

PUBLIC ART VISION AUBURN GRESHAM

APRIL 2023



PLANNING TEAM

CITY OF CHICAGO

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) of the City of Chicago commissioned this report as part of the planning process to develop Public Art Neighborhood Visions for the INVEST South/West initiative. This report documents the research and engagement process undertaken between May and December of 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS (DCASE)

DCASE is dedicated to enriching Chicago's artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy. It provided oversight throughout the process.

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Public Art Reimagining Tour with You (P.A.R.T.Y.) in Auburn Gresham - Chicago, IL



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Public Art Reimagining Tour
August 2022



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Over the last three years, Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) has invested unprecedented funding to support artists and the creative economy and expand access and participation in the arts throughout Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. In collaboration with the Department of Planning and Development and the Department of Transportation, we've committed over \$6million for public art in all ten neighborhoods of Mayor Lightfoot's INVEST South/West initiative, with additional investments on the way.

To determine where and how that funding is utilized, we assembled a team of talented artists to develop Public Art Vision plans that identify priorities for new public art investments. . Through the Public Art Reimagining Tour with You (P.A.R.T.Y.), artists have led the public art planning process starting in Auburn Gresham, Austin, Bronzeville and Englewood, creatively bridging connections between government agencies and community residents.

In this report, you'll find the results of our conversations and workshops with artists, residents, business owners, elected officials, and community organizers. You'll learn what people thought about their neighborhood's history, cultural identity, and their visions for public art on important commercial corridors and beyond, resulting in a number of priority projects for the City to fund.

I extend my gratitude to the artists and residents whose energy, creativity and commitment has made P.A.R.T.Y. a meaningful and joyful experience. The future of public art is bright in Chicago, and we look forward to keeping the "P.A.R.T.Y. going" in other INVEST South/ West neighborhoods.

Erin Harkey, Commissioner
Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
City of Chicago

“Public art should remind us of things, people, and places that we love. Remind people that there is love and care in the community that they live in.”

Public Art Reimagining Tour Participant
August 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the outset of the INVEST South/West initiative, The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Department of Transportation (CDOT) identified priority investment corridors in each neighborhood for significant streetscape and public realm enhancements, including new roadways, sidewalks, light poles, bike lanes, landscaping and community plazas. In order to align public art investment with CDOT corridor renovation projects and DPD investment strategies, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), initiated an artist-led public engagement campaign, titled P.A.R.T.Y. (Public Art Reimagining Tour with You) to inform a Public Art Vision for each of the ten INVEST South/West neighborhoods.

The first phase of the P.A.R.T.Y. campaign was carried out over the Summer and Fall of 2022 and focused on four neighborhoods: Auburn Gresham, Austin, Bronzeville and Englewood. The artist-led engagement teams organized and carried out a sequence of four public events in each neighborhood, ranging from neighborhood walks, event pop-ups and focus groups.

This report **documents the values, stories, themes and priorities** shared by community members throughout the engagement sessions so that these key narratives may be reflected in new permanent public art installations in Auburn Gresham. It **identifies the type and location for actionable public art projects** strategically aligned with ongoing DPD- and CDOT-led INVEST South/West priority corridor capital projects.

Throughout the community events of the Public Art Reimagining Tour, Auburn Gresham residents and stakeholders provided a broad range of ideas and input about what they would like to see reflected in public art in their community.

These insights are organized in four main categories representing possibilities for themes and storytelling shaping public art projects:

Community + Belonging
Black History + Culture
Environment + Resilience
Wellness + Safety

DCASE, in collaboration with partner departments, will **develop and issue requests for artists** to submit qualifications to be commissioned for the design and installation of public art projects in Auburn Gresham.

The three primary opportunities identified in the report for new permanent public art investment in Austin are:

- 1) A gathering pavilion installation as the centerpiece of a new public plaza adjacent to Leo High School at the intersection of S. Sangamon St. and 79th St.;
- 2) A pair of landmark sculptures on S. Throop St. and 79th St. to frame the entrance of Renaissance Park;
- 3) Additional large-scale murals that build on momentum of Artist-in-Residence Dorian Sylvain's "Colors of Community" mural on 79th at Racine.

The community also expressed a strong interest in design processes that are inclusive and engage members to be involved in the process of design and implementation of public art.

Therefore, this vision document will **serve as a resource for commissioned artists** as they develop and lead a community-centered engagement, design and installation processes for their permanent public art implementation projects in Auburn Gresham.

