



North Saint Paul Request For Proposals Engagement in Public Art Planning

Prepared by
Geoff Kemp, John Pierce, Megan Cross
and Seunghoon Oh

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Resilient Communities Project

University of Minnesota

330 HHHSPA

301—19th Avenue South

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Phone: (612) 625-7501

E-mail: rcp@umn.edu

Web site: <http://www.rcp.umn.edu>

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Cover Letter

December 2, 2013

Paul Ammerman
City of North Saint Paul
Department of Community Development
Re: Public Art Planning RFP
2400 Margaret Street
North Saint Paul, MN 55109
Attn: Paul Ammerman

Dear Mr. Ammerman and Members of the North Saint Paul Department of Community Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare a plan for designing a strategy to bring public art engagement to the North Saint Paul community. Community Art Group has arranged the attached document in response to your Request for Proposals related to Engagement in Public Art Planning. Our group is equipped with substantial expertise in the arena of arts and public participation planning and has invested much time in broadening our knowledge of the community of North Saint Paul.

Our plan demonstrates our ability to successfully execute a process for engagement in public art planning which utilizes local knowledge, resources, and experiences via interactive street engagement, design charrettes, visual preference surveys, and an inclusive voting process on the final public art project. The development of our plan has included a detailed site visit, review of the North Saint Paul Comprehensive plan and zoning regulations, and an evaluation of key community resources. Our group is committed to working with the community and its existing organizations through a collaborative approach that reflects the goals of North Saint Paul and its stakeholders.

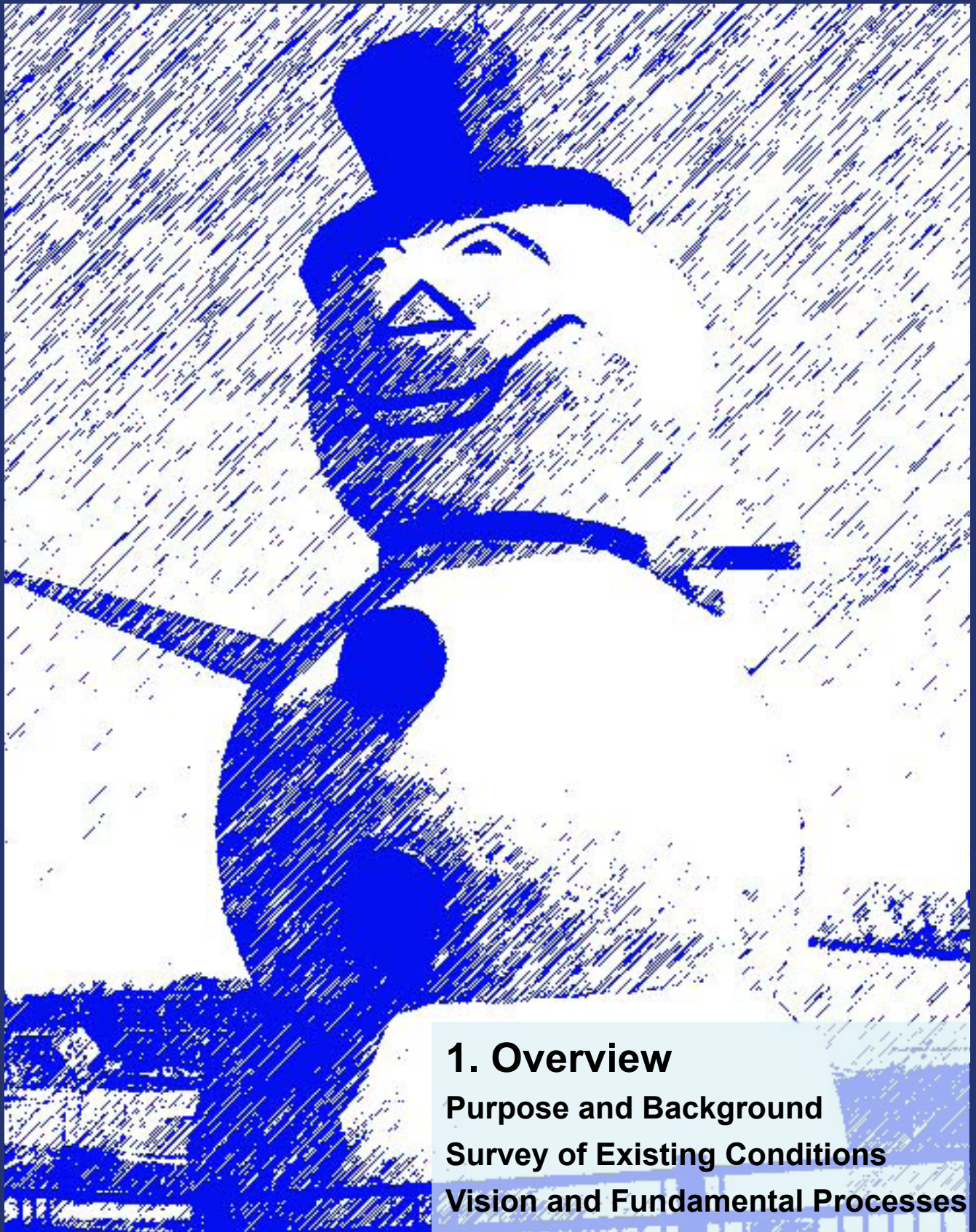
We appreciate this opportunity to work with City of North Saint Paul and look forward to your response to our proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact our group for additional information or with any questions pertaining to our plan.

