

GENERAL INFORMATION

Subject

Request	-	Review of the 2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan
Applicant	-	Arts Commission of Greater Toledo 1838 Parkwood Avenue, Suite 120 Toledo, OH 43604

Applicable Plans and Regulations

- 2015 Toledo Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture
- 2024 Toledo Municipal Art Plan
- Art in Public Places Program, TMC§167.06(b)(8): “Municipal Art Plan” means a prioritized list of art projects, developed annually by the Art in Public Places Committee, with budgets and recommended design approaches, approved by the Arts Commission and subsequently by the Toledo City Plan Commission.
- Chapter X, Section 190 of the Toledo City Charter: The Toledo City Plan Commission shall have the power to control the design and location of works of art which are, or may become, the property of the City.
- Forward Toledo Comprehensive Land Use Plan

STAFF ANALYSIS

The applicant is requesting approval of the 2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan. The full document has been attached to this report (See Exhibit A). This annual plan is a prioritized list of projects with budgets, implementing the 2015 Toledo Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture for the City of Toledo. This submission fulfills the provisions of the Toledo City Charter, requiring the Toledo City Plan Commission to review the placement of public art.

The Art in Public Places Program includes three elements: acquisition of new works of art, restoration and conservation of the existing public art collection, and the establishment of public education programs and activities. The Plan details projects completed in 2024, ongoing projects and installations, and proposed future projects. The Arts Commission has budgeted \$242,067 for new acquisitions, \$126,066 for maintenance and conservation, \$68,283 for education and outreach programs, and \$96,000 for administration costs. The total budget for 2025 is \$532,416, which is funded by the “one percent for the arts” allocation of the City budget. The 2025 budget represents an approximately six percent (6%) increase from last year’s budget.

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Following is an overview of the 2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan in relation to the three elements of the Art in Public Places Program: acquisition, education, and conservation. A brief description of completed, ongoing, and future projects is included for each of the three elements.

Acquisitions

The Arts in Public Places program has budgeted \$242,067, for the acquisition of new works of art in 2025. Fifteen (15) projects are discussed in the 2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan. Five (5) were completed in 2024, five (5) are ongoing projects, and five (5) are new projects. The projects are as follows:

Completed Projects

- *Field of Histories*

Funded by the Metroparks Toledo Foundation, the new art installation includes 170 glass orbs that house individual, laser-engraved images of objects of personal and historical significance. Mounted on steel supports, the orbs and the objects represented within them glow throughout the day and through the seasons as a beacon, drawing people to the park to engage with the past, present, and future of our communities. The Field of Histories installation was designed by artist Bryony Roberts (Brooklyn, NY), and was completed and dedicated in May of 2024.

- *INTER/ACTIVE - Momentum Festival*

Art in Public Places assembled a Design Review Board (DRB) to commission two temporary interactive installations to occur during the Momentum Festival in September 2024. The DRB selected two (2) projects: Forest of Arden_ Annex Toledo by Gerard Nadeau (Bowling Green, OH), and Made in the Moment by Daniel Cascardo (Detroit, MI). Hundreds of attendees collectively participated over the course of the weekend to shape the form and image of the two installations.

- *Signal Box Wraps*

In October 2024, Art in Public Places completed the latest in a series of vinyl-wrapped Signal Boxes and achieved its goal of completing the grid of intersections in Downtown Toledo. 2025 artists include: Barbara Miner, Daley Meklus, Jacob Parr, James Foos, Jamie Lefevre, Mierra Nelson and Rosa Cruz.

Art in Public Places has also coordinated two additional Signal Box Wraps in partnership with the Point Place Area Art Committee. These wraps are based on designs from students at Shoreland Elementary and Edgewater Elementary and were recently installed at locations near each school.

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Acquisitions (cont'd)

Completed Projects (cont'd)

- *TARTA Hub Mural*

Funded by Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Art in Public Places partnered with TARTA to commission a new mural and subsequent vinyl bus wrap in honor of Rosa Parks Day on February 4, 2025. Designed and painted by local artist Mercé Culp, this large-scale, vibrant celebration of Parks' life and legacy is now on display in the rear of the TARTA Transit Hub located at 612 N. Huron St. and as a bus wrap that can be seen as it travels throughout the city.

- *Toledo Flag Competition*

Art in Public Places partnered with the Mayor's office to coordinate the City of Toledo's competition for a new city flag design. A total of eighty-six (86) submissions were received with sixty-eight (68) Toledo residents eligible for consideration. An assembled Design Review Board analyzed public input and ultimately made a recommendation to select one winning design to the City. City Council approved the winning design by graphic designer Mark Yappueying (Toledo, OH) on January 7th.

Ongoing Projects

- *Inez Nash Park*

Art in Public Places launched a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for a painted court project located at the site of the new Inez Nash Park in August of 2024. Renovations to the park will include the site of this public art project: a shoot-around court with five hoops designed for freeform play. An assembled Design Review Board selected artist Andrea Berghart (Ridgewood, NY) from seventy-two responses to the RFQ. The park will be constructed in spring/summer 2025 following the completion of the new Wayman D. Palmer YMCA adjacent to the park. Once the park is completed, the design for the court will be painted and custom basketball backboards and hoops will be installed under the artist's direction, with Art in Public Places coordinating fabrication and installation. Installation is planned for early October 2025.

- *Uptown Green*

UpTown Green is a 2.5 acre City of Toledo park in the Uptown. The park's original design included a shade structure that is no longer present. This project provides an opportunity for a public art installation to restore permanent shade infrastructure to the park in the form of a vibrant functional sculpture. Art in Public Places continues to work with the selected artist, Mercé Culp, to develop an artistically designed shade project for the park. Currently in the bidding phase, the project will be ready for fabrication and construction by fall 2025.

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Acquisitions (cont'd)

Ongoing Projects (cont'd)

- *Lucas County Canine Care and Control (LC4)*

Funded by Lucas County, Art in Public Places has partnered with the Lucas County Commissioner's Office to coordinate three (3) new public art installations for the Lucas County Canine Care and Control building. The projects consist of architectural features on the exterior of the building and vinyl graphics for the interior. Three (3) artists and artist teams were selected including Graphite Design and Build, Kathleen Poddany, and the team consisting of Hannah Lehman and Jack Wilson. Installation of the artwork began in May 2025.

- *Broadway Public Art Project*

In 2022, Art in Public Places launched a Request for Qualifications to identify an artist to develop a plan for public art to be installed along the proposed reconstruction of South Broadway Avenue. Artist Cecilia Lueza (St. Petersburg, FL) was selected for the commission out of approximately seventy (70) submitted qualifications. Cecilia is well known for creating vibrant public art pieces in a range of media. Installation of the work is planned for June 2025.

- *International Cove - Glass City Metropark*

Funded by private donations, Art in Public Places is coordinating an additional public art project for International Cove at the Glass City Metropark (formerly International Park). Blessing Hancock (Tucson, AZ) has been commissioned to create an original sculpture for this next phase of the project. The fifteen-foot (15') tall illuminated sculpture, titled "Starburst", will feature words and phrases from the community and will be installed in the heart of the restored International Cove. Over 200 responses of words and phrases, celebrating the history and diversity of our community, that were gathered at a community engagement event in May 2025 and through an online form will be integrated into the work. Installation is planned for spring of 2026.

Future Projects

- *MLK Bridge Lighting Project*

In conjunction with the larger Glass City River Walk and efforts to re-light the Martin Luther King Jr. bridge, Art in Public Places is pursuing a plan to construct a lighting installation underneath the Martin Luther King Jr. bridge along Water Street. This proposed plan would activate this underutilized space with an immersive and programmable lighting system, creating a defined spatial moment within the Glass City River Walk and Downtown Toledo.