LARGE MURAL EXAMPLES



COLORS OF COMMUNITY, Dorian Sylvain - Chicago, IL



MUDDY WATERS, Eduardo Kobra - Chicago, IL

LANDMARK SCULPTURE EXAMPLES



WIND SCULPTURE, Yinka Shonibare - London, UK



FLY BOY, Hebru Brantley Fly Boy - Navy Pier, Chicago, IL

GATHERING PAVILION EXAMPLES



HYLE, Juan Angel Chavez - Chicago, IL



BLOCK PARTY, Barnes Studio - Chicago, IL

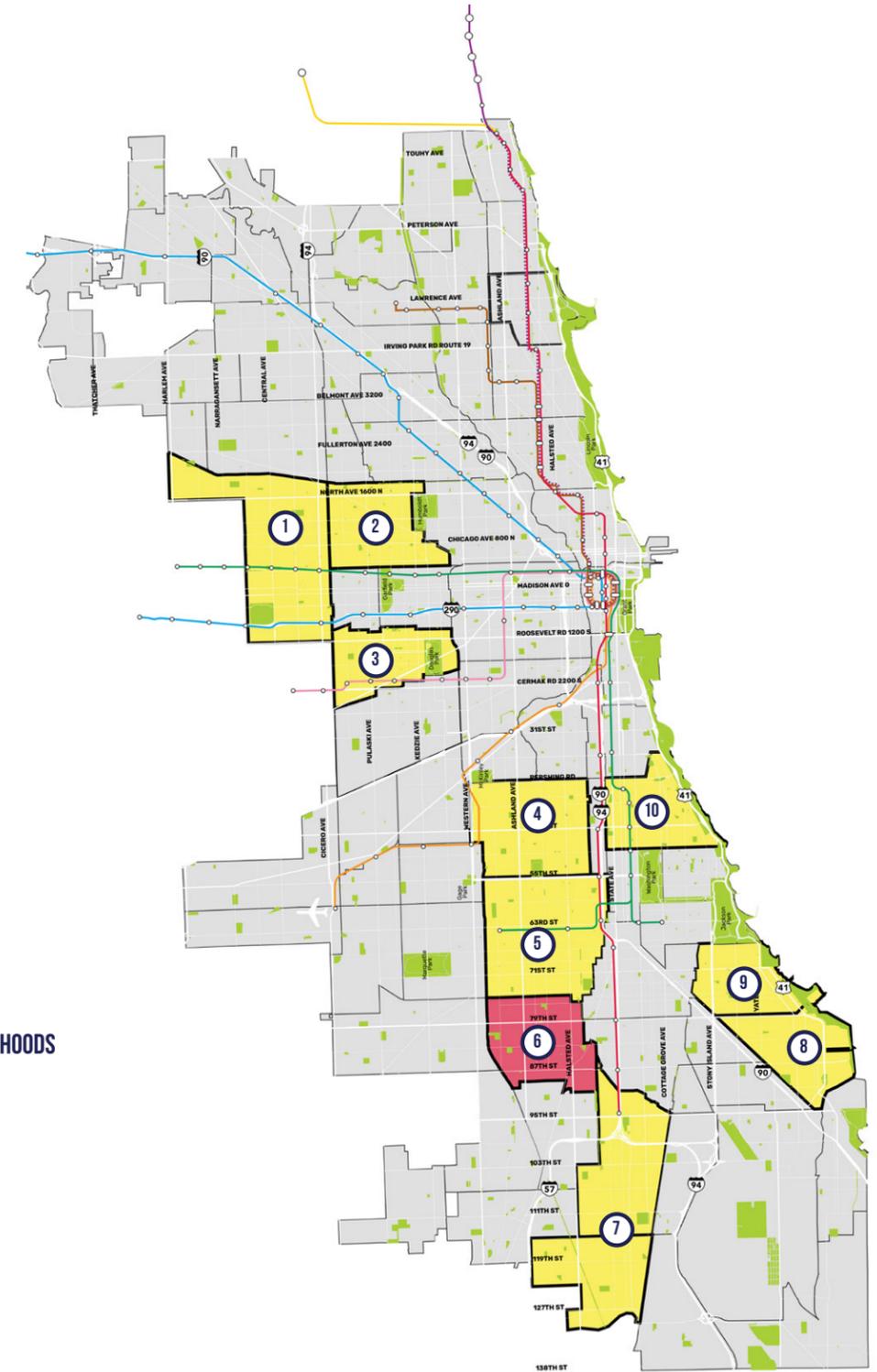
INTRODUCTION: INVEST SOUTH/WEST + P.A.R.T.Y.

INVEST South/West is an unprecedented community improvement initiative by the City of Chicago that is strategically reversing decades of systemic public and private disinvestment within the city's West and South Side neighborhoods.

Initiated in Fall 2019 and supported by more than \$750 million in public funding, INVEST South/West is enhancing 12 commercial corridors in 10 neighborhoods with focused improvements that include new, mixed-use construction projects, the adaptive reuse of historic buildings, new plazas, small business grants, and related public realm improvements that restore neighborhood vitality and provide a catalytic foundation for ongoing public and private investment.

As of Fall of 2022, the City has aligned more than \$2.2 billion in public and private investment, and has invested more than \$1 billion in public funding. The initiative is providing support for small businesses, creating public realm improvements, restoring historic buildings, and fostering equity and resilience where it's needed most. P.A.R.T.Y. is a DCASE-led extension of these efforts.

DCASE also sponsored Artist-in-Residence programs in Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Austin, and New City, where artists assisted City agencies and community stakeholders on projects that leverage local culture and creativity as part of integrated neighborhood improvement plans. Dorian Sylvain was selected as the Auburn Gresham Artist-in-Residence and recently completed a large mural on 79th Street; the mural design and implementation included significant input and participation by the Auburn Gresham community.



INVEST SOUTH/WEST NEIGHBORHOODS

- 1 Austin
- 2 Humboldt Park
- 3 North Lawndale
- 4 New City
- 5 Greater Englewood
- 6 **Auburn Gresham**
- 7 Greater Roseland
- 8 South Chicago
- 9 South Shore
- 10 Bronzeville

Figure 1-INVEST South/West neighborhoods
Source: INVEST South/West 3-Year Update, November 2022 (chicago.gov)

P.A.R.T.Y. PUBLIC ART REIMAGINING TOUR WITH YOU

The artist-led cohort facilitated opportunities to engage in conversations with the Auburn Gresham community throughout three distinct phases, and collected input and feedback related to:

- **WHAT:** Stories, themes, narratives, ideas
- **WHERE:** Site opportunities, types of spaces
- **HOW:** Art type, size, form

This process also brought visibility to the multiple overlapping projects converging around neighborhood improvements such as public infrastructure investment by the City, private development, and community-led initiatives that emphasized the need for continued alignment and coordination.

This integrated understanding helped to identify these three **goals for public art** project opportunities:

- **Amplify:** public art that contributes to planned or ongoing investment in neighborhoods
- **Revitalize:** public art that inspires and invites different activities through renewed identity of public places
- **Catalyze:** public art that catalyzes new investment and neighborhood improvements

Finally, community also expressed a strong support for a **multi-phased inclusive engagement process** that involves a broad spectrum of participation - from ideation to implementation of public art:

- Brainstorming and idea generation
- Prototyping and feedback
- Activation and programming

Documentation of these events can be found in the Appendix.



PHASE 1 AWARENESS

- Outreach + Connections
- Community Pop-ups
- Informational Activities

PHASE 2 VISIONING

- Deeper Discussion
- Group Conversations
- Cultural Narratives

PHASE 3 RESPOND

- Collected input + feedback
- Focused group reviews
- Priority projects + sites

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

June 25, 2022
GAGDC HQ Mural, Healthy Lifestyle Hub + Affordable Housing, Leo High School, 79th + Green Fencing Project, Empty Lot / Plaza at 79th + Halsted

- What is happening in the neighborhood?
- Who is already working on public art interventions?
- What public art projects have been successful? How could public art improve the neighborhood corridor?



1. AWARENESS

July 30, 2022
79th and Racine

- What does public art mean to you?
- What stories from the community should be celebrated or acknowledged?
- In which places would public art investment support neighborhood vibrancy and safety?
- What sites and why could be key places for public art?