Thank you,

John Pierce Geoff Kemp Seunghoon Oh Megan Cross
Senior Planners, Community Art Group

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1. Overview

Purpose and Background

Survey of Existing Conditions

Vision and Fundamental Processes

Purpose and Background

The city of North Saint Paul's request for public art offers unique opportunities to engage residents in an initiative to provide the city with public art that can both beautify the cityscape as well as provide a number of other relevant benefits. The outcomes of this planning process will likely include increased aesthetics, iconic place-making, economic development, and other benefits. The participation process will heighten the awareness of the benefits of public art for residents and participants. Our goal as consultants is to create a public art engagement plan that is inclusive and exciting while smoothly fulfilling the requirements and steps for doing so. When a general stakeholder consensus is achieved, it is then our responsibility to ensure that the stakeholder vision is carried out and put into practice in a way that reflects this vision.

Survey of Existing Conditions

Some current issues within North Saint Paul will play a role in our efforts to engage the community in public art planning. Transportation concerns include further integrating the Gateway State Trail connections and the Highway 36 corridor. Additionally, the North Saint Paul Redevelopment Master Plan is the need for a beautification of both of these corridors. This need for aesthetic improvements may provide an opportunity for the inclusion of public art on these sites.

Further, the downtown area of North Saint Paul houses numerous sites of vacant land. These areas are, in some cases, a remnant from the industrialization of North Saint Paul that followed a period of economic successes in Saint Paul (North Saint Paul Redevelopment Master Plan 2012). Current vacant sites include the previous City Hall location and the Commerce Park property. Although these locations are a current blight on the city, they offer numerous options for future redevelopment.

In addition to economic revitalization of North Saint Paul, walkability around and throughout the downtown is a concern. The city also needs to attract more commerce to their downtown area through a more contiguous pedestrian network that could be facilitated by public art as a means of wayfinding. The art piece could also act as a means of increasing the attractiveness of the downtown area and revitalizing some of the city's more blighted structures.

These possible outcomes are derived from the goals that the city has articulated in their 2030 Comprehensive Plan, but we suspect that the community will expand on these goals and provide additional perspectives.

Vision and Fundamental Processes

Prior to assessing the opinions of participants and stakeholders, preliminary goals for a public art initiative in North Saint Paul are place-making, the creation of a distinct aesthetic image for the city, fueling economic development, engaging residents in a way that allows them to be a part of the art making process, and beautification of the downtown, residential neighborhoods, park areas, and Gateway State Trail. The public art plan is an excellent opportunity to build community and to capitalize on and spotlight the talents of community members. Successful public art participation will build community and character across the community. This is to be a project by, for, and within

the community of North Saint Paul, completely shaped by the community's thoughts and ideals and put into action with a planned vision from us. Our job is to gather as wide of a range and quantity of these thoughts and opinions as possible.

North Saint Paul has articulated aesthetic concerns in their RFP and 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The concerns were concerned preservation of the old aesthetics of the city while adopting new measures for beautification and cityscape rejuvenation. The city wishes to revitalize its pedestrian experience by creating a more comforting and enjoyable sidewalk and streetscape network. According to the comprehensive plan, the city also has a desire to revitalize its historic downtown, an area ripe for reinvestment and that could be the centerpiece for a wide range of public art projects.

The first goal will be to identify a unified campaign to build awareness of the pending public art campaign for the city. Next, precedents of other cities' successful public art projects will be shown during the first two introductory events as part of an Art Weekend. During Art Weekend, participants will have the opportunity to voice where and what they want their community art project or projects to be. The campaign will include building a strong online presence, continued open houses, and ultimately a showcase of the talents of local artists through a public art competition. Once the community has had time to give feedback concerning the goals and scope of the public art contest, the art contest RFP will be published. After a submittal month, the community will have the opportunity to view and judge these works of art over a period of two weeks and eventually choose the piece that will permanently remain after the contest has ended.

Our hope is that public art in North Saint Paul is not only shaped and created by the participants and stakeholders, but reflects what North Saint Paul means to its residents. Funding for public art provides fodder for a revitalization of community areas and an overall improvement of the city's aesthetics. In the case of North Saint Paul, we hope to execute improvements to downtown and residential areas, as well as places along the Highway 36 corridor and Gateway Trails. This will result in a more aesthetically pleasing and comfortable pedestrian experience and enhance the existing park and trail system.

Ultimately, aesthetic additions, both temporary and permanent, will attract residents and non-residents to the downtown area. This additional foot traffic could act as a catalyst for revitalization of downtown and adjacent areas.



2. Public Participation

Goals of Public Participation Process

Identification of Key Stakeholders

Goals of Public Participation Process

The goals of public participation center around encouraging self determination within the North Saint Paul community, specifically related to public formation and selection of art projects. To reflect this desire, the public participation process has been designed such that art projects that meet the goals and interests of the residents of North Saint Paul will be identified. There are three main goals of the public participation process:

- accomodate new, innovative and creative ideas
- gather public input from a wide range of participants
- ensure underrepresented members of the community are included in the participation process

The public participation process aims to garner insight from as many of the stakeholder groups present in North Saint Paul as possible, with special attention paid to include minority and youth voices. By incorporating a wide range of participants, aesthetic and economic improvements to the city are more likely to garner a wide pool of support and awareness. Youth voices will be included through direct charrette activities, which will incorporate artists and feed creative processes related to the art competition.

