of the Human Spirit | 18, Windswept |
| 9, Wind Rapids | 19, X-Ray Man Ray |
| 10, Torso | 20, Breakaway - Form #3 |



ART IN PUBLIC SPACES



In an ongoing effort to promote art in public spaces and enhance the community, the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield has collaborated with the City of Birmingham's Public Arts Board to create an outdoor sculpture program. The program is managed under the terms of the existing Birmingham outdoor sculpture agreement between the City and the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield and allows for the temporary installation of art on public property.

The objective of Art in Public Spaces is to enhance the visual character of Birmingham and to promote a rich, diverse, and stimulating cultural environment for residents and visitors. By placing the work of artists into the community, ideas can be encountered and explored on a daily basis.

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|---|--|---|
| 1. James Clover
"Dancing Fish"
CityScapes (1993) Donated by
the artist (2007)
Quarton Lake Park | 8. Marshall M. Fredericks
"Freedom of the Human
Spirit"
Community gift in honor of
the City's 50th Anniversary
Shain Park | 14. To Be Determined |
| 2. To Be Determined | 9. Russell Thayer
"Wind Rapids"
CityScapes (2006)
Donated by the artist (2017)
Pierce St. & Merrill St. | 15. Jay Lefkowitz
"Sound Heart"
Donated by Christina and
Richard Heidrich (2015)
Maple Rd. and Woodward
Ave. |
| 3. To Be Determined | 10. Herb Babcock
"Torso"
Cityscapes (2006)
Old Woodward & Oakland | 16. Kirk Newman
"L.O.L."
On loan from Catalyst
Development Co.
Maple Rd. and Peabody St. |
| 4. Clement Meadmore
"Upcast"
Donated by Frederick A. and
Barbara M. Erb (2007)
Maple Rd. and Southfield Rd. | 11. Chris Yockey
"The Counselor"
Cityscapes (2008)
N. Old Woodward Parking
Structure - east face | 17. To Be Determined |
| 5. James Miller-Melberg
"Michigan Spring"
A Gift of the family of the
Artist (2019)
Baldwin Public Library | 12. Robert Lobe
"Eastern Hophornbeam"
Art in Public Spaces (2019)
Old Woodward & Harmon | 18. Gary Kulak
"Windswept"
Art in Public Spaces (2018)
Barnum Park |
| 6. Marshall M. Fredericks
"Siberian Ram"
Donated by Fidelity Bank
(1966)
Baldwin Public Library | 13. Nathan Diana
"Untitled"
Cityscapes (2008)
Oakland Ave & Ferndale St. | 19. Terry Lee Dill
"X-Ray Man-Ray"
Cityscapes (2006)
Donated by Dr. Mark
Berman (2010)
Pierce St. & W. Brown St. |
| 7. Marshall M. Fredericks
"Peace Memorial"
Donated by Birmingham
Rotary Club (1952)
Shain Park | | 20. Daniel LaRue
"Breakaway - Form #3"
Donated by June Lieberman
(2011)
Eton Rd. & Lincoln Ave. |

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM



Dancing Fish

James Clover (b.1938)
painted aluminum, 1993.
Quarton Lake Park
Donated by the Artist 2007

Having received his MFA from Tulane University in New Orleans, Clover is an internationally known sculpture who taught at Grand Valley State University. Many of Clover's sculpture are abstractions from nature such as fish, birds, and plants, involving water or the heavens and stars and inspired by the structures of jazz music. This piece was originally installed at the Baldwin Public Library as part of the 1993 CityScapes program. It was subsequently donated to the city, restored, and moved to its current location in 2008, with the stepped waterfall as its backdrop.



Upcast

Clement Meadmore (b.1929 - 2005)
bronze, 1987.
Donated by Frederick A & Barbara M. Erb 2007
Southfield Road and Maple Avenue, across from
Birmingham Historical Park

Australian-American artist, Meadmore, was a renowned mid-century modern sculptor who received his training at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts in 1975. This sculpture is signed number 3 of 6 small versions created in 1987 of an original 1985 sculpture commissioned by a Cleveland dealer/owner. A single "V" squared tube pedestal twists upward to join a massive "V" shaped section which then divides and turns once more. An illusion of lightness is created as the dark horizontal piece balances effortlessly despite its weight height and length.