2. VISIONING

October 5, 2022
Bourdeau Griffin Design Center

- What should be honored in Auburn-Gresham?
- Where would you like to see public art in Auburn-Gresham?
- What would you like public art to do in Auburn-Gresham?
- What do you like about Auburn-Gresham?
- What do you love about Auburn-Gresham?



3. RESPOND

November 16, 2022
Leo High School

- Which projects could have the most impact and benefit?
- How would you prioritize these opportunities and why?
- How can these projects represent / respond to community needs?



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This Public Art Vision Plan aims to widen the discussion regarding the role of public art in the lives, surroundings, and legacies of Chicago communities. The visioning process intentionally emphasized the necessity of public art investments. Public art, in addition to beautifying, can:

- Contribute to a neighborhood's vitality & safety
- Support economic development
- Create Unique Cultural Destinations
- Reflect Inclusive Processes

Public Art Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will include reference to these guiding principles – and emphasize engagement as an expected approach to create more inclusive processes that result in public art outcomes reflecting more meaningfully community identity and stories.

IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE & SAFETY

Public art can take different shapes to improve the safety and livelihood of communities. A few examples are activation of sidewalks with street furniture, traffic calming curb extensions and painting and diverse street lighting.

- Active Sidewalks
- Safe Pedestrian Space + Street Crossings
- Street Lighting



Rayobello, Graham Projects - Baltimore, MD

SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Public art can be a catalyst for economic development attracting visitors and encouraging new activities. Businesses benefit from attractive and creative public art interventions, and become more invested in public space improvements.

- Active Storefronts
- Creative Businesses
- Clear Wayfinding



Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center - Chicago, IL

CREATE CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

Distinct landmarks, gateways and signature sculpture pieces are some of the typologies that can turn a place into a cultural destination. Cities and neighborhoods around the world become destinations due to the presence of public art.

- Welcoming Gateways
- Memorable Landmarks
- Signature Public Art



Austin POP!Courts - Chicago, IL

REFLECT INCLUSIVE PROCESSES

Communities want to be involved in shaping the stories that are told through public art in their neighborhoods. Opportunities for community engagement could be designed in different phases during the creative and implementation processes.

- Brainstorming and idea generation
- Prototyping and feedback
- Activation and programming



Colors of Community, Dorian Sylvian - Chicago, IL

INTRODUCTION: AUBURN GRESHAM IN CONTEXT

Auburn Gresham is a predominately African-American middle-class community located 11 miles from downtown Chicago. Initially consisted of small German and Dutch villages, an influx of Irish railroad employees and others lured to the South Side by newly extended city services resulted in significant residential and commercial growth in the late nineteenth century. After restrictive house covenants were rendered illegal, African Americans migrated to Auburn Gresham.

Despite local activists' efforts to abolish racist housing practices, Auburn Gresham had racial tensions in the 1960s, and white residents eventually fled. After two decades of residential flight and a few years of commercial disinvestment along the 79th Street retail strip, the community began to see a rebound in the late 1990s through the efforts of a new alderman, an alliance of community organizations, and investment from the city.

Recently, residents and community organizations have banded together and taken action to change their community. Neighborhood investments in recent years include a police station at 78th and Halsted, which has helped to increase safety in the area; new smaller commercial outlets have broadened shopping options; and a long-anticipated new Metra station has been announced and is scheduled to begin construction by 2021.

The 79th corridor, which runs between Paulina Street and the Metra tracks, is an important community and commercial route through the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. Given its focus on transportation infrastructure, such as the Dan Ryan Expressway, the 79th Street bus line (which has the highest ridership in Chicago), and a future Metra station at 79th Street and Fielding Avenue, the corridor has strong potential for supporting transit-oriented development. It is a source of renewed vigor and growth that has aided long-standing company owners, non-profit leaders, residents, and artists.

Recently, a number of catalytic projects have emerged that will put Auburn Gresham on the green economy map. In the Summer of 2022, The Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) unveiled the Healthy Lifestyle Hub. This critical development on the corridor focuses on a cluster of enterprises driven by the ultimate renewable resources – people and the environment. This development will make transformative investments in health, wellness, and environmental sustainability while creating a virtuous cycle of growth that connects the neighborhood to the regional economy.

Additionally, a new industrial project is being planned across the street from the Healthy Hub that will create the nation's first renewable energy and urban farming campus on a redeveloped brownfield. These projects will bring needed supportive services to the neighborhood and will transform the 79th street corridor into a vibrant and welcoming community space that will give residents a sense of hope and renewed pride that their community is heading in a better and brighter direction.



Figure 2- Neighborhood initiatives in Auburn Gresham
 Source: GAGDC's Quality of Life Plan (2005), GAGDC's Quality of Life Plan (2016), Block Club Chicago (June 2022), Invest South West, Google Street View.

GRAPHIC LEGEND		NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE			
	Neighborhood Initiatives		838 W 79th St		Ryerson Steel Development
	ISW Corridor		757 W 79th St		MMRP Project Boundary
	School		Healthy Lifestyle Hub		79th st Mixed Use Building
	Planned		Auburn Park Metra Station		Proposed Medical Center
	Implemented		Popeye's Chicken Training Center		St. Sabina Safehomes
			SOS Children's Village + New Homes		Proposed Commercial Development
			Langston Cove Phase II		Expanded daycare facility
					Veteran's Administrative Development
					2 and 3-flat Development Project
					Official Historic Bungalow District
					Dorian Sylvain's Mural
					Stein Learning Garden at Saint Sabina

PLANNED + ONGOING CATALYTIC PROJECTS

While this Public Art Vision aims to bring new elements that will improve the vibrancy and vitality of the Auburn Gresham neighborhood, other initiatives in the area will help catalyze the attention and impact of the public art pieces. Such projects are identified on the following map, and a few examples are:

- **79th and Racine**, a 50-by-50 foot mural titled “Colors of Community,” by artist Dorian Sylvain, completed as part of the INVEST South/West Artist-in-Residence pilot program.
- **79th and Green St**, The Auburn Gresham Healthy Lifestyle Hub, a GAGDC redevelopment that will host offices, health and wellness services



757 W 79TH ST



AUBURN GRESHAM HEALTHY LIFESTYLE HUB

tenants, and will support workforce development and community development services. A future roof terrace will support urban agriculture and renewable energy opportunities.

