

June 23, 2023

To: Ann Arbor City Council

From: Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Re: Public Art Enhancement Recommendations for FY2024-FY2029 Capital Improvement Projects

Per Chapter 24 of the City Code, one of the primary responsibilities of the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission is to make recommendations to City Council for capital investment projects which may be suitable for enhancement with public art. After extensive work with City staff, to whom we offer thanks for their time and input, we present the following list for your consideration.

Our understanding is that once this report is formally accepted by City Council, the acceptance will provide staff with authority to include the art enhancement in the project budget as it moves forward toward design and construction. As such, we strongly encourage your acceptance of this report. There are, of course, numerous other opportunities to refine the project budgets including the enhancement amounts as projects move toward reality.

We fully understand that this list is based on very limited information in the current Capital Improvements Plan. Some of the projects will not move ahead; others will end up with funding sources with which enhancement is not possible. For some projects, it will be determined once we know more about the scope that there is no place for art, or that it would not be widely enough seen to make sense for funding. That said, all of the following seem, based on what we know now, to be appropriate for enhancement. Where we have thoughts on an appropriate enhancement, and/or a possible budget for the enhancement, we have included that with each item. Budgets are in most cases based on about 1% of the project budget without enhancement unless we felt a smaller amount was sufficient for the project, or a larger amount was needed to provide a reasonable enhancement.

After review of the new CIP with staff for FY 2024-2029, we offer the following recommendations for upcoming new projects:

MF-CB-24-01, City Clerk Election Center: We understand this is in early stages of determining a space or site, and some of it may be for storage of election equipment, but the portion for training will bring in many temporary staff and/or volunteers who would appreciate a good environment to support their work on behalf of our city's elections. We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$10,000 (1%) be included in the \$1,000,000 project budget. (FY2023-24).

MF-CB-24-09, Downtown Restroom Assessment: We understand this is a study of potential locations, solutions, and costs, and recommendation of any kind of art enhancement budget is premature. However if the selected solutions are implemented they could be very visible facilities and we encourage consideration of art to make the facilities attractive contributions to our downtown.

MF-PR-24-03, Gallup Park Road, Border-to-Border Trail, and Parking Improvements. Our understanding is that Parks is very supportive of art enhancements along the Trail. We

recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$70,000 (1%) be included in the \$7,000,000 project budget. (FY2027-29).

MF-PR-24-04, West Park Band Shell: It is apparently unclear whether the project will be (significant) repairs, replacement, relocation, or demolition. If not just demolition, we recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$20,000 (1%) be included in the \$2,000,000 project budget. (FY2024-26).

MF-PR-24-05, Allmendinger Park Area Sidewalks: The majority of this is expected to be very practical sidewalk repair and replacement, and we know that stamping designs into walks are problematic. However, it seems like a good opportunity to engage the neighborhood in some sort of temporary artwork to celebrate the new walks, such as community chalk art, or Rainworks paint that shows up only when wet (and disappears entirely in 2-4 months). We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$5,000 (1%) be included in the \$530,000 project budget. (FY2028).

MF-PR-24-06, Riverwood Nature Area Sidewalks: The majority of this is expected to be very practical sidewalk repair and replacement, and we know that stamping designs into walks are problematic. However, it seems like a good opportunity to engage the neighborhood in some sort of temporary artwork to celebrate the new walks, such as community chalk art, or Rainworks paint that shows up only when wet (and disappears entirely in 2-4 months). We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$3,000 (1%) be included in the \$336,000 project budget. (FY2029).

TR-AT-24-01, Bicycle Parking Program. The individual rack pieces of this are expected to be small, so this is probably not so much a typical case of enhancing the basic construction with art added on, but of selecting products that support an artistic environment. A model may be the manhole covers where there was a modest upcharge for the more artistic cast design, but the incremental production cost was negligible.

TR-SC-24-03, Dhu Varren and Pontiac Trail Roundabout: Roundabouts seem an obvious location for 3D art in the landscaped center. If the budget does not allow a custom piece, the funding could be used for a foundation to be put in for future mounting of rotating or donated artworks. We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$13,000 (1%) be included in the \$1,380,000 project budget. (FY2026-27).

TR-SC-24-04, Moore/Pontiac Trail/Longshore Roundabout: Roundabouts seem an obvious location for 3D art in the landscaped center. If the budget does not allow a custom piece, the funding could be used for a foundation to be put in for future mounting of rotating or donated artworks. We recommend a preliminary enhancement budget of \$16,000 (1%) be included in the \$1,600,000 project budget. (FY2027-28).

TR-TR-24-01, Washtenaw Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): We assume this will involve new stops where people will be waiting or arriving, possibly including shelters, along with other work. Artwork could be added to walls or windows or incorporated in the designs themselves. Until the project is better defined, it may be premature to propose an enhancement budget, but would certainly recommend art enhancement. The project budget is currently \$95 million (mostly beyond FY2029).

TR-TR-24-02, North-South Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): We assume this will involve new stops where people will be waiting or arriving, possibly including shelters, along with other work. Artwork could be added to walls or windows or incorporated in the designs themselves. Until the project is better defined, it may be premature to propose an enhancement budget, but would certainly recommend art enhancement. The project budget is currently \$60 million (mostly beyond FY2029).

Respectfully submitted by AAPAC for the CIP work group: Sarah Fuller, Allison Buck and David Esau (non-AAPAC volunteer).