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Acquisitions (cont'd)

Future Projects (cont'd)

▪ *RAISE Grant - Dorr Street Culture Trail*

The City of Toledo is investing approximately \$53 million, supported by a \$20 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, to make comprehensive upgrades to streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit systems in the Uptown and Junction neighborhoods. Art in Public Places is working with the City of Toledo and other partners to develop a plan for a historical culture trail to be located along Dorr Street between Collingwood and the Mott Branch Library that celebrates and shares the rich history of the Dorr St. Corridor and Junction and Englewood neighborhoods. The culture trail project will launch in February of 2026.

▪ *Bike Racks*

Art in Public Places plans to commission four new artist designed bike racks to be installed in City of Toledo parks. The locations have yet to be identified and will be determined by need. There are currently thirty (30) artist designed bike racks that are located throughout the City.

▪ *Silver Creek Water Tower Project*

Art in Public Places is working with the City of Toledo's Water and Facilities Departments to commission designs for two new water towers. The water towers are to be installed on Northover Road near Silver Creek Elementary. A plan is in the works for an engagement process with the residents in the area to help steer the process. The water towers are to be constructed between May 2025 through October 2026. A Request for Qualifications is planned to be announced in the fall 2025.

▪ *River Road Overlook*

Art in Public Places is coordinating with the City of Toledo Parks Department to commission a work of public art that will be integrated into a larger park expansion project along River Road. Construction for the park is planned for 2026. A Request for Qualifications to identify an artist will be announced in late 2025.

Education

The Arts in Public Places program has budgeted \$68,283 for education programs and activities in 2025. Seven (7) education projects are discussed in the 2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan. They are as follows:

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Education (cont'd)

Completed Projects

- *Accessibility Audit*

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program and the Ohio Arts Council, The Arts Commission partnered with The Ability Center with the aim of completing an accessibility audit on the sites and sculptures of the Art in Public Places collection throughout Toledo. The full audit was completed as a pilot program to rigorously evaluate physical and sensory conditions, and look holistically at information accessibility around the collection. The results of the accessibility audit consist of notes and recommendations relating to parking, seating, wayfinding, site conditions, transit proximity, and overall experience in viewing and interacting with each artwork. The purpose of the work is to create both new standards to guide current and future public efforts and a framework from which to consider the state of accessibility for existing works.

- *Mapping Project*

More thorough and better available information and wayfinding regarding the public art collection was recommended as part of the accessibility audit. This recommendation led to the development of a free digital public art guide in collaboration with Bloomberg Connects. The guide centers around a live map of the collection, divided into geographic regions, individual sites, and specific tours. Accessible features include screen reader support, translation capabilities, descriptive alt text, voiceover recordings, and accessibility notes highlighting pertinent information relative to each work that collectively will enable visitors to better plan accessible experiences with public art. The guide also contains additional information on the history and legacy of the collection and individual artworks, ultimately positioning it as a singular hub for information about the Art in Public Places Collection.

Ongoing Projects

- *Signage Update*

On-site signage was also identified by the accessibility audit as a priority for accessible improvement. The ultimate goal is to create branded freestanding signage throughout the collection that adheres to ADA signage standards and offers direct linkages to the free digital public art guide as a stepping stone towards a more in-depth and more viewer-controllable experience.

- *Internship*

The Arts Commission is currently working with the School of Art at Bowling Green State University and the Department of Art at the University of Toledo to develop an internship starting in the fall of 2025. The program is looking towards providing internship options in the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters.

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Education (cont'd)

Ongoing Projects (cont'd)

- *ABCs of Public Art*

Art in Public Places continues to distribute the ABC's of Public Art book, originally published in 2012, through partners across the region. Over 9,000 copies of the second edition have been distributed to date. The book is also available as a PDF on The Arts Commission's website.

- *Toledo Mural Resource Guide*

The Arts Commission continues to encourage murals throughout Toledo. The Toledo Mural Resource Guide that was published in 2022 helps muralists and building owners navigate the permitting process, what to consider when selecting a wall, wall preparation, paint choices and much more. The guide is available as a PDF on The Arts Commission's website.

- *Art in Public Places Field Guide*

Art in Public Places designed and printed a public art field guide to over 60 pieces of public art throughout Toledo. Distribution of these guides continues through various partners including Lucas County Public Library, ConnecToledo, the Toledo Museum of Art, and many more. A mobile-friendly version is also available for download online.

Conservation

The Arts in Public Places program has budgeted \$126,066 for the conservation and maintenance of works of art in 2025. In 2024, conservation included the routine washing and waxing of bronze sculptures and general maintenance performed on forty-six (46) pieces of art. In addition, the following projects are discussed in the 2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan:

Completed Projects

- *Junction Benches*

Art in Public Places is furthering collaboration with the Arts Commission's Young Artists at Work (YAAW) program to coordinate the restoration of existing park benches and to commission new benches for City sidewalks and parks. YAAW apprentices recently completed two (2) new benches at the Toledo Farmers Market, replacing two (2) outdated YAAW benches at that site. In addition, Art in Public Places has coordinated the replacement of five (5) benches in Junction Park, with digital reproductions of original designs by artist Alyson Krajewski printed on vinyl and wrapped on each bench. New benches have been completed and installed as of March 28, 2025.

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Conservation (cont'd)

Ongoing Projects

- *Vessel*

The sculpture was de-installed in March 2024 from its location at the roundabout at Cherry Street and Manhattan Boulevard after being significantly damaged by an automobile. Repairs have entailed replacement and fabrication of damaged components, plus major surface refinishing. Reinstallation is slated for 2025, which will include electrical work to replace and reinstall the sculpture's internal light fixtures.

- *Kabuki Dancer*

The sculpture Kabuki Dancer was removed in spring 2024 during construction to Levis Square Park, which is now complete. Based on significant reconfiguration of the site, an Art in Public Places subcommittee proposed a new location for the sculpture at the South end of Boeschstein Park in November 2024. A site survey for Boeschstein Park is currently being finalized to accurately assess the grade on site and other site factors that will influence installation. Installation is slated for summer 2025, following the completion of the sculpture's restoration.

- *Art Tatum Celebration Column*

The Art Tatum Celebration Column was removed in October 2024, and plans are currently underway to strip and repaint the sculpture's finish, as well as replace some additional elements including the current internal light fixtures. Repairs will be completed in summer 2025 with reinstallation to occur in fall 2025. The site will also receive updated signage in conjunction with the reinstallation of the sculpture.

- *Lighting*

The installation of additional on-site lighting will be completed for two sculptures, Toledo Rise and Blue Lupine. Lighting updates to Blue Lupine are funded by Lucas County as part of the scope of public art projects at the Glass City Center.

- Additional conservation projects for 2025 include lighting updates for The Flame and reintegrating The Family into the planned Glass City River Walk along Promenade Park.

STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

Forward Toledo Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The projects identified and undertaken through the yearly Municipal Art Plan support a number of goals of the Forward Toledo Plan. One such goal is Quality Design. Public art such as murals and signal boxes support this goal by providing a means to highlight the uniqueness or identity of individual neighborhoods. Providing benches and bike racks also support this goal by prioritizing pedestrian design elements and streetscape enhancements. The Create Unique Places goal is also supported by a number of projects in the Municipal Art Plan. For example the UpTown Green project, the MLK Bridge Lighting project, and the International Cove project could serve as creative placemaking projects where gathering spaces are created and sustained by the public art proposed. The Accessibility Audit and the Mapping project are examples of projects that support the Accessibility Opportunities goal by providing a means of access for all to works of public art. In addition, the Dorr Street Culture Trail supports the Funding Big Ideas goal. While this is not an exhaustive list, it clearly shows that the Municipal Art Plan supports many of the goals of the Forward Toledo Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Toledo City Plan Commission **approve** M-8-25, Review of the 2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan, for the following **two (2) reasons**:

1. The proposed plan is in conformance with the 2015 Toledo Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture.
2. The proposed plan supports the goals of the Forward Toledo plan.