- **757 W 79th St**, a five-story affordable apartment building featuring 30 one to three bedroom units and a commercial space operated by The Park Supper Club and KLEO Community Center.
- **838 W 79th St**, a three-story affordable apartment building including 28 one to three-bedroom units and a commercial space operated by AYO Foods.



838 W 79TH ST



MURAL “COLORS OF COMMUNITY” ON 79TH ST

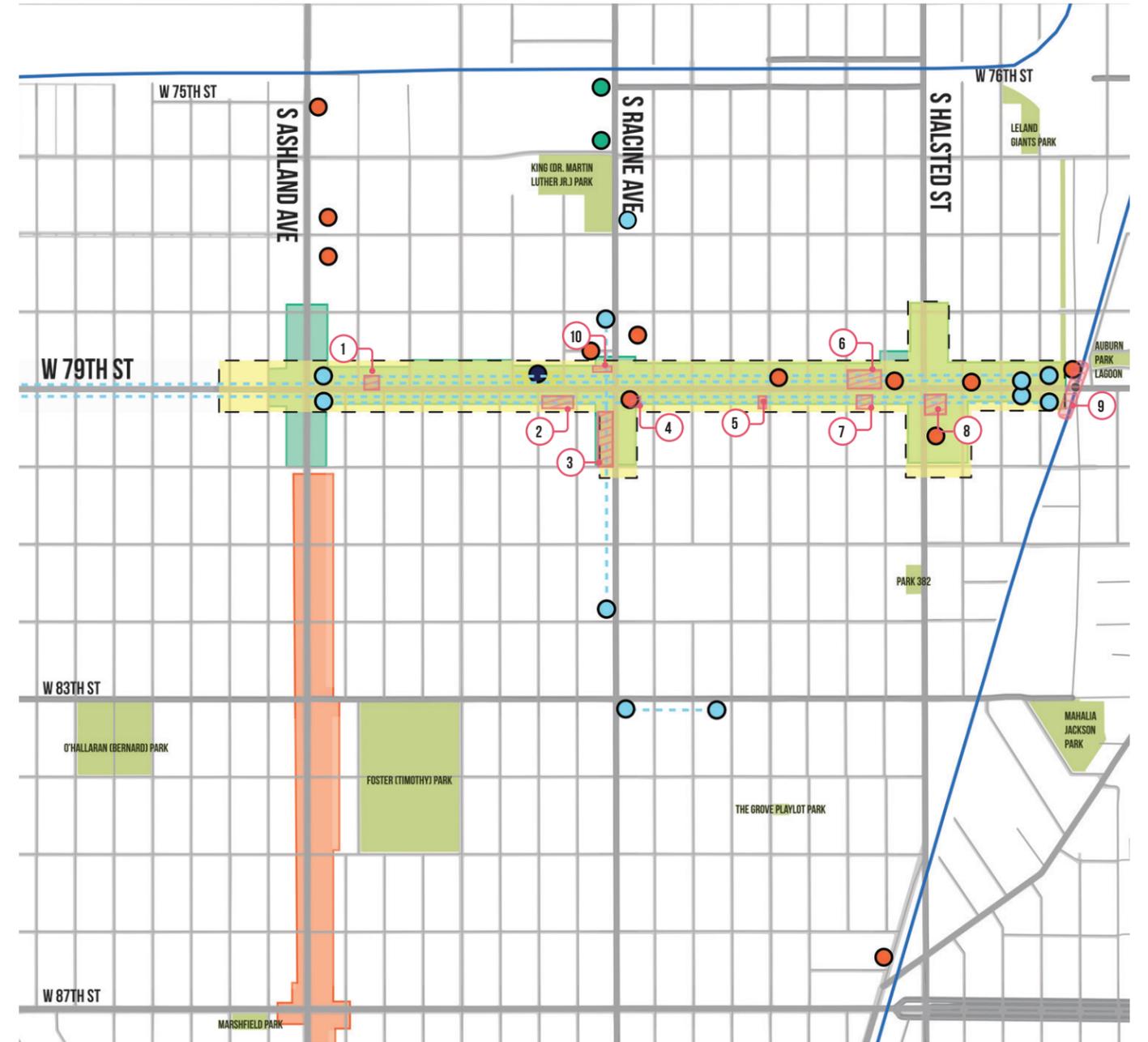


Figure 3-Map of catalytic projects in Auburn Gresham
 Source: GAGDC's Quality of Life Plan (2005), GAGDC's Quality of Life Plan (2016), Block Club Chicago (June 2022), Invest South West, City of Chicago Parks - Public Art Dataset; City of Chicago Mural Registry; Chicago Sun-Times Murals and Mosaics Interactive Map, Google Street View, P.A.R.T.Y Events (2022), Music Lives Here

GRAPHIC LEGEND	EXISTING PUBLIC ART	CATALYTIC PROJECTS
ISW Corridor	Murals	79th st Mixed Use Building
Catalytic Projects	Sculptures	Proposed Medical Center
Special Service Area 69	Infrastructure	Proposed Commercial Development
Special Service Area 32	Markers/Wayfinding	Dorian Sylvain's Mural
		Expanded daycare facility
		838 W 79th St
		Healthy Lifestyle Hub
		757 W 79th St
		Auburn Park Metra Station
		Stein Learning Gardens at Saint Sabina SW corner of 63rd St and Halsted St
		Stein Learning Gardens at Saint Sabina SW corner of 63rd St and Halsted St

INVEST SOUTH/WEST PRIORITY CORRIDOR: W. 79TH ST.

The INVEST South/West Priority Corridor for Auburn Gresham includes the section of W 79th Street between S Paulina Street and S Wallace Street. CDOT improvements to the streetscape will include, but not limited to, new curbs, sidewalks, gutters, marking and signage, gateway identifier, site furniture, and tree planting.

In the near-term, this process seeks to implement public art as part of upcoming INVEST South/West Priority Corridor streetscape improvement projects. The planned CDOT improvements to W 79th Street will ultimately create more public space, creating near-term opportunities for public art that can interpret Auburn Gresham's history and create crucial communal spaces that foster diverse community interactions.



