

Agenda
City of Kentwood Arts Commission
January 30, 2024

5:30pm

Kentwood Richard L. Root branch of the Kent District Library

at 4950 Breton Avenue, SE

Second Floor Conference Room

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes June 28, 2022
3. The Genesis of the Arts Commission
4. Woodland Mall Sculpture Donation-Tri-Elements
5. Draft Arts Commission Purpose Statement
6. Paul Collins Art Display
7. Next Meeting

Draft Minutes
City of Kentwood
Arts Commission
June 28, 2022

A. The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm.

B. Roll Call:

Members Present: Jerry DeMaagd, Terry Schweitzer, Ana Falling

Members Absent: Wendy BooydeGraaff

Others Present: Planning Intern Toby Hayes, Representative of Applicant
Marcus Ringnalda

C. Minutes

Motion by Schweitzer, supported by DeMaagd, to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Arts Commission meeting.

Motion Carried (3-0)

D. Commission Review of proposed mural at 3990 44th Street SE

Schweitzer welcomed Ringnalda and asked if he would explain the mural for the commission. Ringnalda explained that his client had intended to attend but was called out of town. He said the applicant is seeking approval to apply and display a permanent mural on the west wall of the building at 3990 44th St. SE. He said Mobile Defenders were the previous tenants of the building, however his client, Miller Ganapini, purchased the building and will be moving his countertop tooling business to the new location. Ringnalda said the mural is partially visible from eastbound 44th street, but primary viewing will be from the parking lot of the structure.

Schweitzer explained that Intern Hayes had reviewed the city's sign ordinances and concluded that the design does not constitute a sign or an advertisement and therefore falls under the purview of the Arts Commission.

DeMaagd asked if the brick surface was flat. Ringnalda explained that the brick has ridges in it and is not completely flat. Falling asked how the artist

might paint on an uneven surface. Ringnalda explained he may do so with a projection of the design onto the wall. Based on the information and photos describing the muralist, it appeared that there may be a role played by the community in the painting process.

Falling, Schweitzer and DeMaagd did not feel the proposed mural would be an undue distraction for passing motorists, and the graphics are appealing and by no means offensive to community standards.

DeMaagd asked what the significance of the mural was and who the statue next to the Statue of Liberty was. Ringnalda explained that the mural depicted the Statue of David next to the Statue of Liberty and most likely has relevance to Miller's Italian background. Commissioners expressed interest in receiving more details on the meaning of the mural and what it means to the applicant.

DeMaagd asked if the artist had a proposed start date for the project. Ringnalda explained that it would be as soon as possible. The artist lives in Italy and will be flying into Kentwood to paint the mural. He said he may be undertaking the project later this summer. DeMaagd said it would be best to approve this quickly so the applicant can notify the artist as soon as possible.

DeMaagd asked whether approval could be granted in the case conditioned upon the applicant supplying the commission with more details on what type of sealant will be used to protect the mural from graffiti, the described maintenance plan, more background on the meaning of the mural.

Schweitzer stated that the commission may grant conditional approval and asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

Commissioner Falling motioned to grant conditional approval as suggested by DeMaagd, DeMaagd supported the motion.

Motion Carried (3-0)

E. Other Business

Schweitzer explained to the commissioners that in the next meeting there will be discussion regarding a recent unapproved addition of a mural to the Meyer Music building on Lake Eastbrook Blvd, and whether or not it

constitutes a sign based on Kentwood ordinance. He also suggested that the next meeting's agenda might also include development of the Arts Commission purpose statement.

As suggested in the email provided by BooydeGraaff; Falling, Schweitzer, and DeMaagd felt future applicants should include background on the artist, as well as on the intended meaning of the artwork.

F. Next meeting.

The consensus of the group was to schedule the next meeting at a later date as to avoid conflicts with Falling's work schedule and DeMaagd possibly being on vacation later in the summer.

Motion by DeMaagd, supported by Falling, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried (3-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm

Submitted by Planning Intern Toby Hayes

7/6/22



Memorandum

TO: City Commission

FROM: Terry Schweitzer, Community Development Director

DATE: December 14, 2017

RE: Dissolve Arts Advisory Committee and Creation of an Art Commission

Over the past several months the Planning Commission has been working on devising a group of amendments to the Kentwood Zoning Ordinance to formally establish a use allowance to accommodate the desire for the outside display of works of art on private properties in the city of Kentwood. Corollary to this use allowance is the establishment of a review process and review standards to evaluate the art proposals. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 12, 2017 and they have formulated a recommendation to the City Commission regarding the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The City Commission public hearing will be held on January 16, 2018.