MUNICIPAL ART PLAN
TOLEDO CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
REF: M-8-2025
DATE: August 14, 2025
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LK
One (1) Exhibit follows



2025 TOLEDO MUNICIPAL ART PLAN

Prepared by Nathan Mattimoe
Director, Art in Public Places

2025 Toledo Municipal Art Plan

Since 1977, the City of Toledo, by ordinance, has entrusted the administration of its Art in Public Places Program to The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo. The program includes three main tenets: the acquisition of new works of art, the restoration and conservation of the existing public art collection, and the establishment of public education programs and activities associated with the Art in Public Places Program.

This year's plan includes projects that were recently completed, as well many new projects currently underway or in active planning stages. Through an effort to ensure the collection is accessible to all, the program recently completed an accessibility audit in partnership with the Ability Center of Greater Toledo. This audit has identified barriers and led to efforts including signage updates to meet current ADA standards and a suite of updated digital platforms that offers a wider accessible network of information, including a new free digital public art guide with a live collection map and audio descriptions of many artworks.

Major efforts are underway to conserve prominent sculptures, including the Art Tatum Celebration Column, Kabuki Dancer and Vessel, which was damaged in an accident in 2023. The program also continues to mentor local artists with projects like UpTown Green, which is part of a larger effort to create more accessible opportunities for local and early-career artists to engage with the public art process. This effort has produced new public art typologies like signal box wraps and artist-designed bike racks, and identified opportunities to integrate artist-designed features into architectural projects, such as the new Lucas County Canine Care and Control building.

These projects, and more, are detailed in this year's Municipal Art Plan, developed by the Art in Public Places Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees of The Arts Commission.



Rosa Parks bus wrap design for TARTA, Mercé Culp. Photo: Arts Commission Staff

ACQUISITION

Completed in 2024

Field of Histories

Funded by the Metroparks Toledo Foundation

Designed by artist Bryony Roberts (Brooklyn NY), Field of Histories includes one hundred and seventy glass orbs that house individual, laser-engraved images of objects of personal and historical significance. Through a series of workshops at the Glass City Metropark Pavilion, residents brought objects related to regional industry, local institutions, familial history, and personal significance. Over 200 objects were documented at these events, initially via photography and ultimately via 3D scanning technology. 170 objects were then selected for inclusion in the final installation, with at least one object from every individual who participated in the workshops making its way into the final design.

Three-dimensional renderings of the objects were engraved in the center of glass spheres, appearing as highly detailed frosted shapes. Mounted on steel supports, the orbs and the objects represented within them glow throughout the day and through the seasons as a beacon, drawing people to the park to engage with the past, present, and future of our communities. The project was completed in May of 2024 and included a dedication event that was attended by over 200 people.



Field of Histories, Bryony Roberts. Photo: Arts Commission Staff

EXHIBIT "A"

INTER/ACTIVE - Momentum Festival

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

In spring 2024, Art in Public Places assembled a Design Review Board (DRB) to commission two temporary interactive installations to occur during the Momentum Festival in September 2024. The Design Review Board ultimately selected two projects: Forest of Arden_ Toledo by Gerard Nadeau (Bowling Green, OH), and Made in the Moment by Daniel Cascardo (Detroit, MI). Both projects served as substantial anchors to the layout of the festival along Superior St. in downtown Toledo, with hundreds of attendees collectively participating over the course of the weekend to shape the form and image of the two installations.



Forest of Arden_ Toledo, Gerard Nadeau. Photo: Ben Morales



Made in the Moment, Daniel Cascardo. Photo: Ben Morales

Signal Box Wraps

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

In October 2024, Art in Public Places completed the latest in a series of vinyl-wrapped Signal Boxes, and has now achieved its stated goal of completing the grid of intersections in Downtown Toledo. A Design Review Board selected seven artists from a pool of previous high-scoring applicants to educate and offer to those artists the opportunity to submit new designs that better meet the standards required for the scale and medium of this project. There is now a wrap at every signaled intersection from Summit to Michigan and from Washington to Jackson. 2025 artists include: Barbara Miner, Daley Meklus, Jacob Parr, James Foos, Jamie Lefevre, Mierra Nelson and Rosa Cruz. The project continues to provide an excellent opportunity to engage with artists working outside the traditional sculptural realm of public art, connecting with painters, illustrators, graphic designers, printmakers, and other artists working across 2-D media.

Art in Public Places has also coordinated two additional Signal Box Wraps in partnership with the Point Place Area Art Committee. These wraps are based on designs from students at Shoreland Elementary and Edgewater Elementary and were recently installed at locations near each school.



Signal Box Wrap, Barbara Miner. Photo: Ben Morales



Signal Box Wrap, Shoreland Elementary. Photo: Ben Morales

EXHIBIT "A"



Artist Mercé Culp and TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski. Photo: Arts Commission staff

TARTA Hub Mural

Funded by Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority

In 2024, Art in Public Places partnered with the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) to commission a new mural and subsequent vinyl bus wrap in honor of Rosa Parks Day on February 4, 2025. Designed and painted by local artist Mercé Culp, this large-scale, vibrant celebration of Parks' life and legacy is now on display in the rear of the TARTA Transit Hub located at 612 N. Huron St.

The design was also adapted to serve as a bus wrap that can be seen by multiple communities as it travels throughout the city.

Toledo Flag Competition

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

Art in Public Places recently partnered with the Mayor's office to coordinate the City of Toledo's competition for a new city flag design. A total of 86 submissions were received with 68 Toledo residents eligible for consideration. The competition's Design Review Board, which consisted of community stakeholders, artists, and leadership from organizations including the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and TARTA, conducted a series of review meetings and multiple rounds of voting. Ten semi-finalists were selected and their designs were (anonymously) made public. Residents of Toledo were then invited to share comments via an online form and via an info table at Momentum Festival.

The Design Review Board analyzed public input and ultimately selected three finalists, with a recommendation to select one winning design, which the Mayor presented to City Council for approval on January 7th. A design by graphic designer Mark Yappeuying (Toledo, OH) was selected as the winning proposal. Designs by Jacob Parr (Toledo, OH) and Jillian Hupp (Toledo, OH) were selected as the two runners-up. The winning design received a \$3000 stipend and the two runners-up each received a \$1000 stipend.



City of Toledo Flag, Mark Yappeuying.

ACQUISITION

Ongoing Projects

Inez Nash Park

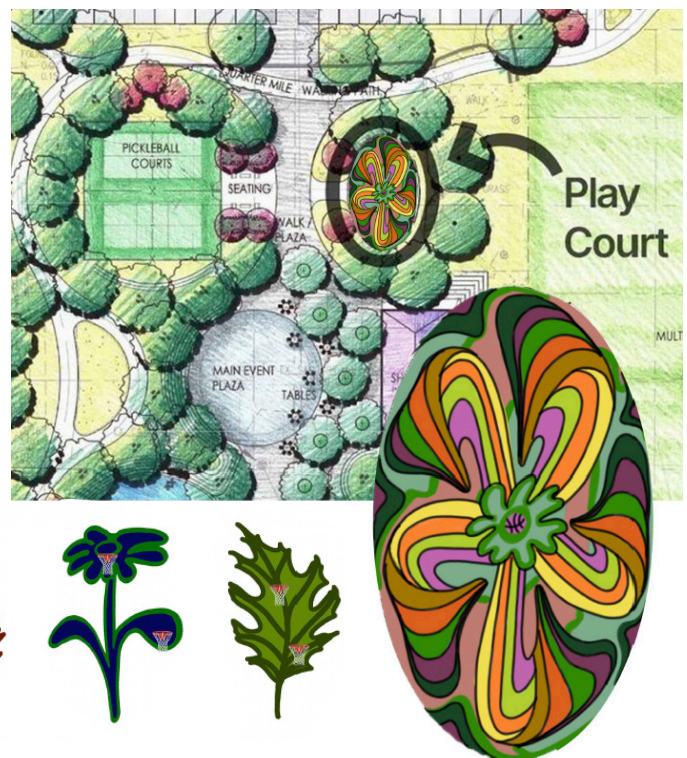
Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

In August of 2024, Art in Public Places launched a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for a painted court project located at the site of the new Inez Nash Park. Renovations to the park will include a quarter mile walkway, shelter, main event plaza, and a system of pathways and plazas that ultimately serve to connect several areas designed to encourage a variety of play, including the site of this public art project: a shoot-around court with five hoops designed for freeform play. A Design Review Board made up of neighborhood residents, leadership from the YMCA, City of Toledo Parks Department and the project architects was assembled, and reviewed a total of 72 responses to the RFQ.