Additionally, the public participation process seeks to understand the aesthetic preferences of stakeholders and community members. This will be accomplished by presenting a variety of external projects and precedents to create public inspiration and context for the art program in North Saint Paul. This will help with not only the current proposal for public art, but also future proposed art projects and artist collaborations. This will also enhance the “spirit” of the local community. Whether through the voting process set up in the art competition or actual contribution to collaborative public art, a public agreement regarding the key qualities of public art in North Saint Paul will be achieved. Ultimately, this will help to heighten the identity of the local community and its image.

The public participation process will also raise awareness about the public art program through a broad campaign including online tools, digital media, as well as chalkboard art and artist-led street engagement initiatives. Aside from gathering public feedback and raising art awareness, an artist-led street engagement will also help to publicize local events. Both digital tools and artist-led street engagement will be used in addition to standard planning methods, such as library copies of program notes and presentations. We hope that by incorporating ‘out-of-the-box’ artist-led communication methods whenever possible, varied public feedback will be gathered by a broad range of participants which will also ensure that members of the community are aware of the public art program.

In order to meet our goals of raising public awareness about the public art program through the participation process, we recommend commissioning an artist to create a site-specific, temporary, non-invasive interactive public feedback piece. One possibility is to have a feedback box in a prominent location in town in which community members are invited to submit answers to questions such as: define “art”; what does main street need; and what does North Saint Paul need?

The public’s answers could then be placed in a receptor and collected by the commissioned artist or planning staff after a few days.

Identification of Key Stakeholders

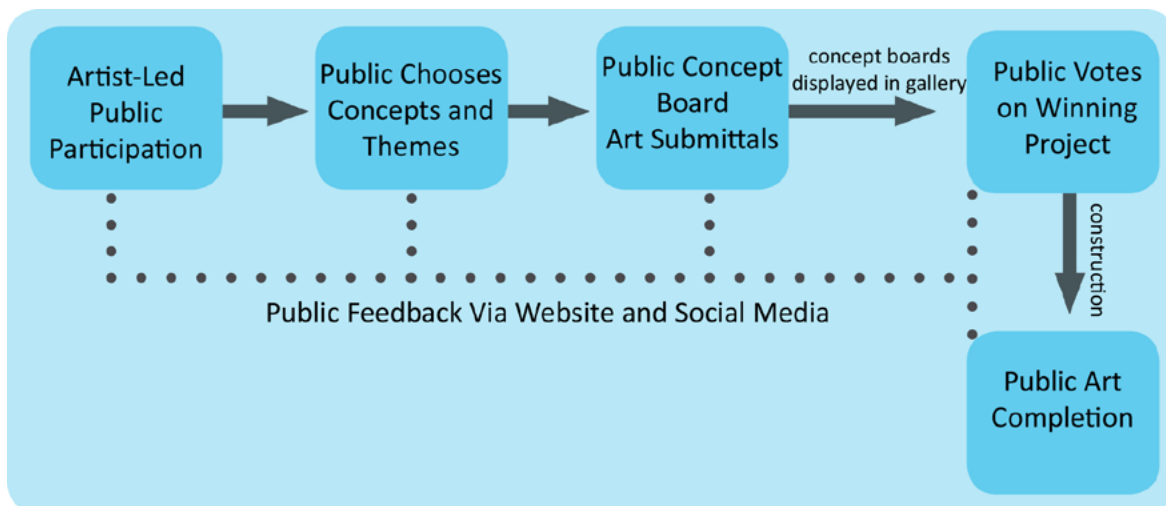
Potential stakeholders include local artists, private businesses, competition attendees, and community institutions such as the City Council and Department of Community Development. All relevant stakeholders will be involved in the process of bringing public art to North Saint Paul. First and foremost are residents and local community members. There will be several techniques used to engage the general public, including innovative artist-led street outreach, lively and well-publicized open houses, walking tours, and charrettes. Special attention will be paid to youth voices during these processes, particularly during the charrettes.

The now-defunct North Saint Paul Arts council, which “exist[ed] to encourage, promote and facilitate artistic expression, cultural enrichment and aesthetic awareness within [the community]” could be revived (MNartists.org). Hopefully the art competition in North Saint Paul will be aided by community members who were involved in the Art Council’s efforts.

Several existing organizations and institutions in the Twin Cities region are relevant to nascent public art initiative processes. These organizations include Forecast Public Art and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. Forecast Public Art, a nonprofit organization located in Saint Paul, offers numerous grants that could help fund the North Saint Paul Public Art Competition. Their grants, valued at up to \$50,000, are offered to emerging and mid-career artists. The winning grant proposals are chosen by a community panel which is composed partly of other artists. Such grant structures could be a possible funding source for local North Saint Paul artists (Forecast Public Art).

Similarly, the Regional Arts Council funds local endeavors, holds workshops for artists and art administrators, and awards grants. Their mission is to “increase access to the arts in 7-county metropolitan area communities by providing information, organizational support, and grants” (Metropolitan Regional Arts Council).

