



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

VIRTUAL MEETING - PUBLIC ARTS BOARD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2021
6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/96457498220>

(Click on Blue Link)

Or dial 1 312-626-6799, MEETING CODE 964 5749 8220

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 – December 16th, 2020
- C. Unfinished Business
 - 1. Wall Art Study Session**
 - 2. Public Notification Policy**
 - 3. 2021 Agenda Items and Goals**
- D. New Business
- E. Communication
 - 1. Call For Entry**
 - 2. Pyramid Earth**
 - 3. Revisions to Art on Loan Agreement**
 - 4. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for sculpture installation specialist**
 - 5. No Meeting February**
- F. Public Comments
- G. Adjournment

Upcoming PAB Meeting: March 17th, 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 – December 16th, 2020

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Annie VanGeldereren, Jason Eddleston, Linda Wells, Anne Ritchie, Natalie Bishae, Peggy Daitch

Members Absent:

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – November 18th, 2020

Staff noted once again that VanGeldereren is one word, not two.

Motion to approve minutes as amended by Linda Wells, seconded by Annie VanGeldereren.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The Board welcomed the new alternate member Peggy Daitch. There was discussion about current projects to bring the new member up to date on what the Board has been working on.

C. Unfinished Business

The first item of unfinished business was the recommended revisions to the Art on Loan Agreement. The Board was amenable to recommended changes that required an installation plan prior to approval, and allowed artist to work with City on installation and removal. The intent of the changes is to reduce costs for installation and removal and to incentivize more art on loan. The Board indicated an interest in requiring a month notice to the City prior to removal as well. Staff notified that all recommended changes would be taken to the City Attorney for review.

The Board then discussed the RFQ recruiting a sculpture installation specialist. There was talk related to where in the review process this person would fit in. The Board suggested that after a preliminary discussion occurred, an installation plan would be submitted and reviewed by staff as well as an installation specialist. Comments would be provided for Final Approval from the Board. The Board discussed qualifications for this specialist and discussed how potentially, they would serve as more of a general contractor guiding installers working with heavy machinery. However, there could be times that the City may require foundations to be created which is a different skill set than acting as a general contractor. There was discussion how various sculptures may require a different skill set due to the shape, size, and dynamics of the locations, therefore it would be hard to define qualifications for just one person. Staff

would bring the discussion points to other City departments and bring back comments at next month's meeting.

D. New Business

The Board then discussed annual goals as they have done for the past 3-years now. One of the main goals for 2021 is to coordinate with Cultural Council to attract more funding for new art. It was discussed that in metro-Detroit, its often the same foundations who are involved in art programs so those could serve as a good starting point. Donations would be kept with a 3rd party with the Cultural Council. The Board could consider more recognition online and via plaques for organizations and people who wish to participate.

The Board also discussed goals for interactive public projects for 2021. Yarn bombing in the fall was brought up, along with arts and crafts at the Farmers Market. Handing out "Crafts Packages" was brought up as a carry-out idea for people walking through. Staff was requested to look into companies who specialize in turning photos into coloring books to be a part of the crafts package. Piano in the Park would be put on hold until Covid restrictions were lifted. A suggestion for a "Public Arts Day" was also made where tours and various events around sculptures and public art could be held.

F. Communication

Wall art policy would be on the agenda for January 2021.

G. Comments

E. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

DATE: January 21st, 2021

TO: Public Arts Board

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

SUBJECT: Study Session: Murals, Wall Art, and Terminating Vistas

On August 19th, 2020, the Design Review Board conducted a study session related to murals and art on the exterior of buildings. Issues related to the Sign Ordinance preventing murals from being painted on the side of a building were discussed, as well issues regarding the lack of clarity in the Sign Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance for the application of wall art versus signage and architectural features. Discussion regarding the location of wall art and how the Board may consider limiting such art to certain locations occurred. There was also discussion related to defining art to separate wall art from signage and architectural features.

Conversations regarding wall art in Birmingham have occurred this past year with the Public Arts Board as well. The Public Arts Board recently submitted a report to City Commission with recommendations to allow murals and wall art. This report was accepted by City Commission on August 24th, 2020.

On November 4th, 2020, staff presented the Terminating Vista report and wall art recommendations to the Design Review Board where staff recommended that the Design Board consider three items related to wall art for discussion:

- 1.) Permitting murals to be painted on the exterior of buildings
- 2.) permitting wall art to be applied to the exterior of buildings, including but not limited to:
 - Temporary Canvasses
 - Ceramic Tiling
 - Wall sculptures
- 3.) Creating a review process for wall art that incorporates a review and recommendation from the Public Arts Board first.

In regards to discussion item one, the Design Review Board was amenable to murals being painted directly onto buildings in areas such as alleys, however they expressed concern about this being applied to the front of a building. A member of the DRB was also involved in the Alleys and Passages Plan committee and noted that murals in alleys could be a positive addition to the plan.