Three finalists were selected: Andrea Bergart (Ridgewood, NY); Cara Lynch (East Patchogue, NY); and a team consisting of Dean Davis (Whitehouse, OH) and Kevin Bongang (Atlanta, GA). Each artist was invited to present a proposal via zoom to the DRB.

The Design Review Board ultimately selected the proposal from artist Andrea Bergart. Bergart is a visual artist and designer in New York City. She makes paintings, drawings and public artworks ranging from murals on working cement trucks in Brooklyn to murals painted on basketball courts in Providence, RI, Conakry, Guinea and New York City. Bergart's paintings reference diverse visual traditions including woven textiles, urban fashion, boundary lines on basketball courts and geometric abstraction. Her involvement in fashion and basketball inspire her to make art highlighting female and male professional basketball players and basketball culture.

The park will be constructed in spring/summer 2025 following the construction and opening of the new Wayman D. Palmer YMCA adjacent to the park. Following the park's completion, the design for the court will be painted and custom basketball backboards and hoops will be installed under the artist's direction, with APP coordinating fabrication and installation. Installation is planned for early October 2025.



Inez Nash Park play court concept design, Andrea Bergart

EXHIBIT "A"

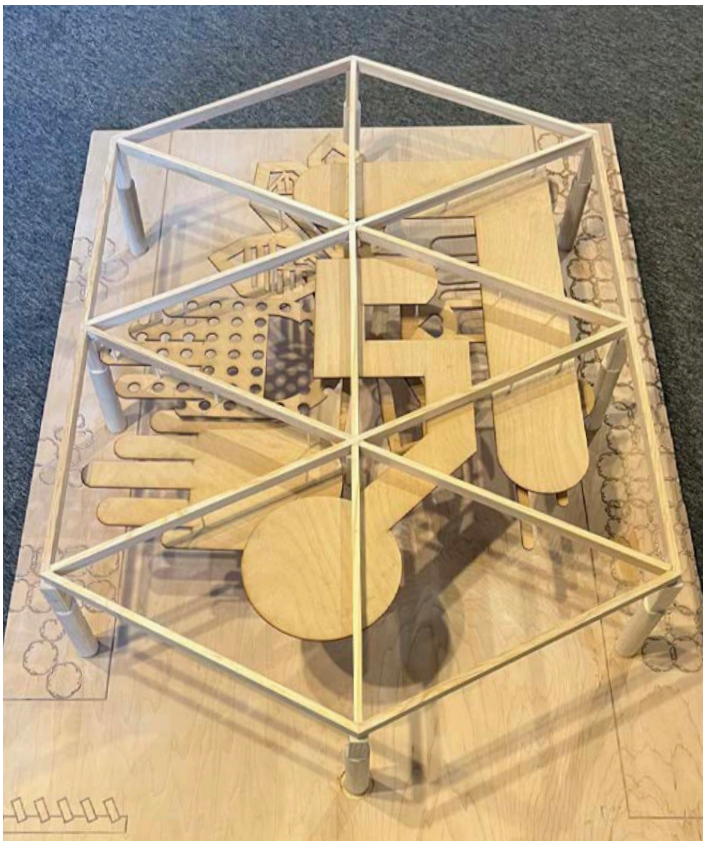
UpTown Green

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

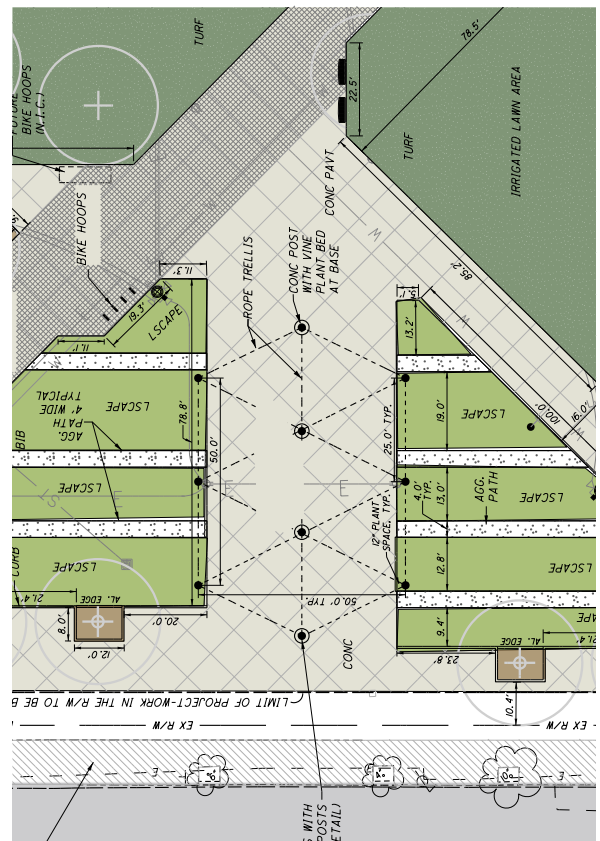
UpTown Green is a 2.5 acre City of Toledo park in the Uptown neighborhood. The park is in close proximity to the neighborhood's residential buildings and serves as a "green link" between the Old West End and the Adams Street Arts and Entertainment District. It is the first park created within Uptown Toledo and provides a much-needed play space for children as well as a tangible backyard for adults living in the neighborhood. The park's original design included a shade structure that is now absent, and this opportunity for a public art installation will restore permanent shade infrastructure to the park in the form of a vibrant functional sculpture.

Through a continued effort to develop the skill sets of local artists in the public art sector while enhancing public space, Art in Public Places is working with local artist Mercé Culp, selected by a Design Review Board for the project, to develop an artistically designed shade structure for the park. Mercé's design utilizes her bold and playful graphic language to create a multicolored system of layered cutout forms suspended from an engineered steel structure to amplify the formal and functional potential of the existing column grid into a unique sculptural park feature, which will offer shade and define a pavilion space for the wide array of existing programming occurring at the park.

The project is currently in the bidding phase and will be ready for fabrication and construction by fall 2025.



Model for Uptown Green, Mercé Culp. Photo: Arts Commission Staff



Uptown Green Site Plan

Lucas County Canine Care and Control (LC4)

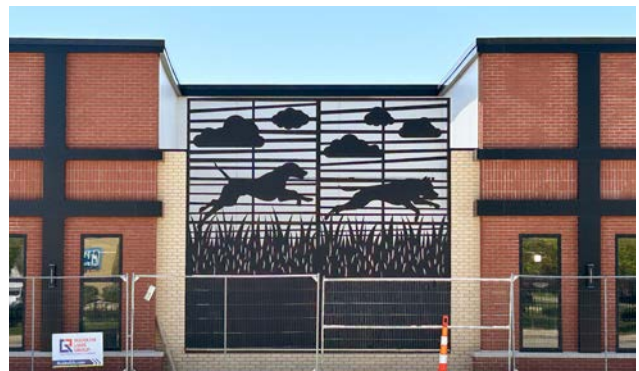
Funded by Lucas County

Art in Public Places has partnered with the Lucas County Commissioner's office to coordinate three new public art installations for the Lucas County Canine Care and Control building. The projects consist of architectural features on the exterior of the building and vinyl graphics for the interior, and the scope and integration of these elements was designed specifically to target local artists with a variety of skills and practice.