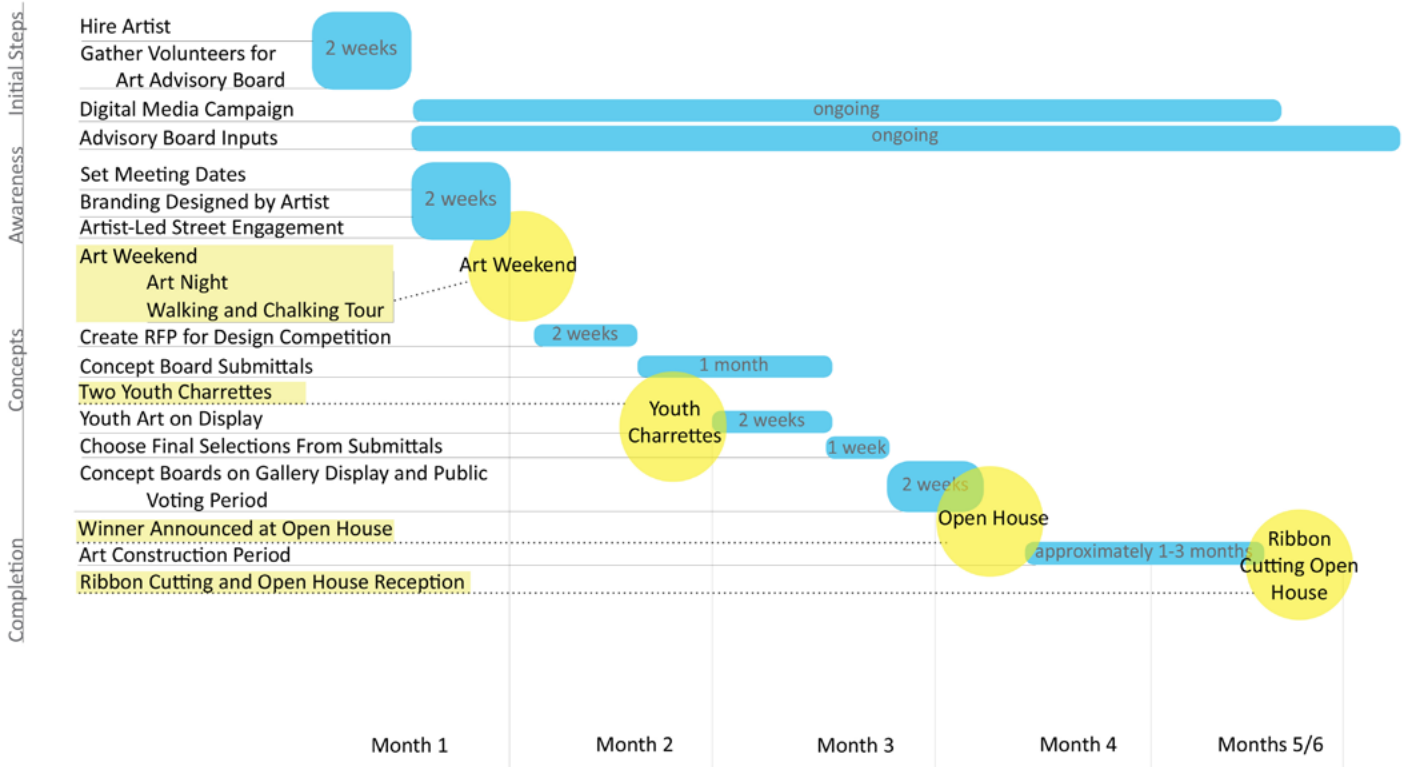
Between the network in place from the former North Saint Paul Arts Council and the funds available through Forecast Public Art and the Metropolitan Art Council, the North Saint Paul community has the proper framework and capacity for a large public art event.





3. Work Plan

Work Plan Process



Weeks 1&2

The first month of the public engagement process will be comprised primarily of preliminary planning in order to set the stage for the long-term participation effort. During this month, we will hire a professional artist on a part-time basis to create a branded logo for the public art project. Branding will allow the art process to appear like the community campaign that it is rather than merely an effort by local government officials. The hired artist will also act as a consultant throughout the entire process, consulting and advising on open houses and public events. With a broad artistic community to choose from, we do not see any issues in finding a suitable candidate for the short-term, part time position. Separately, a web designer must be hired to create a user-friendly website that contains the capacity for feedback and surveys, blog posts, and image galleries.

During this time, we will decide the key dates for meetings and deliverables based on feedback we will be receiving from community stakeholders. In this period we will select an advisory board made up key stakeholders within the community. These stakeholders include public officials, business owners, community leaders, invested local residents, and local artists. The advisory board will impart local knowledge and will be privy to and help inform all key decisions made throughout the entire process. Beyond extensive local knowledge and expertise, the advisory board will show the community at large that this is not a project being informed merely by outsiders but by trusted members of their community who have the city's best interests at stake.

Weeks 3&4

In this phase, the consulting artist will begin a Public Art Campaign that seeks to gather preliminary feedback from the community. Their task will include informing residents about public art in their community and spreading the word about what new public art might look like in their community. As a part of the preliminary outreach, the artist will inform residents about key events in the process, including the upcoming Arts Weekend, and a rough timeline of the entire project. The artist's interactions will occur on the streets and public spaces of the city during this phase. This heavy-duty community outreach performed mainly by the artist consultant will help to get the word out to as many community members as possible through as many relevant outlets as possible.



Such artist-led engagement strategies have been successfully deployed in the region. The Creative City Making Project of Intermedia Arts partnered artists and planners to focus on specific regional urban neighborhoods or facilities. One project artist, tasked with engaging the public with historic architecture, created a Mobile Tracing Unit which encouraged impromptu art contributions from passersby (Youth and Planning). An artist-driven engagement technique, modeled after this

precedent, would allow for input from all types of North Saint Paul community members.

At this time, we will have decided that the public art implementation goal will be accomplished through a Public Art Competition. After the Public Art Competition community outreach has been performed (via Arts Weekend) there will be a call for submittals from visual artists in the Twin Cities metropolitan area for art that will be displayed at a designated location in the city of North Saint Paul.