Public Art Reimagining Tour at the Auburn Gresham Corridor

GRAPHIC LEGEND (SEE FIGURE 8)

- Invest SW priority corridor boundary
- ▬ Invest SW priority corridor (not in CDOT Scope)
- - - Ward boundary
- Parcels
- CTA bus route
- Parks
- ▨ City Owned Land
- School
- Institutions
- Places of worship

KEY PLACES LEGEND (SEE FIGURE 8)

- 1 Leo High School
- 2 Future Healthy Hub
- 3 Morgan Way Community Garden
- 4 Original Glorious Apostolic Church
- 5 Kendrick Memorial Missionary
- 6 All Nations Pentecostal Church
- 7 Greater Experience Church
- 8 Catholic Charities 79th
- 9 Englewood Community Service Center
- 10 St. Sabina Church

KEY PLACES LEGEND (SEE FIGURE 8)

- 11 St. Sabina Academy
- 12 Alderman David Moore 17
- 13 Renaissance Park
- 14 Faith Revival Center Church inc.
- 15 New True Love MBC
- 16 Evangelical Church of God in Christ
- 17 Crusaders Church
- 18 Renewal Life World Wide Worship Center
- 19 New Faith Apostolic Church
- 20 Charles Ezzard School
- 21 Grace Church of Chicago
- 22 Now Church
- 23 Evangelist Hope Church
- 24 In God We Trust Union
- 25 Gospel Quartet of America
- 26 City Owned Vacant Lot
- 27 Dorian Sylvain's Mural

DEVELOPMENT LEGEND (SEE FIGURE 8)

- CDOT**
- 79th Street (Phase 1)
- 79th Street (Phase 2)
- DPD**
- 1 79th st Mixed Use Building
- 2 Proposed Medical Center
- 3 Proposed Commercial Development
- 4 Expanded daycare facility
- 5 838 W 79th St
- 6 Healthy Lifestyle Hub
- 7 757 W 79th St
- 8 Auburn Park Metra Station
- 9 Stein Learning Gardens at Saint Sabina
- METRA**
- 1 Auburn Park Metra Station

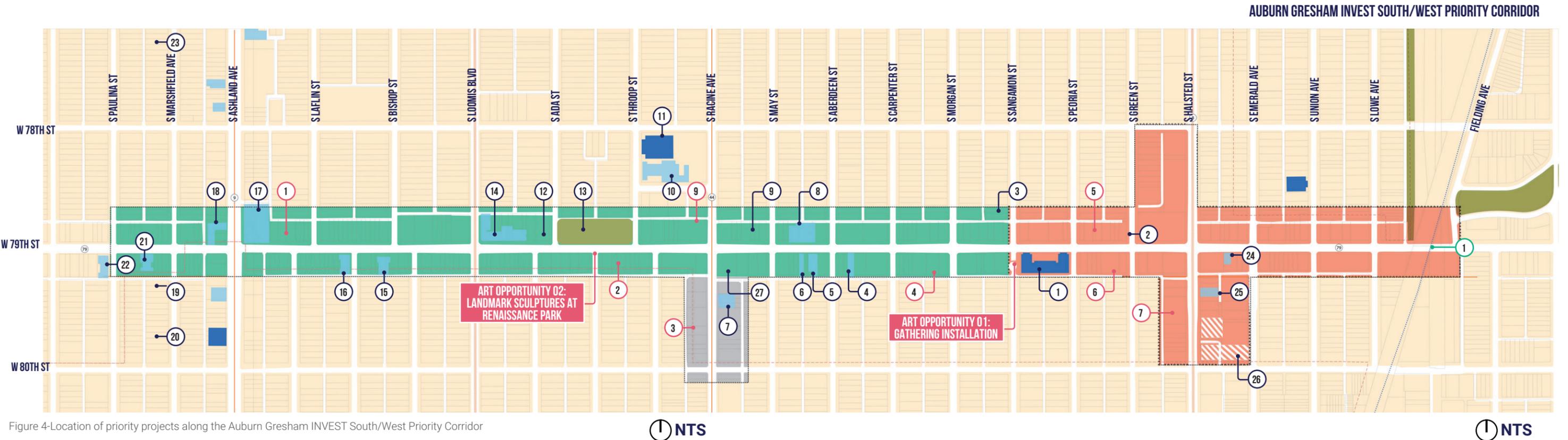


Figure 4-Location of priority projects along the Auburn Gresham INVEST South/West Priority Corridor

WHAT WE FOUND: EXISTING PUBLIC ART NARRATIVES IN AUBURN GRESHAM

Cultural narratives are stories told by a group of people about themselves, their shared ideals, and their experiences. Cultural narratives influence the character of a location and impact the values of the people in that area. Identifying existing cultural narratives is the first step to understanding which untold stories should be represented in public spaces.

Auburn Gresham’s cultural narrative is strongly shaped by its African cultural heritage as well as its focus on mental and physical health. Taking that into consideration, three main themes that help telling this story have been identified in Auburn Gresham’s existing public art:

- Memory + Generosity
- Ancestry + Identity
- Strength + Resilience

MEMORY + GENEROSITY

Pieces that celebrate the life and influence of community leaders across generations and caring individuals.

ANCESTRY AND IDENTITY

Pieces that celebrate ancestral heritage and relevant symbols of Black culture.

STRENGTH + RESILIENCE

Art that translates and uplifts the spirit and character of the community.



1



2



3



5



4



6

Source: City of Chicago Parks - Public Art Dataset; City of Chicago Mural Registry; Chicago Sun-Times Murals and Mosaics Interactive Map, Google Street View, Block Club Chicago (September 2020), GAGDC - Art in Auburn Gresham

- 1 "Renaissance Park Sculptural Fountain" - Jerzy Kenar
- 2 "Myrtis Jackson" - Corbin DeShazo
- 3 "Colors of Community" - Dorian Sylvain
- 4 Adinkra Symbol - Kiran Misra
- 5 "Auburn Gresham"
- 6 Mental Health Mural - Mario Mena

WHAT WE LEARNED: STORYTELLING + THEME OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PUBLIC ART

Throughout the P.A.R.T.Y. events, neighborhood residents and stakeholders provided a broad range of ideas and input about what they would like to see reflected in public art in their community.

These insights are organized in four main categories representing possibilities for themes and storytelling shaping public art projects. These themes will be shared with artists as part of the Request for Proposals and project implementation process.

The list below includes images of public art projects to demonstrate an example of how each theme might guide the design or creative process for a public art installation.

