



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

**PUBLIC ARTS BOARD**  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/88378200269>

(Click on Blue Link)

Or dial 1 929 205 6099, MEETING CODE 883 7820 0269

### **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 – October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- C. Unfinished Business
  - 1. Call for Entry loans
    - i. Ray Katz – astral projection
  - 2. Sculpture Donation
    - i. Sue Marx (Marx family sculpture)
- D. New Business
  - 1. 2022 Call for Entry
  - 2. Interactive art projects
- E. Communication
  - 1. Helen Hierta’s “Weathered”
- F. Public Comments
- G. Adjournment

### **Upcoming PAB Meeting: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

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

## Public Arts Board Minutes

### Public Meeting on Zoom – October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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#### A. Roll Call:

**Members Present:** Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Annie VanGeldereren, Natalie Bishae, Anne Ritchie, Marla Kaftan

**Members Absent:** Jason Eddleston, Nora Sherifaj (Student Rep)  
Hadley Lovell (Student Rep)

**Administration:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner

#### B. Approval of Minutes – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

An amendment to the minutes was requested regarding Laurie Tennent's application. The PAB commented that Laurie Tennent would not have to re-apply in 2022, that the PAB would consider the current application in 2022.

Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Annie VanGeldereren, seconded by Monica Neville.

**Yeas: 6                      Nays: 0**

The motion carried.

#### C. Unfinished Business

The first item on the agenda was Helen Hierta's application for art on loan. The PAB had previously recommended possible locations for Hierta's proposed sculptures. Staff indicated that they had toured the proposed eight locations with the artist. Upon review, the artist preferred the location where Fairway Trail intersects with W. Lincoln Road. The artist liked the proximity to the Rouge River, the stone bridge, and the tranquility of the woods and trail. The Public Arts Board agreed that this is a nice tranquil location and that the aesthetics of the sculpture matches the surrounding environment. The Board also requested that the Department of Public Services (DPS) install woodchips at the base.

A motion to recommend approval of the application for the sculpture on loan titled "Weathered" by Helen Hierta to be located at the intersection of Fairway Trail and W. Lincoln Street was made by Annie VanGeldereren, seconded by Marla Kaftan.

**Yeas: 6                      Nays: 0**

The motion carried.

The PAB then reviewed an application for art-on-loan by Ray Katz. The PAB had narrowed down their preferences to "Astral Projection" and "Burst". Staff informed the Board that "Astral Projection" would be easier to install as it only requires one base pad, whereas "Burst" would

require multiple base pads spread out, and would have a higher chance of error in installation. Removing the sculpture and replacing with another would be more difficult with "Burst" as well. The Arts Board commented that they prefer the additional height of "Astral Projection" and that they like how the colors pop out and contrast with the surrounding area. The variety of colors would be different than a number of the City's sculptures. The Board also liked the variety of colors placed at Crestview Park at the corner of Southlawn and how it is near an entryway to the City. In discussing sculpture locations at the entrance to the City, the Board requested that the Chesterfield Fire Station be added to their potential locations for public art as a possible entryway location on the west side of town.

A motion to recommend approval of the application for the sculpture on loan titled "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz to be located in Crestview Park at the intersection of Southfield Road and Southlawn was made by Anne Ritchie, seconded by Annie VanGelderren.

**Yeas: 6            Nays: 0**

The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of Sue Marx's sculpture donations to the City for "Untitled 1" and "Untitled 2". Upon discussing potential locations, the Board felt that the silver sculpture, "Untitled 1", would be best somewhere along the Quarton Lake Trail close to Oak where the owner lives. For the yellow sculpture, "Untitled 2", the Board proposed the landscaped area on the northern part of the intersection at E. Maple and S. Eton. The Arts Board discussed how the yellow color would stand out in the middle of the retaining wall area. Staff indicated they would measure the retaining wall area and coordinate with DPS to see if the yellow sculpture would work in that area. Staff would also bring photos of potential locations for a sculpture surrounding Quarton Lake near Oak Street at the next meeting.

#### **D. Communications**

The farmers market volunteers discussed how having their own table cloth and a friendly dog brought a lot of attention to the Arts Board table.

Items for next Board meeting were discussed, including DIAs inside out program, 2022 Call for Entry, and interactive art projects such as permanent easels. The Board also requested that lights for sculptures be included in their budget.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.



# MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

**DATE:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner

**SUBJECT:** Art on Loan Application for "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz  
(Updates in Blue)

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Artist Ray Katz has provided a number of sculptures for the Public Arts Board to consider for loan as a part of the 2021 Call For Entry. The sculptures consist of fabricated and welded steel. Details for each are provided on the following pages.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Public Arts Board reviewed the various sculptures and discussed the possible locations. The greenspace at S. Old Woodward and Woodard, south of the 555 building included in the Call-For-Entry could potentially work, however the Board that another location could be considered. The corner of Southlawn and Southfield Road at Crestview Park was proposed as another possible location. This area does not have a sculpture and could be a good location where Southfield Road acts as a type of entryway to Birmingham.

The Board requested that renderings be provided to show what the sculptures would look like in Crestview Park, as well as in front of the 555 building. The Board agreed that a taller sculpture would be better vs. the lower spread out ones. Staff has provided mockups of "Burst" and "Astral Projection" in Crestview Park and the 555 Building for review.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Public Arts Board recommended Astral Projection to be installed at Crestview Park at the corner of Southfield and Southlawn.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Parks and Rec Board reviewed the sculpture location recommendation for "Astral Projection". It was brought up that Crestview Park is a finalist for Birmingham's proposed addition of pickle ball courts. The final selection will be at the Parks and Rec Board meeting in December of 2021. If selected for pickle ball, there will still be greenspace for the proposed sculpture at Crestview Park, however the background/surroundings will be closer to a chain link fence and pickle ball court. The Parks & Rec Board postponed the item and requested that the Public Arts Board comment on the possibility of pickle ball courts being closer to the sculpture.



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PROJECT: **CRESTVIEW PARK  
PICKLEBALL COURTS - CONVERSION**

OWNER: **City of Birmingham**  
Parks & Recreation Department

**FDI** FORESITE DESIGN, INC.  
 3269 COOLIDGE HWY BERKLEY, MI 48072  
 ATHLETIC FACILITY PLANNING \*  
 SITE PLANNING \* CONSULTING \*  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
 PH: 248-547-7757  
 FAX: 248-547-0218  
 WWW.FORESITEDESIGN.COM

DWN: BSL  
 NOT TO SCALE  
 DATE: 10-22-2021

L1.01 D



14' height – 12' width – 11' length



**DATE:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT:** Marx Sculpture Donation for Untitled #1 and Untitled #2

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Birmingham resident Sue Marx has applied to donate two sculptures titled "Untitled #1" and "Untitled #2" to the City. The sculptures were created by her late husband Stanley "Hank" Marx and are currently located in her front yard.

Untitled #1 was built in 1982 and consists of an angular hollow core steel structure with elegant angles that are welded. The angularity and spacious quality allows for an interactive experience with the form. The sculpture is 8 feet in height with a base that is approximately 8 feet by 6 feet. The sculpture is meant to be placed directly on the ground, it is not meant to be bolted down.

Untitled #2 was also built in 1982 and consists of powder coated & fabricated steel that is angular in nature and golden in hue. The angularity is meant to create an interactive experience with the viewer and late day and early dawn light add to its illumination. The sculpture stands 5 feet in height with a base approximately 6 feet by 6 feet.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Public Arts Board began discussing potential locations for each sculpture.

Untitled #1



Untitled #2



For "Untitled 1", The Arts Board recommended a location along the Quarton Lake path. Quarton Lake is close to the owner's home where the artist and his wife enjoyed living since the 70s. Staff conducted a site visit at Quarton Lake and has suggested 4 locations along the path which are pictured below. Staff recommends that Board members walk the trail for on-site inspection prior to making a final recommendations. The Board may also wish to consider if they would like to keep the sculptures close together. If this is the case, locations #1 and #2 would keep them the closest. An Aerial map is attached following the photos.

1.)



2.)