Arts Weekend:

One month after the start of the outreach process, we will host the first series of community events to gather residents and stakeholders to discuss the process, inform participants about art methods and precedents, and gather information and opinions about public art and its place in North Saint Paul. This will be celebrated with a community kickoff open house and walking tour as part of the Arts Weekend.



The evening open house will be in the form of an informal Visual Preference Survey and a structure that allows participants to come and go as they please. Such an open house could take place at the North Star Museum in downtown North Saint Paul. The open house will be held on a Friday evening from 6 to 9 pm with light food and beverages provided. This event will provide art information and solicit the public's opinions through a number of visual and interactive activities. The advisory board and artist consultant will allow for one-on-one dialogue. The primary purpose of this open house event is to gather information from participants concerning the "where," "what," and "why" of new public art in the city.

The "where" aspect is related to the specific locations in the community participants would like to see public art. This will be facilitated by maps of the city of North Saint Paul. Participants will be able to visually notate specific locations of the city they would like to see potential public art pieces. Colored stickers, sticky notes, and trace paper will be provided to allow participants to notate their concerns or opinions. We will highlight our areas of recommendations for public art location including the downtown corridor, the I-35 corridor, and connections between downtown and the Gateway State Trail.

The "what" concerns what style of art participants would like to see displayed in North Saint Paul, both stylistically and thematically. A number of different examples of artistic styles will be displayed throughout the event space. Participants will have the option of notating their favorite styles and then make any relevant comments about these particular styles of artwork. This will also be accomplished visually with colored stickers and Post-it notes.

The “why” concern is based on the issues that community members would like to see solved by a community art contest and subsequent public art installation in the community. Again, this information will be gathered on a wall space where participants can voice their opinions by writing what specific changes or improvements they would want public art to bring to the city of North Saint Paul. The primary categories we would provide as starting points are economic revitalization, city beautification, and placemaking. Attendees could post their stickers nearby words that resonate with their ideas of public art.

If participants have limited time to engage in these activities we will also provide the alternative to fill out a short survey that compiles the above information into a shorter question and answer form. This survey will also be available at all subsequent public events and also available in electronic format during the following months on the website and advertised through social and traditional media outlets.

The second major events during the Arts Weekend will be a community walking tour, called the Walking and Chalking Tour, that will give participants the opportunity to explore the community as a group first-hand. This event will take place on the Saturday from 1 to 2:30 pm. The Walking and Chalking tour will engage the public with stakeholders, volunteers, and a historian if possible, will begin at 1:30 pm starting in front of the North Saint Paul City Hall and ending at Neumann’s Bar and Grill upstairs for food, drinks, and debriefing from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Participants are encouraged to join the group on the guided tour but are not required to do so. A map of the suggested tour route will be provided to all of the participants along with instructions about what the tour should accomplish. Every participant will be given a piece of chalk that they will use to mark and designate particular spots in the city where they would like to see public art. This will give those who cannot or do not want to join the formal tour to do so independently.

Weeks 6 & 7

It is during this time that we, the consultants, along with the advisory board will disseminate and interpret the information that has been provided to us by the public through the initial artist-led engagement and the Arts Weekend. All of the public comments and opinions will have been formally documented and formatted in a manner that allows the deciding committee to make decisions that most reflects the desires of the community of North Saint Paul. We will update the public with our efforts throughout this phase with updates on the website and other social media outlets, and inform the public of the date at which we will deliver our results.

At the end of this two-week period we will deliver North Saint Paul’s art competition Request for Proposals (RFP) flyer to all artists in the Twin Cities region. As with all of our deliverables, these will be posted and advertised through all of our media outlets as well as through outreach to socially minded art organizations in the Twin Cities (Intermedia Arts). The RFP will provide all of the details concerning the Public Art Competition for North Saint Paul. These details will address type, location, size, style, and theme of the artwork to be submitted for proposal, which will be informed by the previous public outreach and opinion. The art proposals must be submitted on a 24”by 24” poster board which details the concept and response to the RFP description.

One-Month Submittal Period and Youth Charrettes

During this time period, the advisory board and artist will review art concept submittals from artists. Depending on the number of submittals, the submissions may be weaned down to a select group. The final selections, to be put to public vote, may be curated by the advisory board for their practicality or responsiveness to RFP specifications. However, we recommend keeping as many proposals as possible to enable public voters to make the final decision. Since the submittal phase is relatively static for the non-artists in the community, we will use this time to facilitate outreach to youth populations in North Saint Paul.

On the first Friday of this month, we will host a youth charrette at North Saint Paul High School gymnasium. This event will specifically be promoted towards high school students. We hope that this will lead to further engagement from high schoolers in the public art process as well as lead to youth engagement in community activities. A secondary, and perhaps equally important, goal of this outreach effort is to encourage young artists to submit concept proposals to the Public Art Competition. The opportunity for a high school student to display their art in the community would benefit both the student and the city of North Saint Paul.

The following day, we will host another engagement process for children ages 3-12 and their parents. This will take place at a local space, such as the North Star Museum, from 11 am-1PM. The purpose of this event is to create ongoing community outreach and to keep every facet of the community engaged in the Public Art Competition. We realize that most children at this age may not quite be ready to submit for the Public Art Competition. To incorporate the children's creativity and engagement into the larger process, we will display their art publicly during the remaining submittal time. The youth's art pieces may be displayed in a local gallery or the lobby of North Saint Paul City Hall. Sample lesson plans of these youth charrettes are in the *Participation Programs Cookbook* section of this document.

