

Akron Documenters

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Akron Public Art Commission

Documenter name: Simone Walton

Agency: None

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[See more about this meeting at Documenters.org](#)

Notes to reader: *Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at documenters@signalakron.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.*

Summary

- Akron Public Art Commission voted 4-1 to support a public art installation at Lock 3 by a Rotterdam-based artist. This will be funded by the Akron Marathon and other funders.
- The [Public Art Inventory](#) project that started in 2023 is nearing completion. The story mapping is in process and the city will soon take management of the database from ART x Love, the Akron organization tasked with building this inventory.

Follow-Up Questions

- What is the third goal which was set(TBA) and when will it be expressed
- Will the Collections Category be embraced?
- How often will the Inventory training be made available?

Notes:

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Andy Hillier at 4:02 p.m.
- See the meeting [here](#).
- Roll Call was taken and a quorum allowed the meeting to continue. See the

commissioners [here](#).

- The minutes from the September, October and November meetings were approved.

Presentation - Public art for Lock 3

- Anne Wischmeyer with Curated Storefront talked about a public art project in conjunction with the Akron Marathon slated for Lock 3. It's a sculpture project called "Running Humanoids" by Rotterdam-based artist [Jope Van Lieshout](#). He is an internationally recognized artist working with sculptures and public spaces. He is a bit of a "mad scientist," Wischmeyer said. He identified with Akron's industrial past and wants to bring that to this project.
- The vision of the project for Akron is a continuation of a current body of work but specific to Akron and running a marathon. He sees this as a series of sculptures to represent running a marathon.
- One sculpture called "I Will Do", represents getting ready for the marathon. The rendering of it shows the interactive seating area for engagement. "The Runner" represents being light on its feet.
- The art work represents resilience of the participant, according to Wischmeyer. She said maintenance of the sculptures is easy – wipe off with a soft cloth
- It will be located on the Main Street Level of Lock 3.
- Hillier asked about securing the sculptures on the new decking at Lock 3. Wischmeyer said she is working with the design firm of Lock 3 to make sure everything is done right.
- Commission Member Roberta Rodgers asked if it's good for picture taking next to the sculptures. Wischmeyer said they are intended to be in photos, especially for those who complete the Akron Marathon.
- Commission Member Larissa Brown asked if the metal sculptures will color? Wischmeyer said that they will be in their cast aluminum raw form.
- Commission Member Jessica Travis asked about the selection process? Public Arts Liaison Summer Hall said that the Akron Marathon and funders are responsible for the selection of this artwork. The process began with 10 and was narrowed down to 5, then 3 and then the final selection was made. Titles will be included with each sculpture as a learning component.
- Commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of this. Travis voted no because she wanted more public involvement involved in picking public art.

Presentation - Public Art Inventory

- Mac and Allyse Love with [ART x LOVE](#) provided the [Public Art Inventory](#) update and have sent an email out, inviting the Commissioners to attend the training.
- “It is wild how far we have come since we last presented to you,” Mac Love said. He said the inventory has almost doubled in size.
- Mac Love said there are more than 700 records, 1,485 photographs, and 2,000 detail photographs. The Story mapping has more than 200 pieces already.
- On Friday the city of Akron will have all of the data, in the IT Department. It will be stored internally. An Excel spread sheet will list and display the artwork publicly. The sorting will be done via neighborhoods and the style of the art form. A final report will be prepared, which will express the art needs, areas of focus, priorities, gaps in community and future public art sites. They are working to overlay ward maps and neighborhood maps and could be added in the future.
- Progress is being made and a confirmation of this is that Goodyear asked to find out the location of its 12 Blimps, for its 150th Anniversary. Mogan Park is another testament-the area has been fenced in since 1960 and it may be moved, but kept, since it is not being used.
- A new category of art has come about, called a “Collection.” This includes art pieces in museums, and other places like the Fire Department, Police Department, and Water Department; these are non-traditional and cultural artifacts. An addition to this is the Polsky Building, which houses many items reflecting the history of Akron’s Downtown.
- Mac Love talked about this being a living database that can be updated. This database allows the city to decide what to keep, update, and remove. In terms of removal, this would result from vandalism (graffiti, stolen parts, or the entire item being taken.) Having signage wards off vandalism.
- Mac Love said that it’s important to focus on art that is city owned, city funded, or city property. There are some items which are not included because they public facing art pieces that are connected with libraries, schools, theatres.
- Commission members discussed developing a partnership with others to ensure the status of the public art and be able to share information about those pieces. Additional questions of status are Ohio Erie Canal, Towpath Trails, MetroParks, CNVP, as it pertains to the database.
- Hillier recommended that a University of Akron student with a major in MIS & Analytics become an intern. He suggested the student could develop an app, which would structure an entry form, for the inventory.
- An inventory project which would include all 31 communities within Summit County, would be a good representation. The next step would be to add to what already exists.

New Business:

Discussion about paying for somebody to take meeting minutes. This would have to be approved at the next meeting in January.

Discussion about planning the 2025 budget.

Hillier adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.