The key component of the group of Zoning Ordinance amendments is the creation of an Art Commission charged with the responsibility to review and decide upon proposals. A five member commission is proposed consisting of: an at large member of the City Commission; 3 private citizens who live and/or work in the city; and the Community Development Director as an ex officio member. The members of the Art Commission are to be appointed for three year terms.

The city has previously established an Arts Advisory Committee to encourage the development and appreciation of art in the community. Since this committee is no longer active and, to avoid confusion, we recommend that the City Commission formally dissolve the Arts Advisory Committee.

The attached resolution is offered for your consideration.

Mayor Kepley will be offering recommended appointments to the Art Commission.



Memorandum

TO: City Commission Committee of the Whole

FROM: Arts Commission

DATE: October 9, 2019

RE: Sculpture Donation

The Arts Commission wishes to provide an update to the City Commission Committee of the Whole regarding its efforts to recommend a public location for the installation of the Woodland Mall sculpture donation as well as identify installation options.

Current Consensus of the Arts Commission

Placement of the sculpture between City Hall and the Library (see attached aerial) as well as retrofit the sculpture (in Seattle) through the introduction of glass and LED lighting. We also recommend development of an event around the official installation of the TriElements sculpture including the prospect of securing a Meijer Gardens loan of another sculpture for display on the City Center Campus.

Locational Evaluation and Selection

Subsequent to the City Commission acceptance of the Woodland Mall sculpture donation on June 18, we sought out and received recommendations on prospective public locations for the sculpture from the following groups: City Commission; Planning Commission; Economic Development Corporation; Arts Commission; and the city Department Managers. As the Arts Commission reviewed and evaluated the recommendations, the key placement considerations for the sculpture included: reaching out to the original sculptor to learn the inspiration and symbolism of the piece; walkability to and within the site; accessibility; fit with existing and/or new landscaping; fit with future plans in the immediate area; and a desire to be in an area regularly frequented by large numbers of people.

The initial consensus was to discount placements that were in and along the public street right-of-way and concentrate on placements that were walkable, accessible and in an area already regularly frequented by large numbers of people.

Research

Sculpture Title and Inspiration- We were able to contact the sculptor, Ulrich Pakker, and learned that the sculpture is called “TriElements” and its inspiration came from both the idea of Balance and in opposition to other fountains. Ulrich’s sculptures and fountains work with geometrics, spatial relationships and irregular balance. He prefers employing simple and universal shapes so each person construct their own narrative of the piece. The very first TriElements fountain began as a sculpture but it quickly became apparent to him that it must have water as an additional medium. Components of his sculptural fountains look like they might float away in the absence of gravity. TriElements’ circles of stainless steel, interrupted by water, balance lightly on each other. The metal “dissolves” into water and transforms back again into stainless, like alchemy.

Design Modification Option-The sculptor never liked the idea of a large basin under his fountains. It requires more water, more maintenance and quickly becomes either an attractive nuisance or a decommissioned fountain. He therefore devised the recirculating water system to mitigate the basin issue. However, he subsequently took on a client that wanted a TriElement fountain without the water. Ulrich suggested replacing the water with laminated glass arcs and a very successful design modification was born.

Meijer Gardens- Arts Commission members met with Meijer Gardens staff seeking guidance on design, cost and maintenance considerations given their experience placing sculptures of various sizes and types throughout their grounds. The discussion touched upon the following areas: visual cues; installation; working with the artist; maintenance; purpose; financing site preparation costs; promotion; and future ideas.

Approximate Retrofitting Costs

Phase 1: Removal of fountainheads, the lighting and all the plumbing; decommissioning the reservoir, hoses and pump; removing all existing lighting

Phase 2: Redesign, fabricate and finish a pedestal appropriate to the glass fountain with an electrical vault, housing the transformer for LED lights; the LED lights come with a remote control so the LEDs’ colors can be changed; purchasing, cutting, gluing & laminating, shaping glass for the arcs to replace the waterflows; fabricate fittings for how the three glass arcs are installed in the glass-fountain; running electrical wires through the sculpture to the electrical vault.

Phase 3: Installation with a boom truck/crane

Approximate Retrofit Cost-\$13,000

If the sculpture is retrofitted in the Ulrich studio in Seattle, additional shipping costs there and back of \$4,600 are estimated.

Alternatively, Ulrich and his assistant come to the fountain in Michigan. These additional costs are estimated to be \$6500-\$9800 including: per diem charge; round-trip airfare; lodging; and a rental car.

Arts Commission Draft of purpose statement
by W. BooydeGraaff

Purpose:

To bring Art to the Kentwood community.

Rationale:

Public Art is an important aspect of a growing, modern community.