Weeks 12-14: Submittal Review Process and Public Voting Period

In the week following the deadline for art submissions, the advisory board and consulting team will critique the submissions to verify appropriateness and quality. Submissions that are appropriate for the public will be displayed in a gallery space, potentially in North Saint Paul City Hall, for two weeks for participants to critique and vote on. Participants will sign in upon arrival and be given one ballot to vote on their preferred piece of public art for the city. Each participant is allowed one vote only. The process of signing in upon arrival should prevent individuals from voting more than once.

At the end of the two week voting period, the consultants will gather the votes and identify the art proposal that has received the most votes. On the first Friday after the final votes have been tallied, we will facilitate an open house event that announces the piece of art that has been chosen for display. The winner will be awarded a grant to construct their art piece in the location designated through public feedback and advisory board approval. The event will be in the style of an informal open house. Like all our events, light food and beverages will be served.

Months 4-6: Construction Period and Continuing Public Art Efforts

The winning artist will be given between 1 and 3 months to complete their public art piece. During this time we will continue to utilize the website and social media outlets to keep the public interested in and updated on the public art initiative. This will be accomplished with weekly posts on social media sites and a hashtag that social media users can use when referencing or taking pictures of the art piece under construction. Additionally, we will write a monthly newsletter to be posted on the website and emailed to participants with all relevant updates.

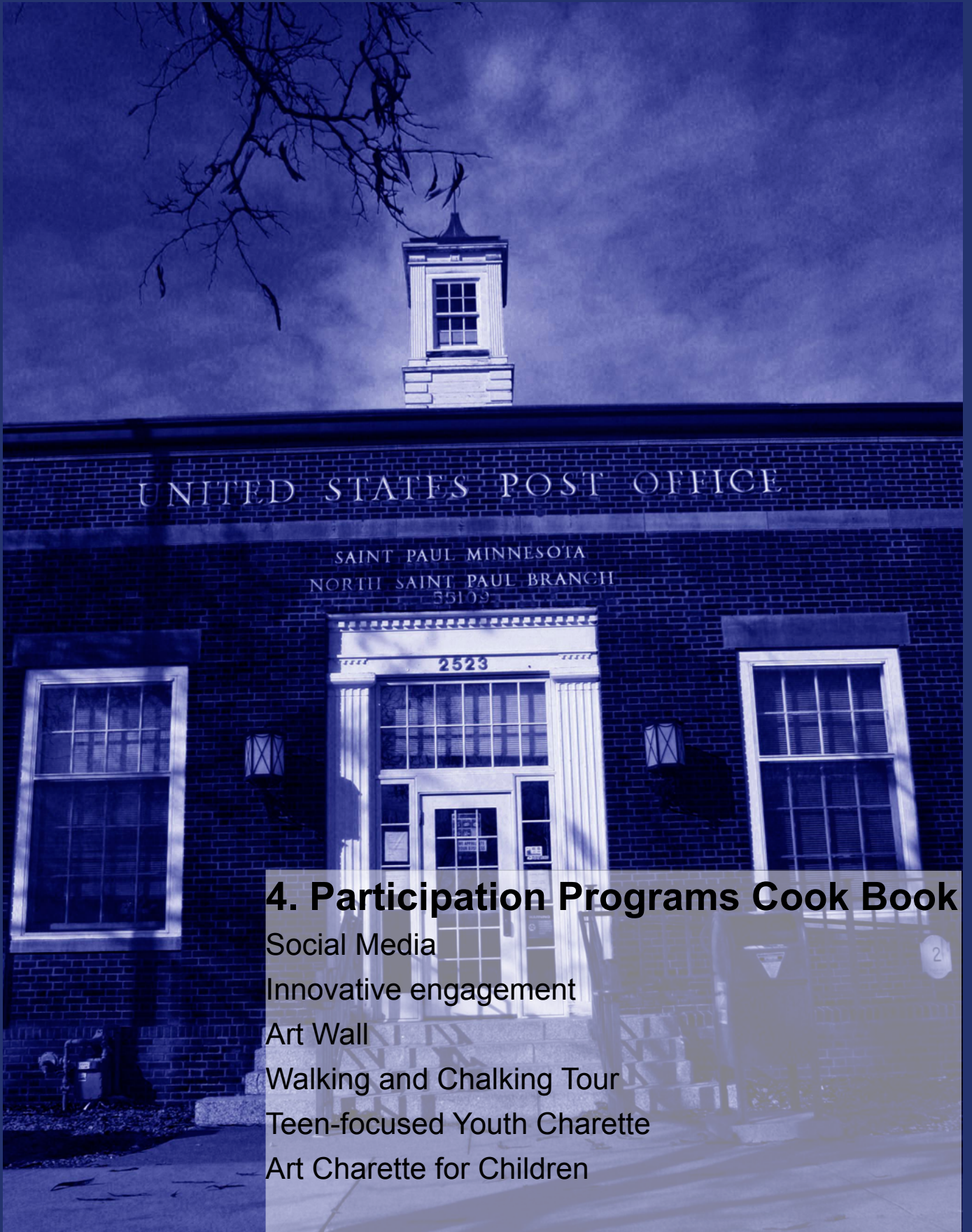
When the art piece has been completed we will host an unveiling ceremony to take place at the location of the public art installation. At this event, we will announce to the audience our plans for ongoing public art efforts in North Saint Paul. The plan will involve repeating the public art contest on a yearly basis with a new public art piece being permanently constructed and displayed every year. After the public unveiling we will a short gathering immediately afterwards at a neighborhood venue with event space, such as Neumann's Bar and Grill.