Three artists were selected by a Design Review Board composed of Lucas County Commissioners, LC4 Staff, arts experts, and other entities affiliated with the project. The selected artists and artist teams are: Graphite Design and Build, Kathleen Poddany, and a team consisting of Hannah Lehman and Jack Wilson. The construction team worked with each of the artists to develop their proposals from concept to fabrication. Installation of the work is underway as of May 2025.



Lucas County Canine Care and Control, Hannah Lehman and Jack Wilson. Photo: Arts Commission Staff



Lucas County Canine Care and Control, Graphite Design + Build. Photo: Arts Commission Staff

Broadway Public Art Project

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

In 2022, Art in Public Places launched a Request for Qualifications to identify an artist to develop a plan for public art to be installed along the proposed reconstruction of South Broadway Avenue. Through a partnership with the City of Toledo, The Broadway Corridor Coalition, the Toledo Design Collective, and cultural partners such as the Sofia Quintero Center, a Design Review Board was assembled to review approximately 70 qualifications that were submitted for the project. Ultimately, artist Cecilia Lueza (St. Petersburg, FL) was selected for the commission. Cecilia is an Argentine-American artist and sculptor who studied visual arts at the University of La Plata in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is well known for creating vibrant public art pieces in a range of media. Installation of the work is planned for June 2025.



Broadway sculptures, Cecilia Lueza. Photo courtesy the artist



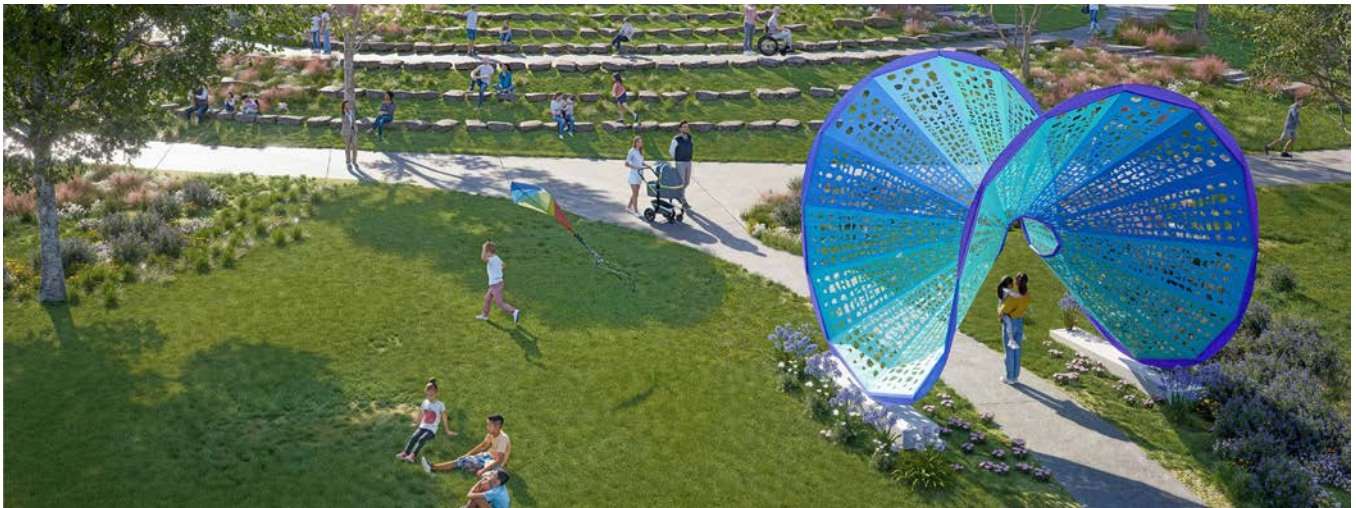
Broadway Street, project rendering

International Cove - Glass City Metropark

Funded by private donations

Art in Public Places is coordinating an additional public art project for International Cove at the Glass City Metropark (formerly International Park). A finalist for the first project at Glass City Metropark, Blessing Hancock (Tucson, AZ), has been commissioned to create an original sculpture for this next phase of the project. Blessing is known for creating sculptures that reflect the vibrant communities they inhabit with community engagement serving as an integral part to her process. Titled "Starburst," this 15-foot-tall illuminated sculpture will feature words and phrases from the community and will be installed in the heart of the restored International Cove. Inspired by the stories and histories that shape Toledo, Starburst will celebrate the city's cultural heritage and shared history.

Art in Public Places partnered with the Toledo Design Collective and Metroparks to host a community engagement event at the Glass City Enrichment Center on May 5. The event, attended by the artist, was held in conjunction with an online form that gathered well over 200 responses of words and phrases celebrating the history and diversity of our community that will be integrated into the work. Installation is planned for spring of 2026.



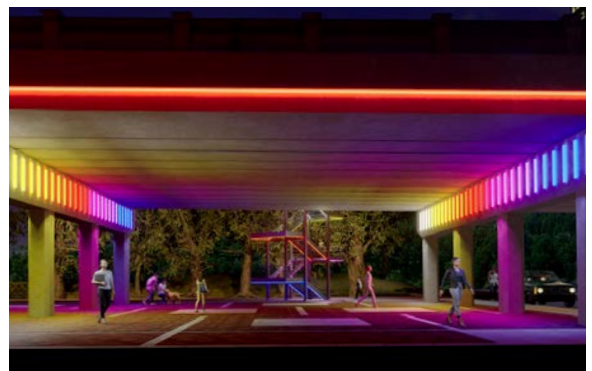
Starburst, Blessing Hancock. Rendering by Colliers

Future Projects

MLK Bridge Lighting Project

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

In conjunction with the larger Glass City River Walk and efforts to re-light The Martin Luther King Jr. bridge, Art in Public Places is pursuing a plan to install a lighting installation underneath the Martin Luther King Jr. bridge along Water Street. This proposed plan would activate this underutilized space with an immersive and programmable lighting system, creating a defined spatial moment within the Glass City River Walk and Downtown Toledo.



MLK Bridge Lighting, concept image by Erwin Redl

RAISE Grant - Dorr St Culture Trail

Funded by The City of Toledo

The City of Toledo is investing approximately \$53 million—supported by a \$20 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation—to make comprehensive upgrades to streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit systems in the Uptown and Junction neighborhoods. Art in Public Places is working with the City of Toledo and other partners to develop a plan for a historical culture trail to be located along Dorr Street between Collingwood and the Mott Branch Library that celebrates and shares the rich history of the Dorr St. Corridor and Junction and Englewood neighborhoods. Community engagement events are underway for the road reconstruction and infrastructure enhancements. The culture trail project will launch in February of 2026.



Dorr St Culture Trail - project scope



Double Dipper, Michael McWhorter. Photo: Arts Commission Staff

Bike Racks

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

Through a continued effort to provide opportunities for local artists, Art in Public Places plans to commission four new artist designed bike racks to be installed in City of Toledo parks. The locations have yet to be identified and will be determined by need. This project provides a great opportunity for local artists to design infrastructure enhancements for City Parks.

There are currently 30 artist designed bike racks that are located throughout the City.