In regards to discussion item two, the Design Review Board was also amenable to temporary art, though they had issues related to how the city regulates content. Permissible content could be discussed during study sessions with Public Arts Board and Design Review Board for further review.

In regards to discussion item three, the Design Review Board was also amenable to a wall art review process that involves an application for art, and is reviewed with a recommendation by the Public Arts Board before going to the Design Review Board.

On November 18th, 2020 Public Arts Board discussed the following items brought up at the Design Review Board and recommended topics from staff:

1. Allowing murals directly on buildings along the alley and passages as indicated in the Alleys and Passages Plan plan (see map below). The Draft Master Plan recommends the Rail District as a potential location for this as well. The Board may wish to discuss limiting this to certain areas.
2. Creating a content review process for temporary wall art such as canvasses. For example, will the applicant be required to provide renderings beforehand, or can an artist be commissioned to paint what they wish after review of a portfolio?
3. Creating a review policy for wall art that involves comment from the Public Arts Board before the Design Review Board makes the final approval or denial.

There was general consensus from the Board that the locations suggested by the DRB were reasonable. The Arts Board also felt that drawings, renderings, or photos of the proposal should be required before approval. The Board was also amenable to making recommendations to the Design Review Board prior to the DRB going through the final approval process. The Board was open to reviewing recommended language suggestion for the Ordinance to allow wall art and require approval criteria for wall art to be permitted.

Staff recommends the Board review the following ordinance language recommendations and suggest amendments. Recommendations will then be taken to the Design Review Board for review.

Article 9 - Definitions:

Wall Art – An artistic design that may consist of various artistic mediums applied to the exterior surface of privately owned structures in a permanent or temporary manner. Wall art is limited to side and rear walls within the defined Rail District boundary and any side or rear wall facing an alley, passage or Via in the Downtown Overlay and Triangle District as specified in the Alleys and Passages Plan.

(Article 7 – Processes, permits, and fees)
Section 7.41 - Wall Art Review

Purpose –

The purpose of this section is to ensure wall art is appropriate for the proposed location.