In addition to the broader categories and themes, on the following page are featured excerpts shared by community members offering what they want to see in future public art opportunities.

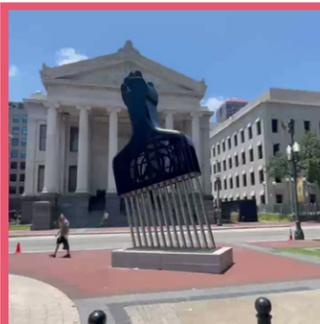
COMMUNITY + BELONGING



Mahalia Jackson
Gerald Griffin
Chicago, IL

- Honor influential community members and leaders
- Celebrate public figures with influence in the community's identity
- Bring visibility to local community stories

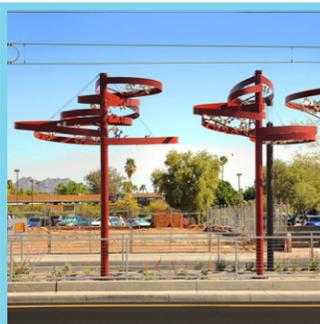
BLACK HISTORY + CULTURE



All Power to All People
Hank Willis Thomas
New Orleans, LA

- Showcase historic events and movements
- Represent Black culture (art, music, fashion, food, etc.)
- Celebrate Black heritage and legacy symbols

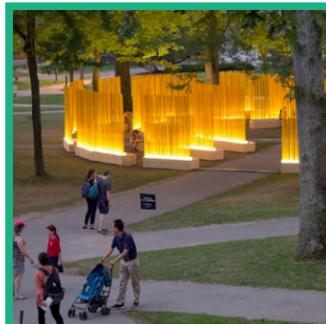
ENVIRONMENT + RESILIENCE



Aritz Ona
Franka Diehnelt & Claudia Reisenberger
Phoenix, AZ

- Create a better experience along the public transportation network
- Improve wayfinding with neighborhood gateways and identifiers
- Create spaces for sitting and gathering

WELLNESS + SAFETY



Autumn (...Nothing Personal)
Teresita Fernandez
Cambridge, MA

- Attract people by creating a neighborhood destination
- Improve safety
- Promote a sense of pride and generates positive feelings

COMMUNITY + BELONGING

“Public art should include pieces that make people feel represented.”	“Public art should honor our seniors and share their stories because they have seen the community through it all.”
	“Public art should honor business owners.”
“Public art should honor Black artists creating the art in Auburn Gresham.”	
“Public art should honor the elders who’ve stayed in Auburn Gresham.”	
“Public art should honor community leaders.”	

WELLNESS + SAFETY

“Public art should attract new businesses.”	“Public art should transform: take something that’s never looked at into an alternative beauty.”
“Public art should make Auburn Gresham become a destination.”	
“Public art should show community pride.”	“We need to present the image that this is a safe, walkable community. Public art can do this.”
“Public art should be a destination place that exhibits a healthy, growing, thriving community.”	

BLACK HISTORY + CULTURE

“The people, the history, culture and Adinkra proverbs should be honored.”	
“Public art should honor Operation Bread basket.”	“Public art should honor Black fabrication.”
“Public art should educate — about ourselves, learn about the neighborhood and communities that have existed here.”	
“Public art should honor the history of the once growing Black population and those who are continuing to fight for AG’s life whether they are older residents or newer and incoming.”	

ENVIRONMENT + RESILIENCE

“Art shouldn’t be hidden - there should be art in the outer regions outside of the 79th street corridor.”	
“Public art should include gathering spaces.”	“We need to draw in development to connect our corridors”.
“There should be art by public transportation.”	
“Graffiti art on viaducts.”	“Public art should bolster culture, spark dialogue that is progressive for its inhabitants, and remain absolutely accessible.”
“Art should attract new residents.”	

AUBURN GRESHAM VISION BOARD + PROPOSED PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

During the Public Art Reimagining Tour residents and community members responded to vision boards featuring public art project examples - including sculptures, gathering installations, play structures among others types. The vision board on the following page highlights examples that received most the most enthusiastic response.

The vision board on the following page highlights potential sites along and adjacent to 79th St. (Invest SW corridor) in Auburn Gresham. These sites and project opportunities were identified by collecting the community's feedback on specific areas along the corridor.



Public Art Reimagining Tour
July 2022

LIGHT INSTALLATIONS



transLIT, Luftwerk - Chicago, IL

MURALS



ATMOSPHERIC WAVE WALL, Olafur Eliasson - Chicago, IL

LARGE SCULPTURES



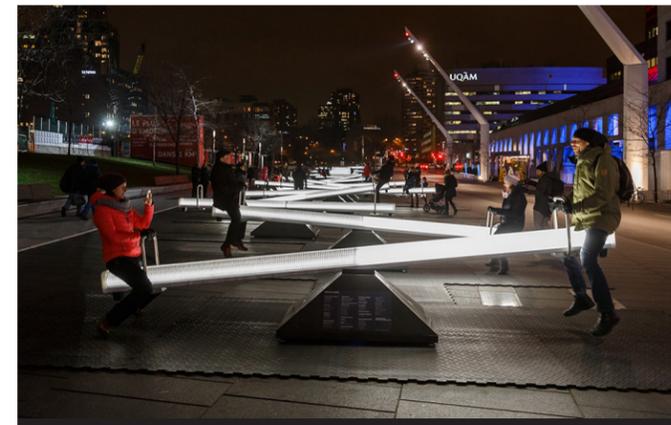
SECOND LINE, Jamex and Einar De La Torre - Los Angeles, CA

GATHERING PAVILIONS



LAKEVIEW LOW-LINE, PORT - Chicago, IL

PLAY STRUCTURES



IMPULSE, Lateral Office - Montreal, Quebec

SOUND INSTALLATIONS



SOUND STOPS, Symphoria - Syracuse, NY

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY 01

SANGAMON PLAZA GATHERING INSTALLATION

The northernmost segment of Sangamon Street west of Leo High School where it meets 79th Street is slated for renovation to become a new public plaza as part of CDOT-led streetscape improvements to the 79th St. Invest S/W priority corridor.

The new plaza is a great venue for multi-functional public art like a gathering installation or outdoor community classroom that also incorporates additional features such as lighting, shade, and/or sound.

The location, size and scale of a new installation will be determined through a collaboration between an artist, the CDOT-led design team, and the community.