EXHIBIT "A"



Silver Creek Water Tower Project Rendering: The Collaborative

Silver Creek Water Tower Project

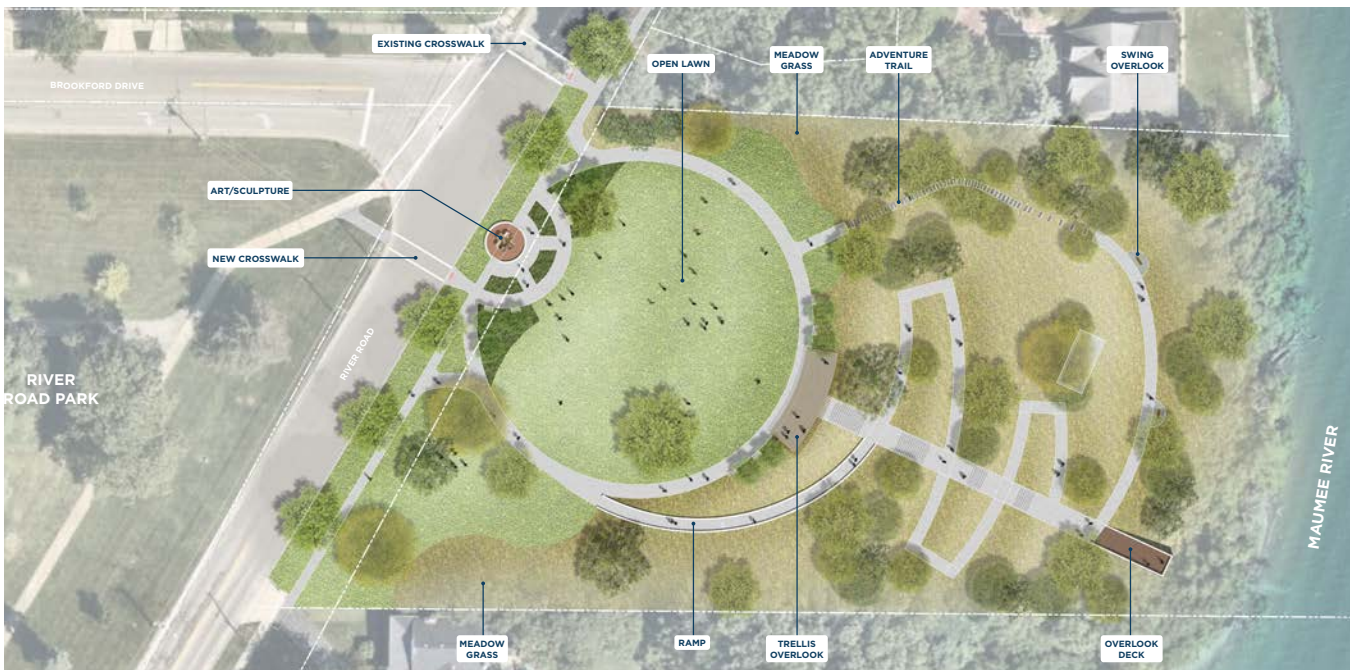
Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

Art in Public Places is working with the City of Toledo's Water and Facilities departments to commission designs for two new water towers that are planned to be installed on Northover Road near Silver Creek Elementary. A plan is in the works for an engagement process with the residents in the area to help steer the process. Construction of towers begins in May of 2025 through October of 2026. A Request for Qualifications launch is planned for fall of 2025.

River Road Overlook

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

Art in Public Places is coordinating with the City of Toledo Parks Department to commission a work of public art that will be integrated into a larger park expansion project along River Road. Construction for the park is planned for 2026. A Request for Qualifications to identify an artist will be launched in late 2025.



River Road Overlook. Rendering: Edge Group

EDUCATION

Accessibility Audit

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program and the Ohio Arts Council

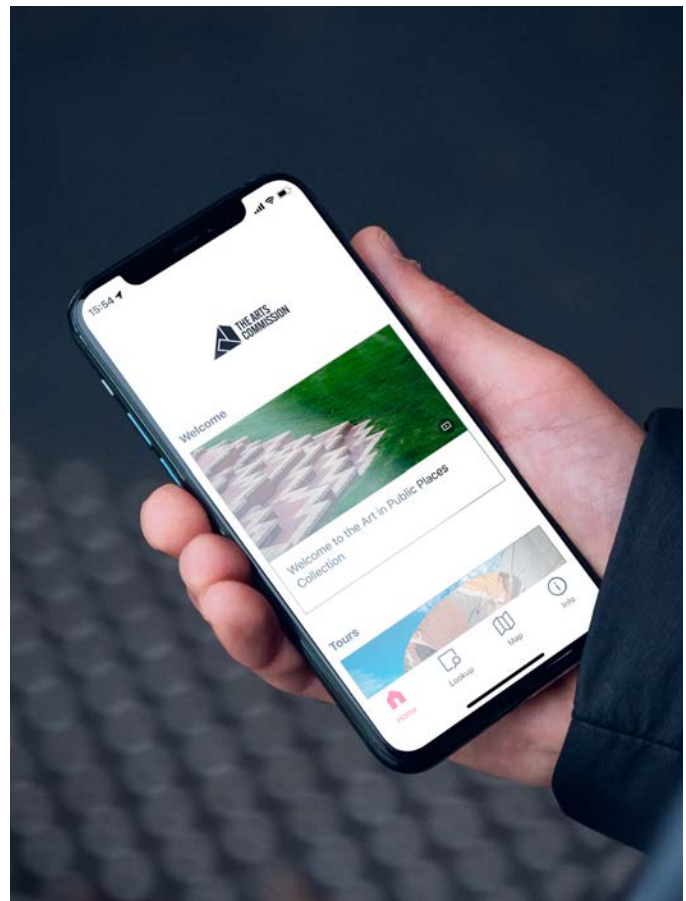
In September 2024, The Arts Commission partnered with The Ability Center with the aim of completing an accessibility audit on the sites and sculptures of the Art in Public Places collection throughout Toledo. With little precedent for accessibility initiatives specific to public art to reference, APP and the Ability Center worked to develop best practices and identify unique considerations around fostering accessible arts experiences in public spaces. The full audit was then launched as a pilot program to rigorously evaluate physical and sensory conditions, and look holistically at information accessibility around the collection.

The results of the accessibility audit comprise over 1300 pages analyzing 30 sites around the city, with notes and recommendations relating to parking, seating, wayfinding, site conditions, transit proximity, and overall experience in viewing and interacting with each artwork. Collectively, this scope of work has been developed with the aim of creating both new standards to guide current and future public art efforts, as well as a framework from which to consider the state of accessibility for existing works in the collection and ultimately consider site updates and modifications that create better access for the viewing public to have more complete and available experiences with art in public places.

Mapping Project

Bloomberg Connects

One specific category of recommendations resulting from the accessibility audit was a call for more thorough and better available wayfinding and information regarding the public art collection. This recommendation led to the development of a free digital public art guide in collaboration with Bloomberg Connects. The guide centers around a live map of the collection, divided into geographic regions, individual sites, and specific tours. Accessible features include screen reader support, translation capabilities, descriptive alt text, voiceover recordings, and accessibility notes highlighting pertinent information relative to each work that collectively will enable visitors to better plan accessible experiences with public art. The guide also contains additional information on the history and legacy of the collection and individual artworks, ultimately positioning it as a singular hub for information about the Art in Public Places Collection.