Final updates will be announced via the website and social media outlets in order to add closure to the process. We will then work with the advisory board to form a permanent North Saint Paul Arts Committee that will oversee the public art contest for the following years to come. The arts committee will be made up of at least five community stakeholders who show a vested interest in furthering the visibility of public art in North Saint Paul. It is very likely that these individuals will be current members of the advisory board.

Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

There are several mechanisms in place for the monitoring and evaluation of the success of the public arts program in North Saint Paul. They include online feedback surveys via the website, continued documentation of the events, and social media impact. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected for the entire scope of the project.

Public satisfaction surveys will be available at all public gatherings and on the website throughout the public art initiative. This will attempt to gauge the satisfaction of participants and allow us and the advisory board to receive feedback about the entire process. This can allow us to correct any mistakes we made for future efforts, whether they be in North Saint Paul, or elsewhere.



4. Participation Programs Cook Book

Social Media

Innovative engagement

Art Wall

Walking and Chalking Tour

Teen-focused Youth Charette

Art Charette for Children

Social media

A social media campaign will be utilized in order to achieve as large and diverse of an audience as possible. This includes creating a Facebook page, Twitter feed, and Instagram account specifically for the project. Major events will be communicated with these outlets. This will allow us to communicate and gather information through a number of channels and capture an audience who might not be captured through the website, traditional media, or published materials. It also allows us to communicate both by micro-blog (Twitter) and through visual imagery (Instagram).

A custom hashtag will be designated for the public art initiative in North Saint Paul (#nspART). This hashtag, when used, will signify and categorize any social media post as relevant to public art in North Saint Paul. This hashtag, as well as our presence on other social media, will be widely advertised during the kickoff open house event, on the website, and any relevant handouts and literature.

Innovative engagement

An artist consultant will engage the public as part of the initial phase of the public art awareness campaign. The artist will be given a modest budget with which to create a temporary public engagement art program to engage participants in public spaces around North Saint Paul. The engagement program may involve the creation of a physical structure that the public can interact with, street interviews, or a combination of the two at the discretion of the artist. Furthermore, the artist is required to include the branding for Public Art Campaign within their methods.

North Saint Paul will gain the greatest benefits from art tailored to the collective interests, concerns, and priorities of the community. In light of the art focus for this project, the artist would be tasked with gaining feedback regarding community issues and perceptions of art in the community. The art piece for this two week (may be extended if necessary) street outreach effort may be deployed and picked up every day, left in a space or spaces for days at a time, or perhaps be attached the artist themselves.

The artist is required to document the public's thoughts on art in the public sphere in a categorical and qualitative way. The feedback documentation may be achieved through photographs, video recordings of temporary events such as pop-up art attractions, transcriptions of interactions or written feedback, or a combination of these and others. The overall quantity of individuals affected by the innovative outreach project will be documented.

Art Wall

The first public meeting of Arts Weekend will include an Art Wall, inspired by Visual Preference Surveys, that will allow the public to absorb images of existing public art. The Art Wall will consist of a large collage of various public art projects, printed images about 10"by10" each. The printout will extend nearly the full height of the wall to allow attendees of all heights to leave comments. Attendees will be asked to write down or sketch their favorite qualities of public art as inspired by the images of the Art Wall. Using trace paper, sticky notes, drafting tape, and bright markers, attendees can leave comments and sketches on the Art Wall. Facilitators will encourage attendees to

list the important qualities of public art for North Saint Paul.

Another wall will include a large scale map of the town and a blowup map of the 7th Ave E. and Margaret St. N. juncture. Attendees will be encouraged to place trace paper notes on the maps in locations where they believe public art might be appropriate. A facilitator will monitor the map wall and explain the idea to attendees. Attendees will be encouraged to include a reason for why the specific area could benefit from public art. Further, there will be additional street-level images of Main Street views onto which attendees can trace the architecture and streetscape and add their own ideas.

Another area will include a list of abstract art descriptions and adjectives on the wall. Attendees will be invited to place stickers on the descriptors that they find most important. The wall will have certain pre-written art qualities but attendees are encouraged to write more of their own descriptions to the wall in the paper's white space. The stickers distributed at arrival should be placed around the qualities that are most resonant or important to attendees. The resulting wall will have layers of information and feedback. The appropriate qualities for art and the popularity of each quality will be revealed by the density of the dots. Unique themes for the public art competition in the community will be specified. The output of this wall will directly factor into the wording the design competition RFP.



Walking and Chalking Tour

The Walking and Chalking Tour will allow the public to learn more about the history of their town potentially with the help of a historian guide. The tour will meet at the City Hall and terminate at the North Saint Paul snowman. Each attendee will be given a map of the walking tour route. After an overview of the town's historic architecture, the walk will break and each person will receive sidewalk chalk. The participants will then mark up areas where public art could be placed. Participants are encourage to mark on their maps any locations where they have created chalk markings. Smartphone users will be encouraged to photograph their art and upload them with social media tags (#nspart). Afterward, refreshments will be served at a central space and maps will be collected from those who retained them. The art consultant will be tasked with photographing the output of the Walking and Chalking tour.