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM



Placeholder

Michigan Spring

James Miller-Melberg (b. 1929- 2018)
cast aluminum, 2012.

Baldwin Public Library Plaza COMING SOON

Donor A Gift from the Family of the Artist 2019
Trained at the Cranbrook Academy of Art and l'Ecole de la Grand Chaumiere in Paris, this Birmingham modernist artist created sculptures, playscapes, and playground equipment that have been featured around the world. This piece, cast at a Milan, Michigan foundry, was created for the 2014 ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. Look for another example of his work, the tortoise, in Shain Park.



Peace Memorial

Marshall M. Fredericks, (b.1908-1998)
bronze relief, white Indiana limestone, 1951/2.

Shain Park – Merrill Plaza

Donated by Birmingham Rotary Club to the City and the Birmingham School District on Armistice Day 1952

This may look like the “Great Seal of the United States” on the Veterans Memorial Building (now UAW-Ford Program Center) in Detroit, except Fredericks, Birmingham’s internationally known sculptor, added berries to the branch and removed the large star on the shield. In a 1950 letter to the foundry, Fredericks refers to this piece as “Eagle and Nimbus.” Originally installed at Seaholm High School, the relief was moved to the City Municipal Building in the 1990s, and to its prominent location in Shain Park in 2010.

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM



Freedom of the Human Spirit

Marshall M. Fredericks, 1908-1998, bronze, 1983.
Shain Park – Merrill Plaza
Community Gift in Honor of the City's 50th Anniversary

With restrained simplified forms, attenuated proportions, well-defined facial features and linear stylization characteristic of Art Deco, the original version of this sculpture was commissioned in 1960 by the City of New York and installed at the 1964 New York World's Fair at Flushing Meadow-Corona Park. Shain Parks' full-scale casting was commissioned by the City of Birmingham and dedicated in 1988 with the support of many donors.



Wind Rapids

Russell Thayer, (b. 1934), aluminum, 2006.
Merrill and Pierce streets, north side of Pierce Street parking structure
Donated by the Artist 2017

Initially part of the 2006 CityScapes program, this elegant sculptural form is influenced and complemented by the forces of nature and architecture. The artist describes that “when water flows around obstacles in a stream, so does the wind, creating currents in the sky.” Thayer was Associate Professor of Art History, Drawing and Sculpture and Chairman of the Art Department at Delta College for over 30 years, taught at the University of Michigan (U of M), and was the Director and Exhibition Chairman of the Saginaw Art Museum. He is a graduate of the Instituto Allende, San Miguel d'Allende, Mexico; U of M; and the Royal College of Art in London, England.

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM



Torso

Herb Babcock (b.1946) cast glass, bronze, Michigan stone, 2005.

North Old Woodward and Oakland

On loan from the Artist, formerly part of Cityscapes 2006

The artist is Professor Emeritus at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, where he served as the Glass Department Chairman for 40 years. He is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, Cranbrook Academy of Art, and studied sculpture at the Skowhegan School in Maine and Glass at the Toledo Museum of Art. He says this piece deals with precarious balance both physical and metaphysical, "...when life is in its most precarious moments, we sometimes realize the most of what it means to be alive."



The Counselor

Christopher Yockey (b. 1976) painted steel, 2008. East face of North Old Woodward parking structure

City of Birmingham Purchase 2019, formerly part of CityScapes 2008

Now living in Long Island City, this Michigan artist is a graduate of Cranbrook Academy of Art and assists Mark di Suvero at Spacetime Studio. His pieces are inspired by the way he perceives and interacts with motion and form. An avid hockey player, Yockey has long been interested in the poetic movements of skaters and respect for special relationships of the game with the opposing players, which is translated into his work. He describes this colorful sculpture as "twisted bands of intertwined steel."