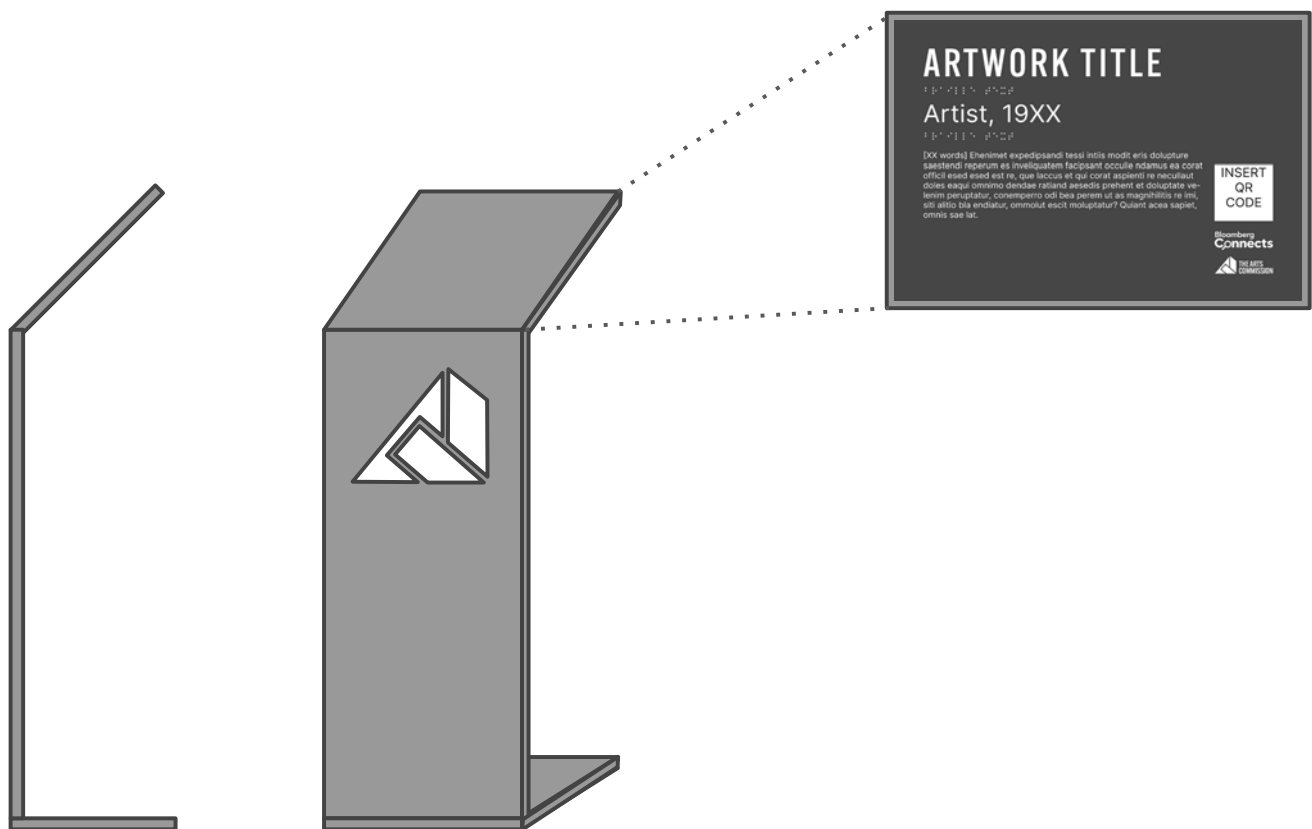
Digital Public Art Guide. Photo: Bloomberg Connects

EXHIBIT "A"

Signage Update

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

On-site signage was also identified via the accessibility audit as a priority for accessible improvement. By developing a standard for signage that is versatile, legible, and viewership-oriented, the program is positioning itself to undergo a holistic and ongoing set of updates and additions. The ultimate goal is to create branded freestanding signage throughout the collection that adheres to ADA signage standards and offers direct linkages to the free digital public art guide as a stepping stone towards a more in-depth and more viewer-controllable experience. Collectively, updates to signage, digital tools and databases are aimed to create a more accessible and multi-faceted viewer experience.



Signage concept design

Internship

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

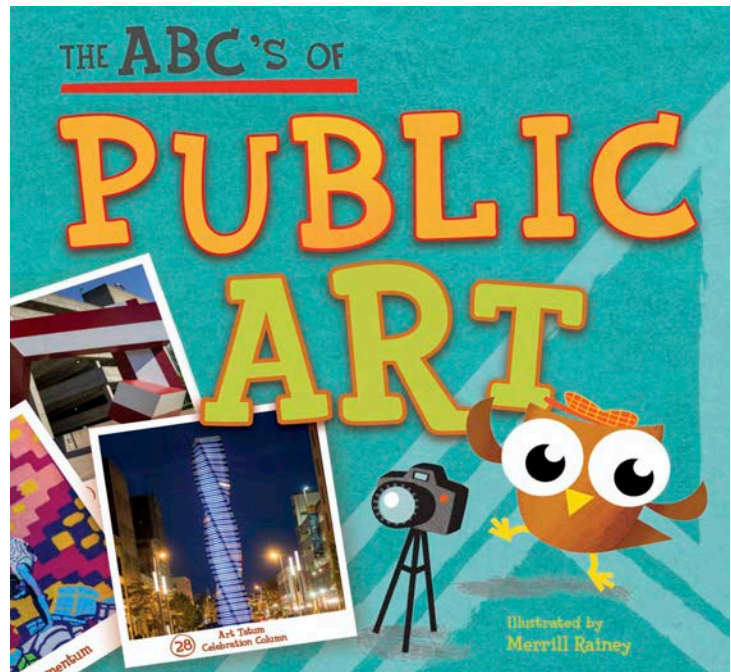
The Arts Commission is currently working with the School of Art at Bowling Green State University and the Department of Art at the University of Toledo to develop an internship starting in the fall of 2025 wherein The Arts Commission and Art in Public Places can offer experience in the public art process, arts administration, project management, and graphic design to undergraduate students at BGSU. The program is aiming towards options in the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters.

ABCs of Public Art

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

In 2020, the APP Education Committee worked with local illustrator and children's book author, Merrill Rainey, to update the extremely popular publication geared toward younger children. Originally published in 2012, 10,000 copies of the first edition were distributed to organizations all over the region including Reach Out and Read, The Toledo Lucas County Public Library and Toledo Public Schools, local home schoolers and many more.

Art in Public Places continues to distribute the ABCs of Public Art book through these partners, with copies now available at all 20 TLCPL branches. Over 9,000 copies of the second edition have been distributed to date. A downloadable PDF version of the book is available on The Arts Commission's website.



ABCs of Public Art, Merrill Rainey

Toledo Mural Resource Guide

Funded by the One Percent for Art Program

The City of Toledo is home to a variety of murals, which have been created by artists from diverse cultural traditions and backgrounds. These murals improve the aesthetic impact of the city and play an important role in defining our cultural identity by creating a sense of biography for the residents. The Arts Commission encourages this activity and seeks to further promote mural making in the City of Toledo through facilitating Toledo's Mural Ordinance.

Published in 2022, the Toledo Mural Guide helps muralists and building owners navigate the permitting process, what to consider when selecting a wall, wall preparation, paint choices and much more. The guide is available as a PDF on The Arts Commission's website.



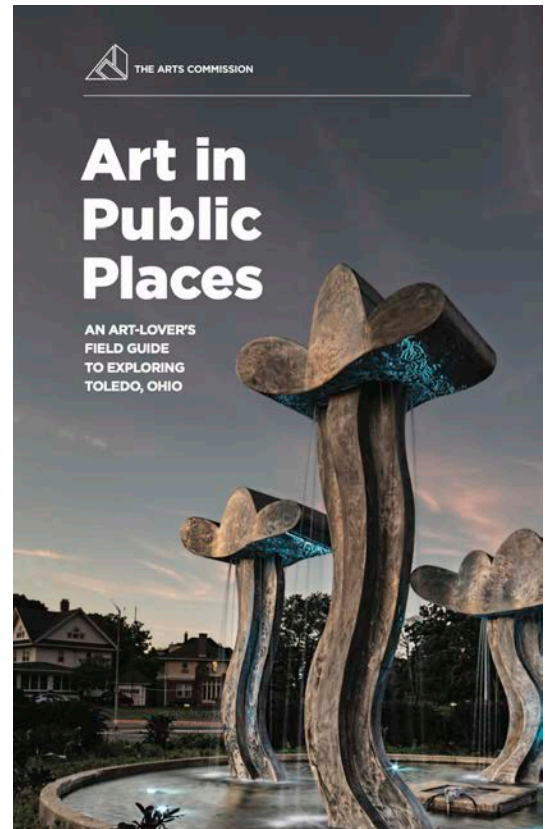
Toledo Mural Resource Guide

Art in Public Places Field Guide

Funded by The One Percent For Art Program

Over 60 pieces of public art are included in this 33-page guide to City owned work including pieces from publicly accessible sculptures in other collections throughout the City. Art in Public Places continues to distribute the books through over 20 partners such as the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, ConnectToledo, Toledo Museum of Art, The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University and many more.