Feedback gathered during the Public Art Reimagining Tour noted that public art located near Leo High School can elevate community safety by promoting visibility within the corridor and intergenerational interaction.

GATHERING INSTALLATION PARAMETERS

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

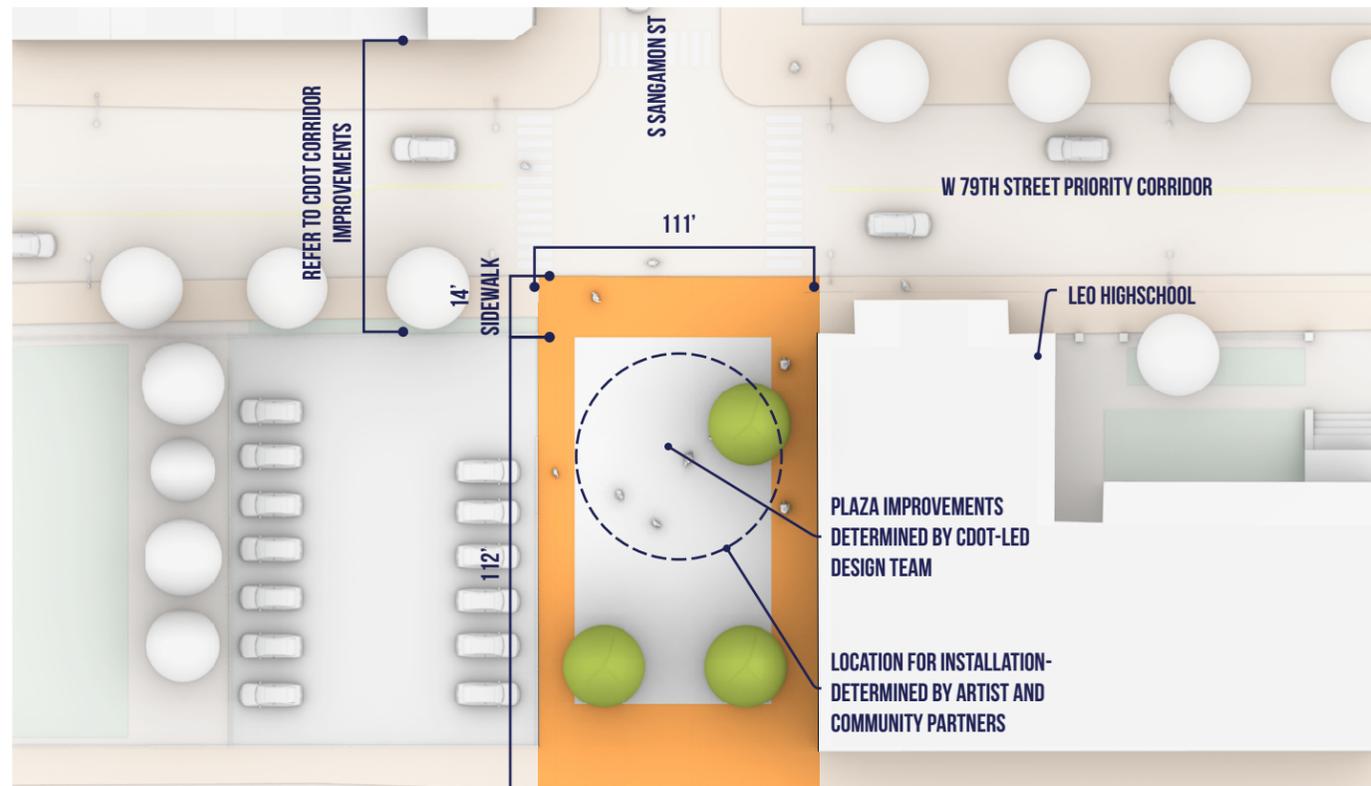


Figure 5-Preliminary design considerations for a Sangamon Plaza gathering installation

GATHERING INSTALLATION PARAMETERS

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT OF GATHERING INSTALLATION OR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PLAZA