Public Art . . .

- gives the city a landmark, and creates a gathering place for the community. “Meet me by the TriElements” is something we envision people saying.
- Public Art encourages civic engagement. It’s a starting point for Kentwood to be part of the larger, global conversation about and with Art. People might say, “What is this?” “It looks like . . .” “Who made this?” “Where did it come from?” These are conversations that encourage people, neighbours, community members, to talk among and with each other.
- Public Art encourages education, for all ages. The questions, the research that may ensue, and the opportunity for library or Parks and Rec programs surrounding Art. For TriElements, it could be sketched, discussed (STEM involvement here because of the stainless steel, LED lights, natural light, placement, technology), the installation could be documented.
- TriElements specifically has a Kentwood story—it comes from Woodland Mall, and was donated to Kentwood. It has a history here, and may be familiar with people, but it’s being updated, modernized, and put into a place of pride to show our Kentwood spirit, our first outdoor sculpture.
- Public Art creates a sense of excitement and change (especially upon a new installation)

• *Public Art Review*

Pitch:

TriElements is a simple, modern sculpture, the first acquisition for Kentwood’s Public Art initiative, which will enable Kentwood’s Arts Commission vision: to be a growing, thriving city community that celebrates the arts and makes them accessible to the public.

10/29/18

Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee may include the following but is not limited to:

- A. Stimulate interest and awareness in all forms of art.
- B. Promote schools, exhibitions, performances, and productions of artistic and cultural value to the people of the Kentwood area.
- C. Coordinate the artistic and cultural activities of the Kentwood area, including, but not limited to, music, theatre, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, allied arts and crafts, and such other cultural activities of value to the citizens of Kentwood.
- D. Be the arts advisory body for the citizens of Kentwood
- E. Provide a community perspective on services, programs, events and facilities related to the arts and culture.
- F. Foster public awareness, recognition and support for local artistic talent and multiculturalism.
- G. Provide leadership in, and actively promote community activities related to the arts, culture and special events
- H. Provide liaisons, linkages and networks to assist community activities and clubs

-budget?



Mission Statement

The mission of the Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee is to discuss issues, foster collaboration on projects, and brainstorm ideas to encourage greater community involvement in the arts.

A Shining City on a Hill The Symbolism of a lighted sculpture

Since the early founding of New England towns, the ideal city goal was to become a “Shining City on a Hill”. Inspired by the scriptures, the early settlers took literally a verse from Matthew 5:14 which says “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden”.

The Arts Commission has been tasked with evaluating the sculpture donated by Woodland Mall last year and recommending a prominent place for its installation within the city limits.

The sculpture created by the artist Ulrich Pakker was named “Tri-Elements” expressed in the form of three circles of stainless steel, and projecting and returning water from each. Through contact with the artist, we have found that the water feature can be replaced by laminated glass arcs, lighted with LED lighting. We believe this modification would not only bring this piece into the 21st century, but become an inspiration and focus for the community of Kentwood.

Since its founding in 1967, the City of Kentwood has expanded from a commuting suburb and rural township, to become a true civic community in its own right, embodying the best of both town and country. After more than 50 years, it continues to draw new residents from other areas of the state and indeed, from around the world. The lighted sculpture could become a symbol of the ideal “shining city on a hill”, not only *making all feel welcome to come to our city, but to truly feel a sense of belonging within our community.*

Notes:

1. See City on a Hill, Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present by Alex Kreiger, The Belknap Press, Cambridge, MA 2019 page 82 and footnote 19, Chapter 4.
2. The Story of Kentwood, A History of Kentwood, Michigan by VanScoy, Kuhn, Therrien, pub. City of Kentwood, 1998, page 281 "The (Kentwood City Center-City Hall) was designed to sit atop the highest spot in the city, some 805 feet above sea level."
3. Concluding italics are quote from Mayor Stephan Kepley, The Grand Rapids Press, December 22, 2019, page A12 made at the City Commission meeting the previous Thursday with regard to reaffirming the city's support of a resolution consenting to the continuing resettlement of refugees.

CITY on a Hill, Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present, ALEX KRIEGER, The Belknap Press, © 2019, Chapter 4 - The Small Town as an Ideal: Puritan Covenants to Celebration, FL

builders to devise the first suburban estates deliberately emulating small towns. Early in the twentieth century, planners drew on the New England tradition as they advanced Garden Cities. And recently, as we have seen, the New Urbanists—and more superficially those marketing departments responsible for naming suburban subdivisions—have sought to replicate or evoke the qualities of social harmony and physical grace associated with old New England. It is an irony that, by encouraging so many people to retreat from urban centers, this long history of idealization unleashed the forces of suburbanization that proved truly antithetical to the ideals of small-town life.