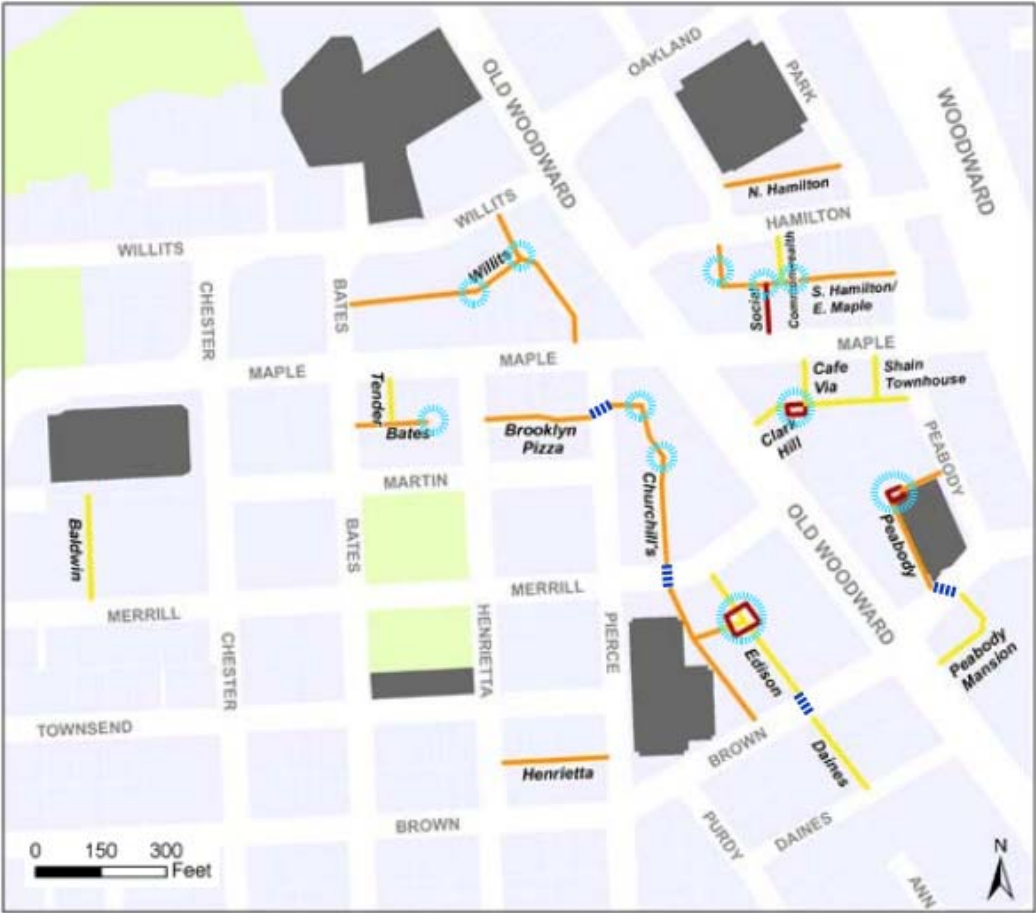
Application Requirements –

- A. Property owner shall submit the following;
 - a. An application from the Planning Department, indicating applicant's name, mailing address, location of the property, name of the artist, contact information, and such other information as deemed necessary by the appropriate reviewing body.
 - b. Two print copies and a digital copy of the proposed design which includes but is not limited to a drawing, rendering or photo of the proposed art work to be placed on the building, as well as the proposed dimensions of the art work.
 - c. A photo of existing conditions of the wall where the art work is proposed, along with the dimensions of the wall or walls.
 - d. Provide a timeframe for the art work to be exhibited, whether it is intended to be temporary or permanent.
 - e. Specifications of materials that will be used for the art work.
 - f. A resume of the artists including names, location, and photos of previous work.

Process Requirements –

All applications for Wall Art will be reviewed by the Public Arts Board for recommendation, then reviewed by the Design Review Board for final approval. Final approval is subject to the requirements for the Design Review Board as stated in Section 7.09 *Design Review: Review*.

DOWNTOWN ALLEYS & PASSAGES CLASSIFICATIONS MAP



LEGEND

- Active
- Connecting
- Destination
- Parking Structures
- Parks
- ▬▬▬ Crosswalks
- ⊙ Vistas





MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: January 20th, 2020
TO: Public Arts Board Members
FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner
APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Public Notification Process

Public Art proposals do not currently have public notification requirements. All of the sculpture donations and loans the Public Arts Board project has dealt with are on public property and the Public Art Section in the Municipal Code does not have requirements for public notification within the approval process.

In the Terminating Vista report, the Recommendations section suggests the Public Arts Board develop a public notifications process to help create more public involvement and encourage more public input for public art.

When a private property is scheduled for a public hearing in Birmingham, they are required to post a "Public Hearing" sign on their property and the City sends notifications in the mail to all residents and businesses within 300 feet. The hearing is also required to be posted on the website and published in a news source.

On December 16th, 2020, The Public Arts Board discussed implementing a public notification process. There was general consensus that modeling the notification process similar to what private property requirements follow would be ideal. For instance, when a sculpture is being considered for installation, the Public Arts Board would have a sign placed in the location and notifications would be sent to people within 300 feet. In general, The Public Arts Board discusses an initial loan or donation at a meeting. Board members generally request a site visit to see it in person. The Board then votes on a recommendation for the sculpture, which is then finalized by City Commission. Sculptures generally follow a pattern of Preliminary Review then Final Review from the Public Arts Board, and then City Commission.

The Public Arts Board may wish to discuss if they believe public notifications should be required for Planning Board Meeting and City Commission meeting, or only when items go to City Commission.



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: January 20th, 2021
TO: Public Arts Board Members
FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner
APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
SUBJECT: 2021 Goals

For the past 2 years, The Public Arts Board has done a goal setting session for the next year around this time. The Board may wish to discuss items they would like to approach in 2021. The Terminating Vista Implementation Framework Timeline has been attached for reference. Goals on the timeline submitted to City Commission include:

Approve Artwork from Call for Entry:	April-June 2021
Consider Revisions to Art on Loan Agreement:	Jan-Feb 2021
RFQ for Sculpture Installation Specialist:	Jan-Feb 2021
Consider city policy related to wall art:	Jan-Mar 2021
Establish Public Notification Process for Public Art	Jan-Mar 2021

There are a number of agenda items facing the Public Arts Board this winter and spring, however it appears possible that more time will be available in April for new items. On December 16th, 2020, the Public Arts Board discussed the following items to be explored in 2021, and may wish to elaborate on priorities:

- Recruiting outside funding to assist with new sculptures
 - Coordinate with the Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Council
- Piano in the Park once Covid restrictions are lifted
- Yarn Bombing
- Art and crafts packages to distribute at Farmers Markets
 - Consider coloring books from Birmingham images
- Public Arts Day
 - International Sculpture Day coordination and notification
 - Art events
- Sculpture unveiling events



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: January 20th, 2021

TO: Public Arts Board Members

FROM: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

APPROVED: Jana Ecker, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Communications

1. The Call for Entry was approved by City Commission on December 21st, 2020
2. Pyramid Earth is scheduled to be appraised Jan 20th, 2021, therefore should be on the City Commission agenda sometime in February 2021
3. Department Staff have provided comments to revisions for the art on loan agreement and the RFQ for a sculpture installation specialist
4. No meeting is scheduled in February 2021 due to Ash Wednesday. The Board may wish to consider a meeting on Wednesday Feb 10th.