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM



Eastern Hophornbeam

Robert Lobe (b. 1945)

hammered and tempered aluminum, 1993

Booth Park

On loan from the Artist

On loan courtesy Robert Hill Gallery and the artist. This Detroit born artist and Oberlin College graduate was a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow in 1979 & 1984 and recipient of a Joan Mitchell Foundation award in 2001. His works are created in nature as sculptural echoes of natural form, usually rocks or trees. The signature process Lobe uses is an adaptation of repoussé, an ancient technique in which metal is hammered to create designs or shapes. The fusion of natural beauty and metal handiwork show the wildly disorganized aspect of nature, rather than the tranquil one presented in a park setting.



Untitled #2

Nathan Diana (b.1974)

painted steel, 2008

Southeast corner, Oakland Ave. and Ferndale

On loan from the Artist, formerly part of City-Scapes 2008

While the artist, with an MA degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art, is said to be influenced by aircraft and mechanized machinery, he describes his sculptures as “a mix of AC/DC and Smooth Jazz.”. He currently lives in New York and creates unique pieces that can engage the environment and architecture of a site. Viewers may spot bits of medieval heraldry in the maroon and gold markings on the shield-like parts.

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM



L.O.L.

Kirk Newman, (b. 1926 - 2017), bronze, 2013.
Maple Road and Peabody Street
On long-term loan from the Catalyst Development Co.

Born in Dallas, this prominent Midwest sculptor was a graduate of the University of Michigan and Director of Education at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. The artist's work is meant to convey the "fleeting, constantly changing nature of the human image in the digital age." The title LOL refers to abbreviated text jargon that can mean "lots of love" or "lots of luck," or even "lots of laughs." Newman said the double meaning is meant to suggest a mixed message regarding our fast-paced lives.



Sound Heart

Jay Lefkowitz (b. 1952) corten steel, 1989.
Maple Road and Woodward Avenue, northeast corner
Donated by Christina and Richard Heidrich in 2015

An abstract artist who works in a wide variety of media and styles, Lefkowitz is graduate of Columbus College of Art and Design, who worked in Paris and Carrara, Italy before returning to his hometown of Detroit. From stone and metal sculpture, to paintings and monoprints on paper, he manages to capture the fluidity and vibrancy of motion and life with matter.

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM

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Windswept

Gary Kulak (b. 1953), powder coated steel, 2014.
Barnum Park
On loan from the Artist, Art in Public Spaces 2018

A graduate of Hunter College and Cranbrook Academy of Art, Kulak is the Artist in Residence and Head, Department of Fine Arts at Cranbrook-Kingwood Schools. He is best known for his work that utilizes the “chair” form as metaphors and symbols. Representing the human spirit and the effects of nature, this sculpture was created for the 2014 ArtPrize in Grand Rapids was also exhibited in Art in Public Places in Knoxville, Tennessee. The 27’ high by 8’ long x 6’ wide chair seems less tall when viewed through the former school entrance archway.

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X-Ray ManRay

Terry Lee Dill (b.1950), Poly-Glass and Steel, 2005.
Northeast corner of Brown and Pierce streets.
Donated by Dr. Mark Berman in 2010

The sculptor is an associate professor at the College for Creative Studies and holds degrees from the University of Iowa, Drake University and the Cranbrook Academy of Art. He refers to this sculpture as “a landmark type work, designed as a locator.” In addition to being 8’ high x 12’ long x 10’ wide, its yellow center rivals the noonday sun. You can’t miss it and after a while, you don’t want to.

SCULPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM

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Breakaway – Form #3

Daniel LaRue Johnson (b. 1938-2017), corten steel, 1970.

Eaton Road and Lincoln Avenue

Donated by June Lieberman in 2011

The painter, sculptor, and printmaker LaRue Johnson, was closely associated with Los Angeles's African American artist movement of the mid-20th century, which developed as a response to the country's social, political, and economic changes. His varied body of work includes politically charged collages as well as meticulously rendered color abstractions. Executed in the figural abstract style, this work is based on a colossal obelisk with steel shapes on top that suggest a humanoid face.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: January 15th, 2020

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: 2020 Agenda Items

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 20th 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: January 15th, 2020
TO: Public Arts Board Members
FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner
APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Terminating Vistas

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 16th, 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 20th, 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.