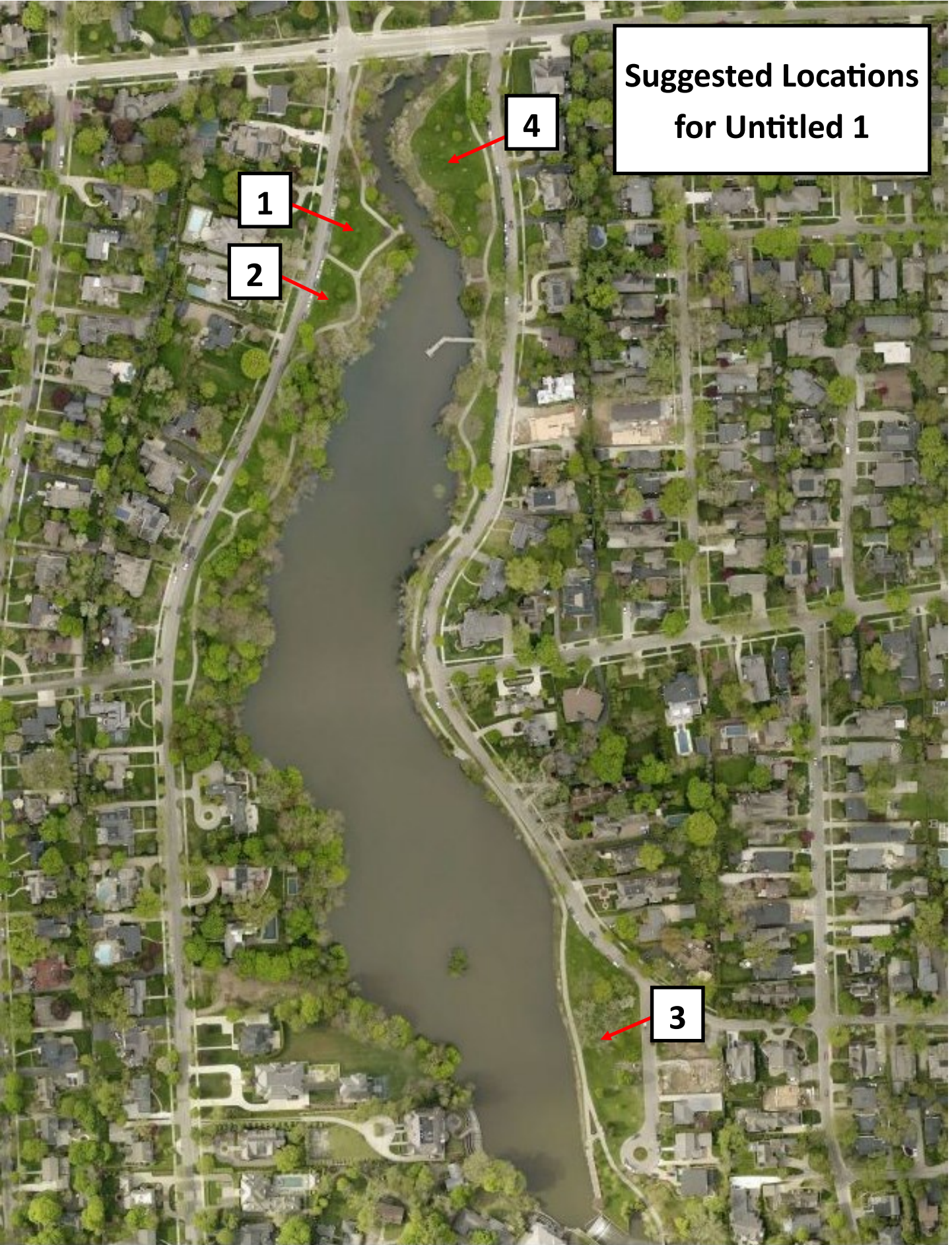


3.)



4.)





**Suggested Locations  
for Untitled 1**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

For Untitled #2, the Public Arts Board wanted to consider the landscaping area near the railroad at the intersection of E. Maple and S. Eton. The yellow sculpture's base dimensions are 6' x 6'. Staff inspected the location and the area appears to be not quite suitable for a sculpture with a 6' x 6' base. The 2<sup>nd</sup> step is not wide enough and the 3<sup>rd</sup> step has a large slope to it which would create a difficult resting angle for the sculpture. A different location is recommended.