All this makes it difficult to discuss the early New England towns without descending into cliché. But an understanding of the initial organization of the Puritan village and how it evolved will allow us to better see how the same image of a perfect hometown could be invoked both to encourage retreat from the expanding industrializing city (and so unleash suburbanization), and to offer an alternative to the ubiquitous suburban landscape, as it was by the New Urbanists two-thirds of a century later.

Small groups bound by strong feelings of kinship settled most of the early English villages in New England, starting with the first permanent English settlement of Plymouth, established in 1620. In any new community, the leading male members would sign a covenant (not unlike Celebration's Declaration of Covenants, which clearly harked back to these early agreements) confirming the terms by which village lands would be held and maintained. Typically, modest home plots bordered a Common for grazing, and land cleared for farming beyond the street of homes was allocated to male heads of households based on their wealth or social status. Everyone lived in the town and compactness was, indeed, legislated. Once all the house lots around the Common were allocated, the process of starting another town began. Within a decade of Plymouth's

founding, settlers formed two dozen more towns under such covenants. One of them was Boston, in 1630, which would come to be associated with John Winthrop's famous phrase; in a sermon delivered en route to the New World, he called for founding "a shining city upon a hill."

The binding covenant was a necessity as long as the survival of the community depended on communal effort and associated spiritual kinship. This emphasis on cooperation is where Mumford found his "harmonious balance." Such unity of purpose, however, lasted only a couple of generations. Once survival was assured, liberties beckoned, including the liberty to amass one's own

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Theme

w/ LED lights installed.

24th 6:30

Feb 20

- 18 Page Smith, *As a City upon a Hill: The Town in American History* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1966), 3. The first eight chapters of John Reps, *The Making of Urban America: A History of City Planning in the United States* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1965) provide a good overview of the early Puritan settlements and how these differed from European towns, other colonist groups, and the Southern plantation tradition.
- 19 From John Winthrop's famous 1630 sermon "A Model of Christian Charity," preached while he was still aboard the *Arbela* on its way to the New World. Winthrop was alluding to Jesus's "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5:14 which contains these lines: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Society, 1815–1915 (Boston: Little

ice and Howe, 1920), 325.

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1996, 15.

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Thomas Bender, *Community and Social Change in America* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978), 78–79.

Stanley Buder, *Pullman: An Experiment in Industrial Order and Community Planning, 1880–1930* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967), 42.

Oliva Allen-Price and Mina Kim, "A Sneak Peek at Apple's New Cupertino Headquarters," KQED News, last modified February 15, 2015, <https://www.kqed.org/news/10430660>.

- 1 Seth Fiegerman, "Facebook's Glamorous New Headquarters Will Make You Hate Your Cubicle," Mashable website, March 31, 2015, <https://mashable.com/2015/03/31/facebook-new-headquarters-photos>.

2 Alexander Hamilton
York: Columbia Uni

3 Excellent overviews of
Mansion: A Study of.
York: Columbia Uni
Paradise: The Design
Garner, *The Model C*
Nineteenth-Century
John W. Reps, *Town*
Press, 1980).

4 Barbara M. Tucker a
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5 Alexander Hamilton
<https://founders.arch>

6 Ella, "The Window
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7 John W. Reps, *The A*
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8 Quoted in Charles C
atespace, 2017), 134.

9 For more on Lowell
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10 Theodore Weicker.
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11 For a thorough acco
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12 Buder, *Pullman*, 42.

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Where to view:

Wednesday, Jan. 10 - Friday, Jan. 26

Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Monday, Jan. 29 - Friday, Feb. 2

Caledonia Twp. Branch

Monday, Feb. 5 - Friday, Feb. 9

Walker Branch

Monday, Feb. 12 - Friday, Feb. 16

Nelson Twp. Branch

Monday, Feb. 19 - Friday, Feb. 23

Krause Memorial (Rockford) Branch



For branch locations and hours

www.kdl.org/locations

About the Painting:



"Road Towards Equality"
by Paul Collins (54x44 in.)

This piece serves as a testament to the importance of freedom, civil rights, education and honor. The artist chose to depict President Abraham Lincoln to represent the emancipation of slavery, President Barack Obama as the first elected African American President of the United States of America and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as the key figure in the American Civil Rights movement. The U.S. flag represents freedom for all. Collins had this piece of art installed at Kent District Library because the library is available to everyone to see history, learn from it and be inspired by it.



www.collinsart.org



"Road Towards Equality"

by Paul Collins

On display at select KDL locations

Kent
District
Library



Kent
District
Library
kdl.org

Information
Ideas
Excitement!