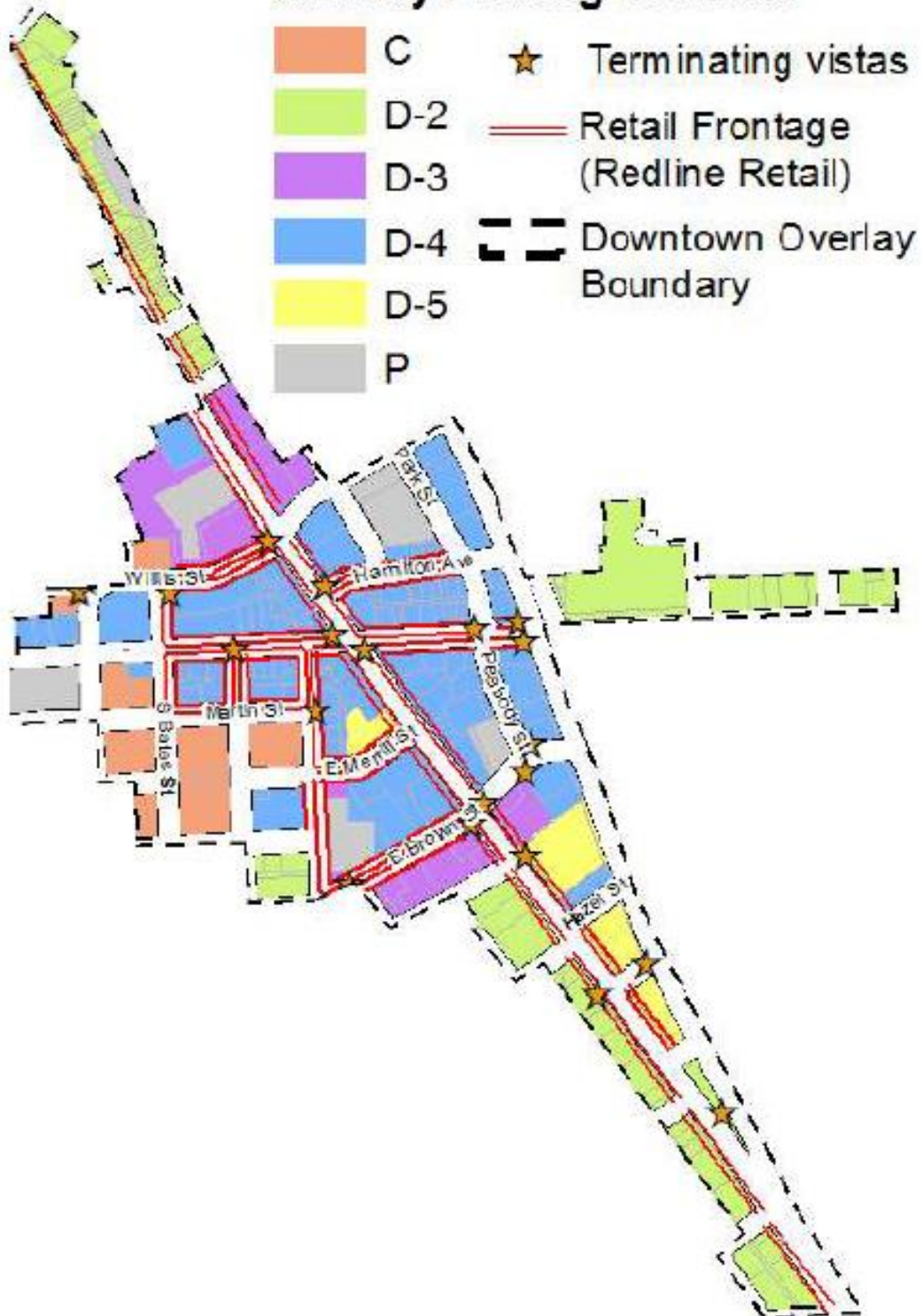
The PAB has previously approved a map of pre-approved sculpture locations throughout the city which highlights the location's priority as either high, medium, or low. The prioritized Terminating Vista locations have been added to this map and have all been prioritized as "High".

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: January 15th, 2020

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Communications

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