Physical copies are available at all TLCPL branches, and a downloadable version of the guide is also available for mobile devices providing a safe, self-guided exploration of the City's public art collection.



Art in Public Places Field Guide

CONSERVATION

2024-25 Conservation Projects

All Projects Funded by The One Percent For Art Program

2025 conservation included the routine washing and waxing of bronze sculptures, and general maintenance performed on 46 pieces in the collection. Additional projects are outlined as follows:



Junction Park bench, Alyson Krajewski. Photo: Arts Commission Staff

Junction Benches

Funded by The One Percent For Art Program

YAAW apprentices recently completed two new benches at the Toledo Farmers Market, replacing two outdated YAAW benches at that site.

Art in Public Places has also coordinated the replacement of 5 benches in Junction Park, with digital reproductions of original designs by artist Alyson Krajewski printed on vinyl and wrapped on each bench. New benches have been completed and installed as of March 28, 2025.

EXHIBIT "A"

Vessel

Vessel was de-installed in March 2024 and transported to Flatlanders Sculpture Supply for repairs, which are currently underway. Significant damage had occurred to the sculpture as the result of an auto accident, and repairs have entailed replacement and fabrication of damaged components, plus major surface refinishing. Reinstallation is slated for spring 2025.

APP is also coordinating electrical work to replace and reinstall the sculpture's internal light fixtures in conjunction with the overall reinstallation.



Vessel. Photo: Doug Hinebaugh

Kabuki Dancer

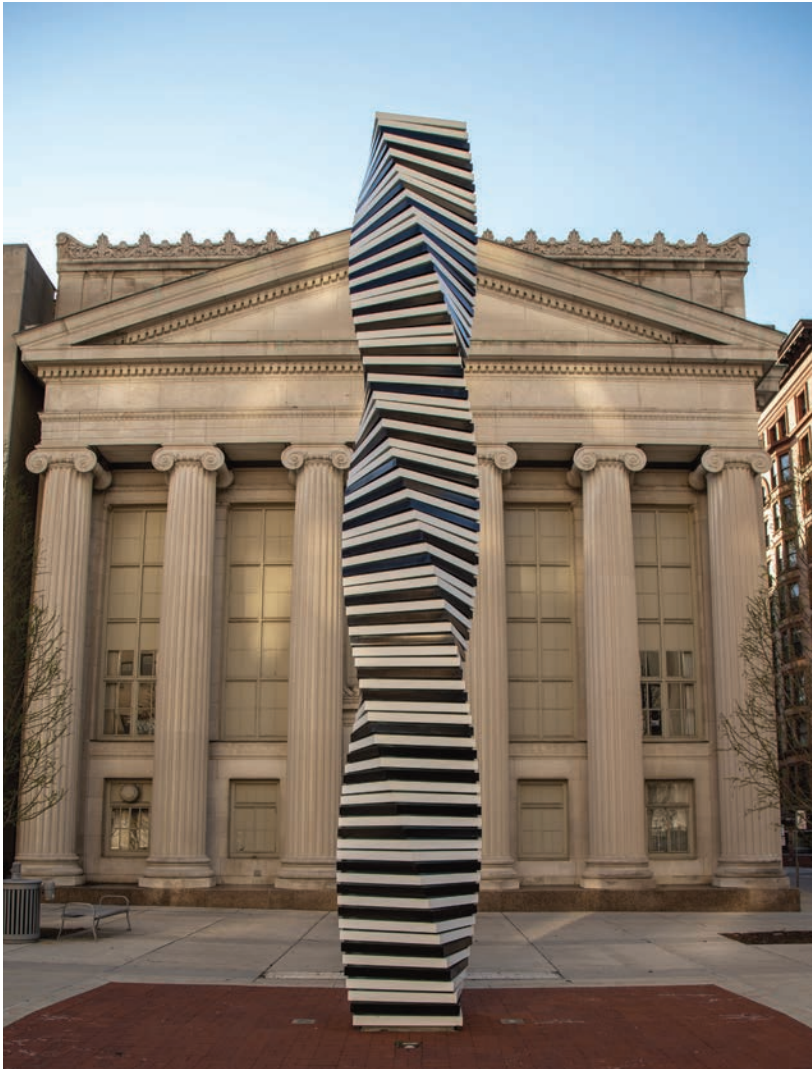
Kabuki Dancer was removed in spring 2024 during construction to Levis Square Park, which is now complete. The new construction has reconfigured the site significantly, and an APP subcommittee was convened to dictate the process around reinstallation and the creation of a new base. The committee met on November 14, 2024 and selected the South end of Boeschstein Park, next to the entrance to the Owens Corning campus, as the proposed new location for the sculpture. The committee also met on January 15, 2025 and laid out the design for the new base, lighting, and technical details to ensure a smooth installation.

A site survey for Boeschstein Park is currently being finalized to accurately assess the grade on site and other site factors that will influence installation. The selected site has also been presented at a hearing with the City of Toledo Plan Commission on March 13 and subsequently approved. Installation is slated for summer 2025, following the completion of the sculpture's restoration.



Kabuki Dancer. Photo: Owen Cappellini

EXHIBIT "A"



Art Tatum Celebration Column. Photo: Owen Cappellini

Art Tatum Celebration Column

The Art Tatum Celebration Column was removed on October 16 2024, and plans are currently underway to strip and repaint the sculpture's finish, as well as replace some additional elements including the current internal light fixtures. Repairs will be completed in summer 2025 with reinstallation to occur in fall 2025. The site will also receive updated signage in conjunction with the reinstallation of the sculpture.

Lighting

APP is coordinating the installation of additional on-site lighting for two sculptures, Toledo Rise and Blue Lupine. Lighting updates to Blue Lupine are funded by Lucas County as part of the scope of public art projects at the Glass City Center.

New light schemes have been developed for each site to ensure that both sculptures are properly illuminated for the future.



Toledo Rise. Photo: Chris Schooler



Blue Lupine. Photo: Ben Morales

Additional conservation projects for 2025 include lighting updates for *The Flame* and re-integrating *The Family* into the planned Glass City River Walk along Promenade Park.

ONE PERCENT FOR ART 2025 BUDGET

Administration	\$96,000
Acquisition	\$242,067
Education	\$68,283
Conservation	\$126,066
Total	\$532,417

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

2025 ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE

- Patricia Levey (Co-Chair)
- Claude Fixler (Co-Chair)
- Steven Day
- Mike Duket
- Bob Lubell
- Terwase Ngur
- Diane Phillips
- Carolyn Putney
- Susan Reams
- Jose Rosales
- Margy Trumbull
- Megan Vahey Casiere
- Barry Whittaker
- Emory Whittington III
- Lori Young
- Robert Zollweg

TOLEDO MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS

2025 ART IN PUBLIC PLACES STAFF

- Marc Folk: President and CEO of The Arts Commission
- Nathan Mattimoe: Director, Art in Public Places
- Ben Cook: Project Manager, Art in Public Places