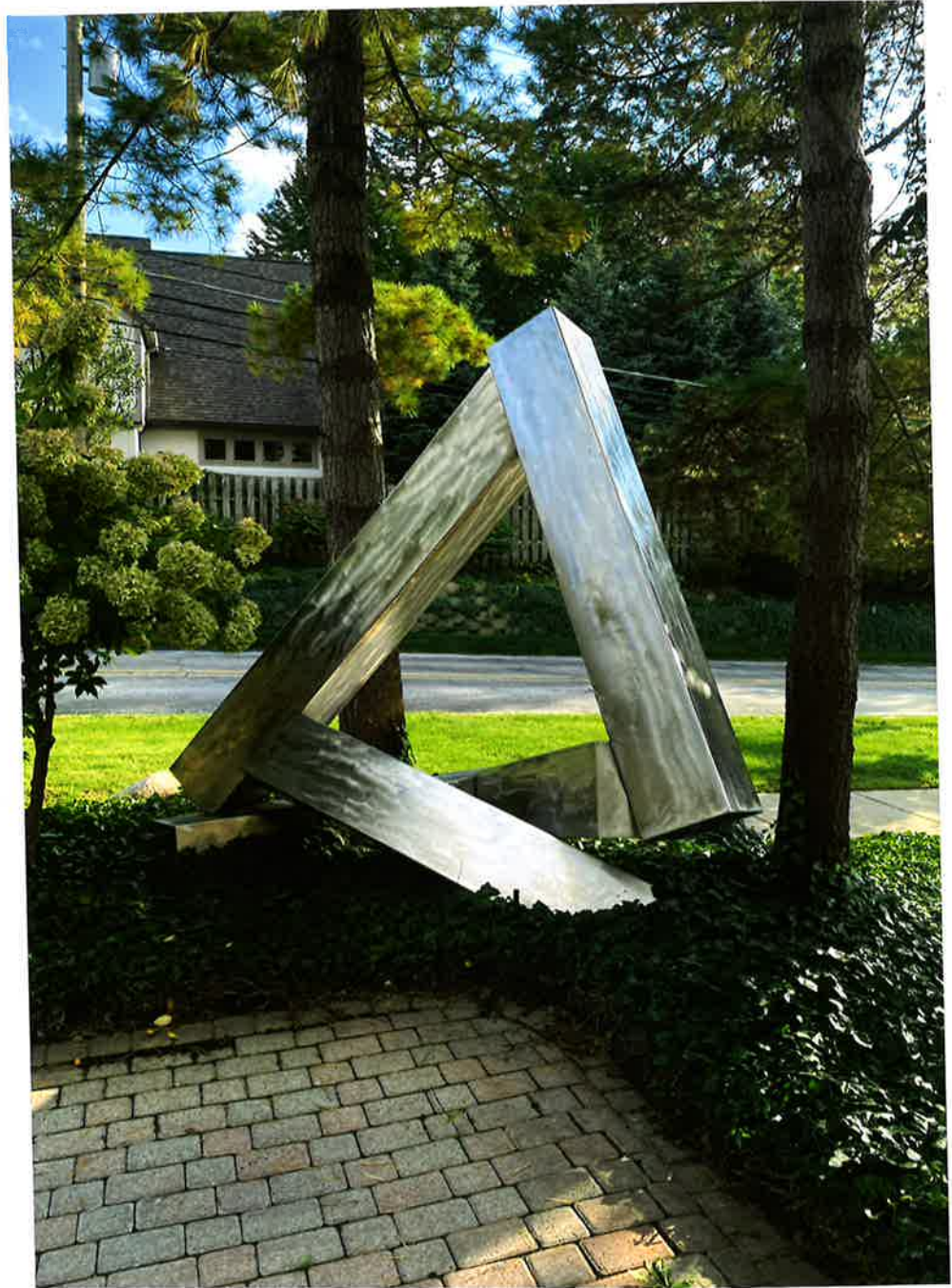
2<sup>nd</sup> Step

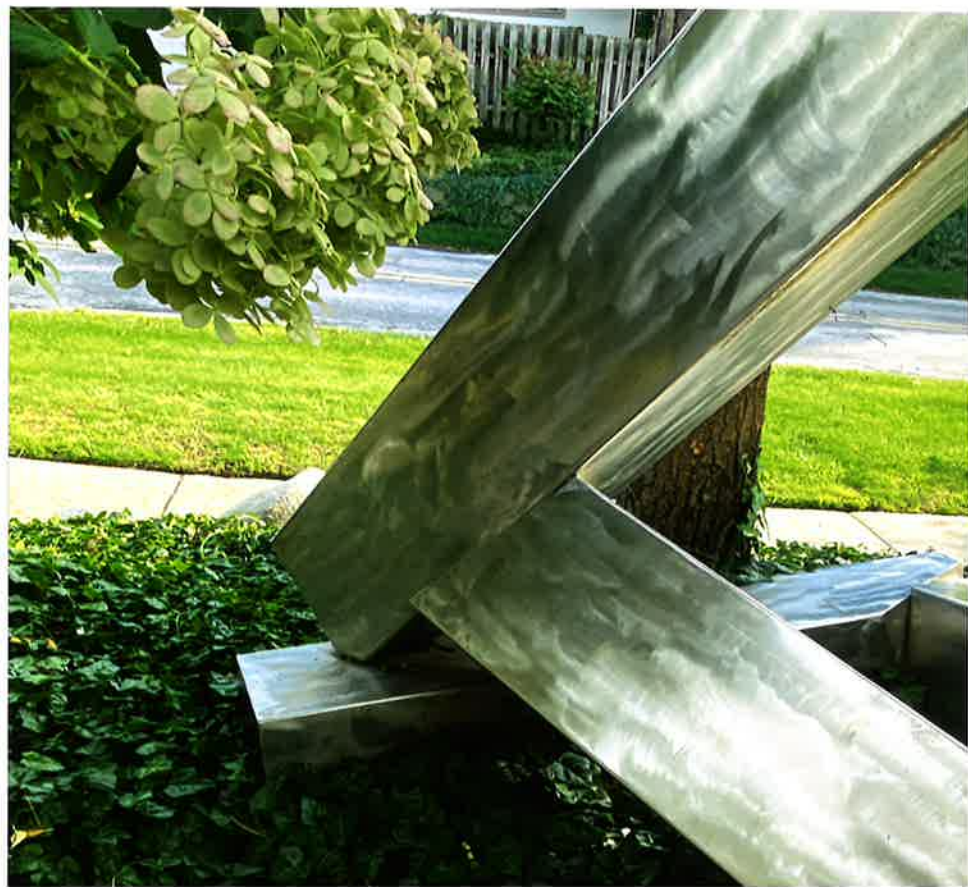


3<sup>rd</sup> Step



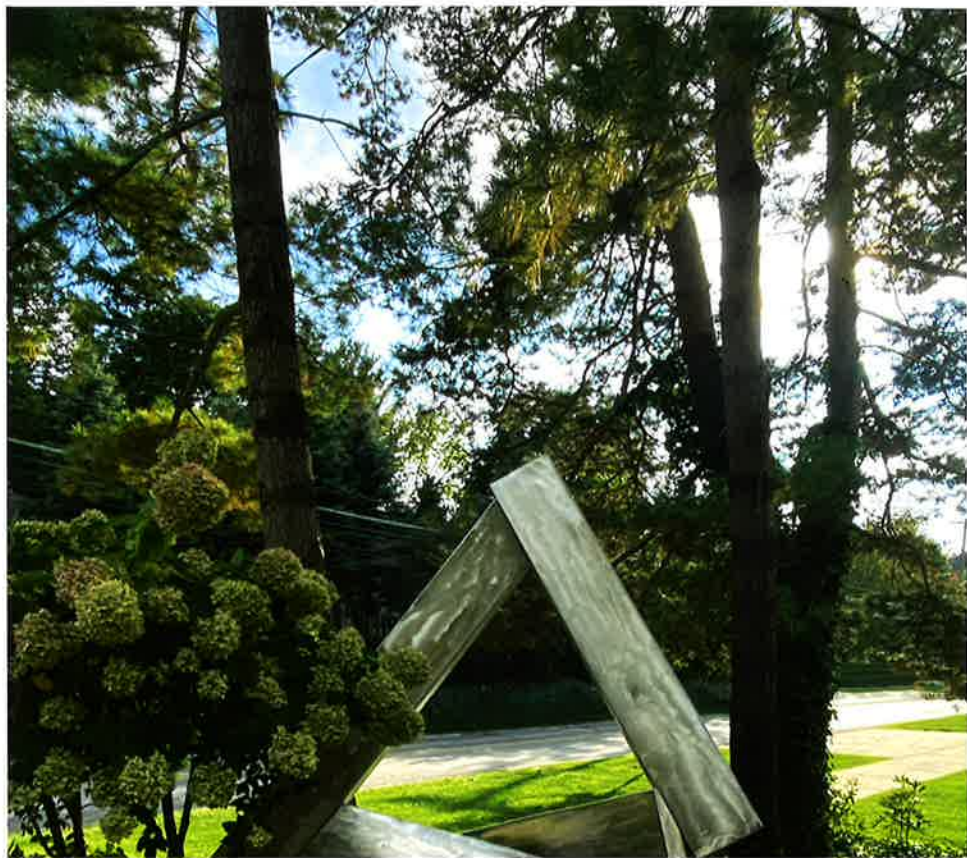




















## **MEMORANDUM**

**Planning Division**

**DATE:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT:** 2022 Call for Entry

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The Arts Board conducted a 2021 Call for Entry which received nearly 20 works of art for consideration from seven artists. The Arts Board has selected its final five sculptures, the last two being reviewed at City Commission in December of 2021. Each approved artist receives a stipend of \$2,000.

For 2022, staff recommends that the Arts Board pursue three locations in their Terminating Vista report from 2021. Two locations for artistic furniture consideration are the southeast corner of S. Old Woodward and Brown, in front of Adachi. The other being Pierce Street at the intersection of Martin Street. The electrical box at N. Old Woodward and Hamilton Row was included in the 2021 Call for Entry, however the PAB chose to wait until 2022 for this location given the applications received.