Teen-focused Youth Charrette

During the first weekend of the monthlong art submittals period, the city will host additional set of public workshops targeted at youth. These youth workshops will have multiple benefits: the engagement of a traditionally underrepresented voices, youth education about art, continued awareness and publicity for the public art focus of North Saint Paul, and the potential for applicants from youth in the design competition. This process will involve two charrettes over one weekend. The first charrette, likely to take place on a Friday evening, would focus on engaging teenagers at North Saint Paul High School. The second will aim to engage younger children and their parents through an interactive charrette tailored for ages 3-12.

The teenager-focused charrette will require staffing and materials to engage the students in an inclusive art process. Although charrettes for youth can be tweaked to work with any context and budgets, the following are basic descriptions for the agenda of hosting art-focused design charrettes for teenagers and younger children.

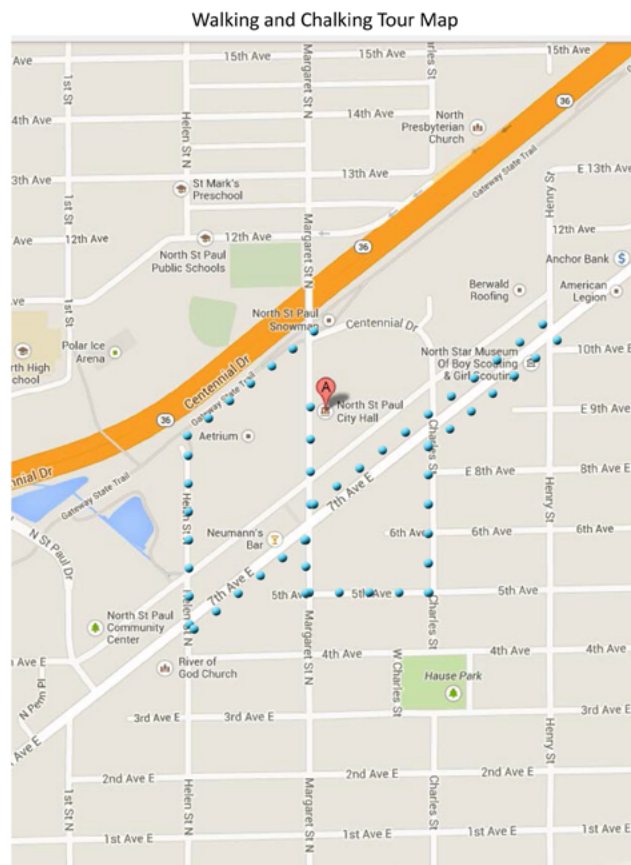
Secure classroom or gym space large enough to hold 50-100 students. Outreach analysis and advisory board will help gauge the interest and size for planning the charrettes. Facilitators will include the arts program consultant, planning staff, and volunteers gleaned from advisory board and their networks. The 'deliverable' will involve students working individually, then in groups, to produce a small scale model of a unique piece of public art. The space will be set with tables each lined with six chairs dispersed throughout the room. The room will include a staffed art supply table where students will select materials and space for another table with refreshments. Teenagers will be shown images of various public art projects in a five minute slideshow. Images will emphasize the variety of materials and scales in public art and the presenter will provide a fun, lively description of the art tailored to teenagers. First, students will work individually for 45 minutes to create a physical model of art based on various qualities of art: iconic, classical, heavy, transparent, etc. At the end of the 45 minutes, students will have one minute each to describe their artworks to the rest of the students at the table. Facilitators and adult volunteers will monitor activity at each table with at least one facilitator for every two table groups. After small group discussions conclude (approximately ten minutes) the group portion of the project will proceed. One student from each table will reach from three bowls to randomly select slips of paper which will formulate the design problem the group needs to solve. Paper slips will assign a specific location within North Saint Paul, an urban problem to be addressed, and a quality drawn from Arts Weekend that their group art should emphasize (which might include qualities such as place-making, way-finding, icon, outrageous, etc). Groups will then have one hour to create an art piece that addresses the urban issue, in a specific North Saint Paul location, a specific method. Map printouts will be distributed to the groups as needed and groups can gather materials from the materials table as necessary. Groups will present their projects to the larger group at the end of the meeting.

Art Charrette for Children

An art charrette for younger children, specifically ages 3-12, may proceed as follows: Secure a space to include tables with four chairs each, availability for a projector for Powerpoint presentation, and an adjacent space for adult discussion for parents and guardians. Charrette facilitators will include the arts program consultant, planning staff, and volunteers gleaned from advisory board and

their networks. Each youth will be provided with a ½” thick foam core 12”by18” base. Youth will be shown images of various public art in a five minute slideshow. Images will emphasize the variety of materials and scale in public art and the presenter will provide a fun, lively description of the art tailored to young children. Individual children will receive equal quantities of small construction paper cutouts shaped as hexagons, circles, and other geometries, popsicle sticks, and pipe cleaners. Facilitators will first distribute glue sticks to allow the children to glue the construction paper geometries on the foam core base to create patterns. Next, children will be allowed to choose pipe cleaners and markers to colorize the popsicle sticks to start the three-dimensional portion of their art projects. Popsicle sticks and pipe cleaners can cleanly, easily, and safely be inserted into the foam core base which will enable even young children to create three-dimensional geometry on their individual 12”x18” base. Children will have one hour to work on project, followed by time for youth to voluntarily share what they have created. During the charrette time, parents will engage planners in a more traditional planning meeting that will touch on the public art process in an adjacent space in the building.

All charrette art projects will be photographically documented and named. Youth projects will be put on display at a gallery in town. After two weeks, projects will be collected or recycled.



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