Staff also recommends a professional chalk art project be considered for their call for entry. The Arts Board could pursue professional chalk artists who interact with the public and conduct what could be considered temporary art installation. The Board may wish to discuss if this should be part of the call for entry, or if it should be considered a separate special event.

The Board may wish to discuss other ideas on how to approach a 2022 Call for Entry.





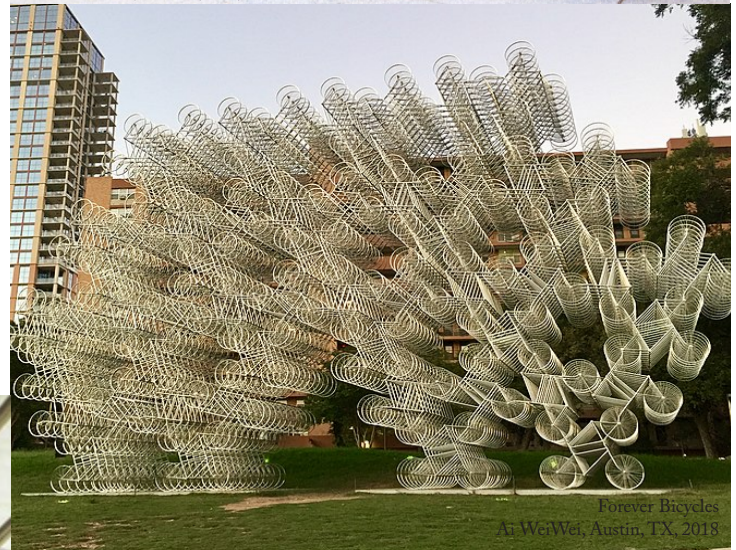
# Best Practices in Public Art for Terminating Vistas: Sculptures

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.



*Nebulous*  
Dan Corson, Seattle, WA

*Fashion and Design*  
Santiago Calatrava, Milwaukee, WI

# City of Birmingham Prequalified Public Art Locations

**Priority**

- High + Terminating Vista
- High
- Medium
- Low





## **MEMORANDUM**

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**Planning Division**

**DATE:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT:** Interactive Art Projects - 2022

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The Public Arts Board has indicated an interest for interactive art projects involving members of the public. In the past, the PAB has done projects such as the piano in the park, drawing at various public events, and art in the alley. Staff recommends the Board begin considering goals for 2022, which could include but are not limited to the following:

- Piano in the Park
- Chalk it up / chalk walk (professional artist?)
- Farmers Market once a month
- Plein Air Easel installation



## **MEMORANDUM**

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**Planning Division**

**DATE:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**TO:** Public Arts Board Members

**FROM:** Brooks Cowan, City Planner

**SUBJECT:** Communications

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1.) Helen Hierta's "Weathered" was recommended for approval at the Parks & Rec Board on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The sculpture is schedule to be on the agenda for City Commission review on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.