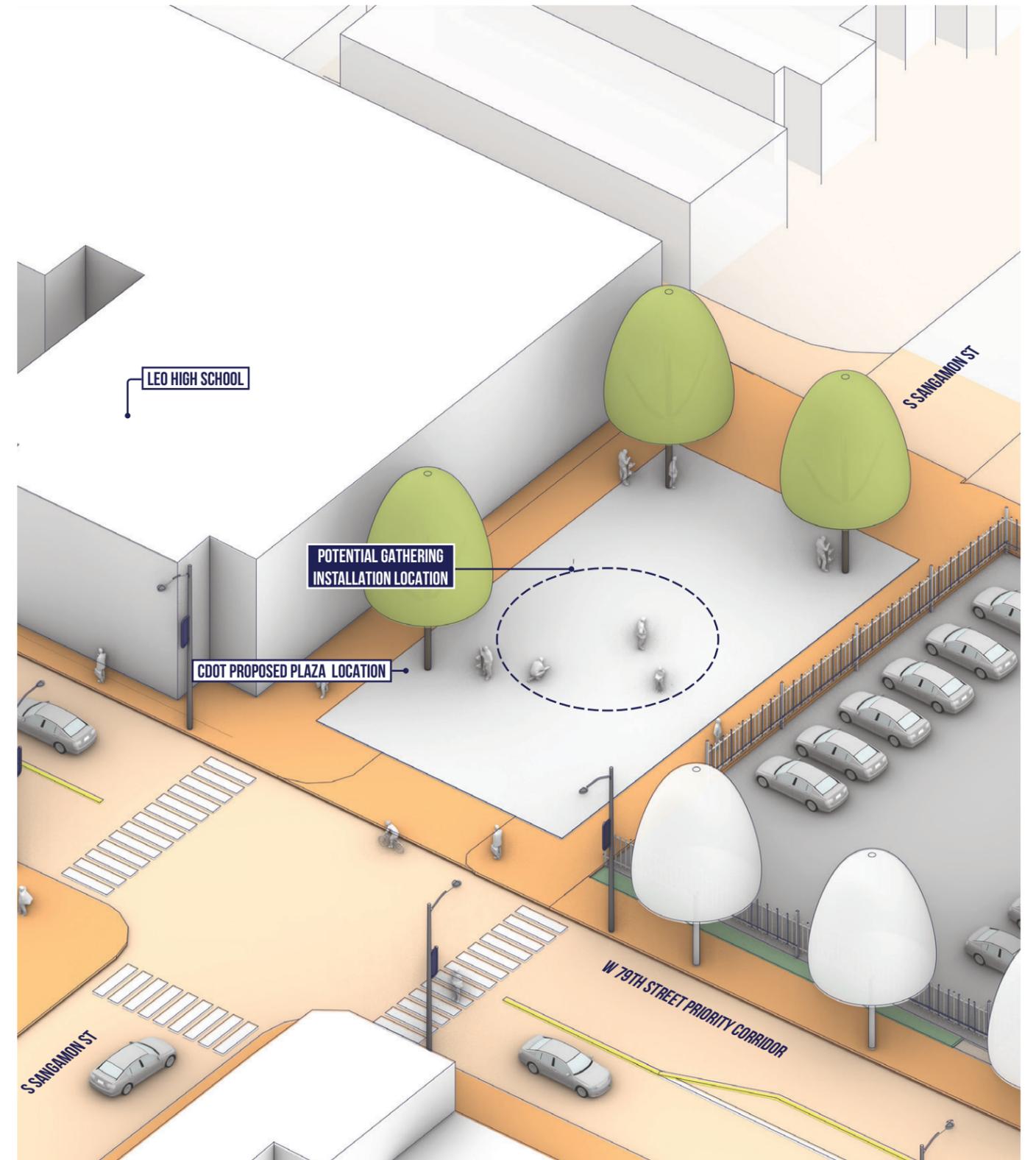


Figure 6-Preliminary design considerations for a Sangamon Plaza gathering installation

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY 02

79th ST. LANDMARK SCULPTURES

New landmark sculptures on 79th St. have the potential to capitalize on CDOT roadway improvements to highlight specific moments along the corridor, such as the entrance to Renaissance Park, pictured here. A sculptural landmark/identifier can enhance and elevate the identity of places like Renaissance Park and highlight a segment along 79th Street as a community destination.

A landmark sculpture can build on and celebrate existing assets like the sculptural fountain in Renaissance Park, reinforcing community narratives and sense of place.

A community-preferred design narrative for selected artists to pursue is the theme of positive change and momentum to unite Auburn Gresham.

A sculptural landmark would be implemented through a collaborative partnership between DCASE, and various community partners.

Note: The final project location will be re-evaluated based on community feedback and direction regarding location feasibility from CDOT.

79TH ST SCULPTURE LANDMARK EXAMPLE AT RENAISSANCE PARK

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

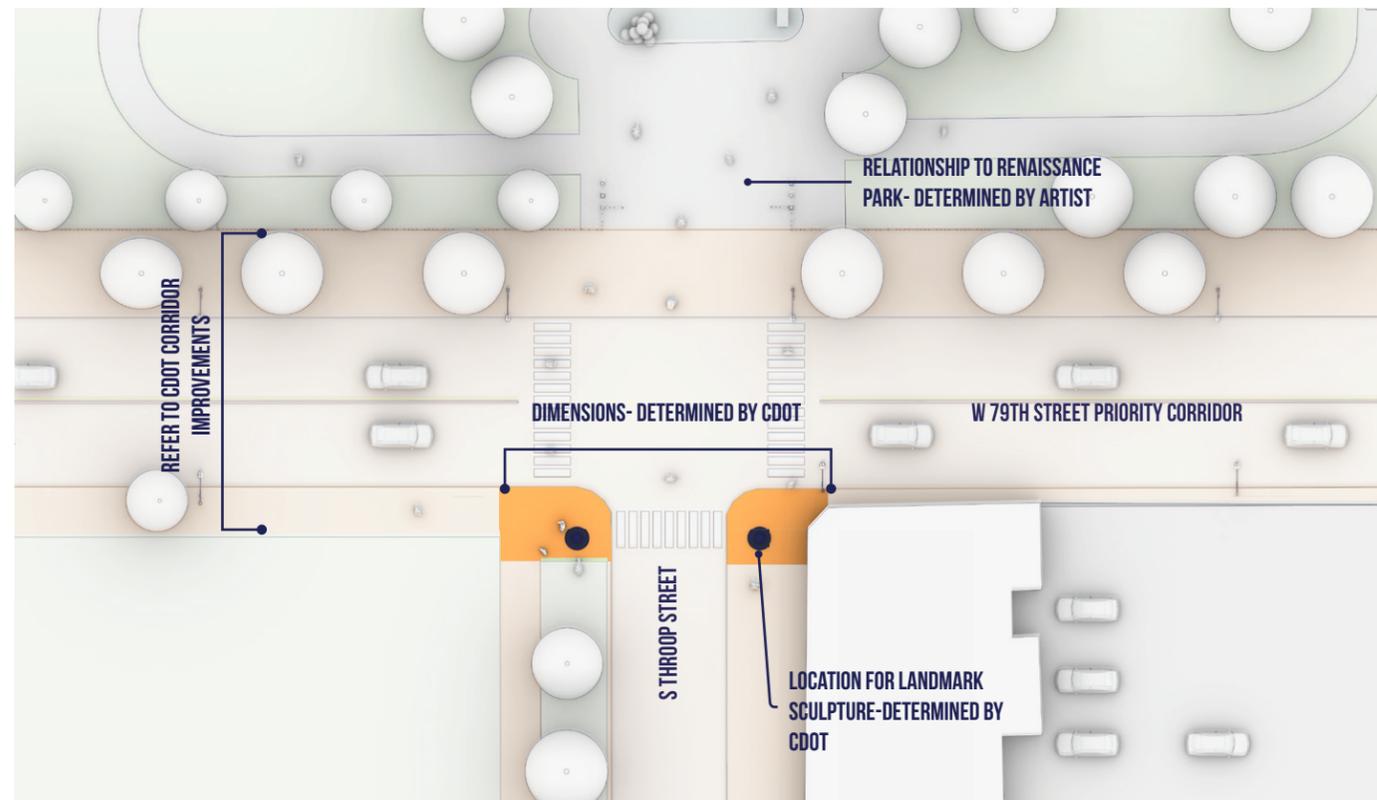


Figure 7-79th St. Sculpture Landmark installation example

79TH ST SCULPTURE LANDMARK EXAMPLE AT RENAISSANCE PARK

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT

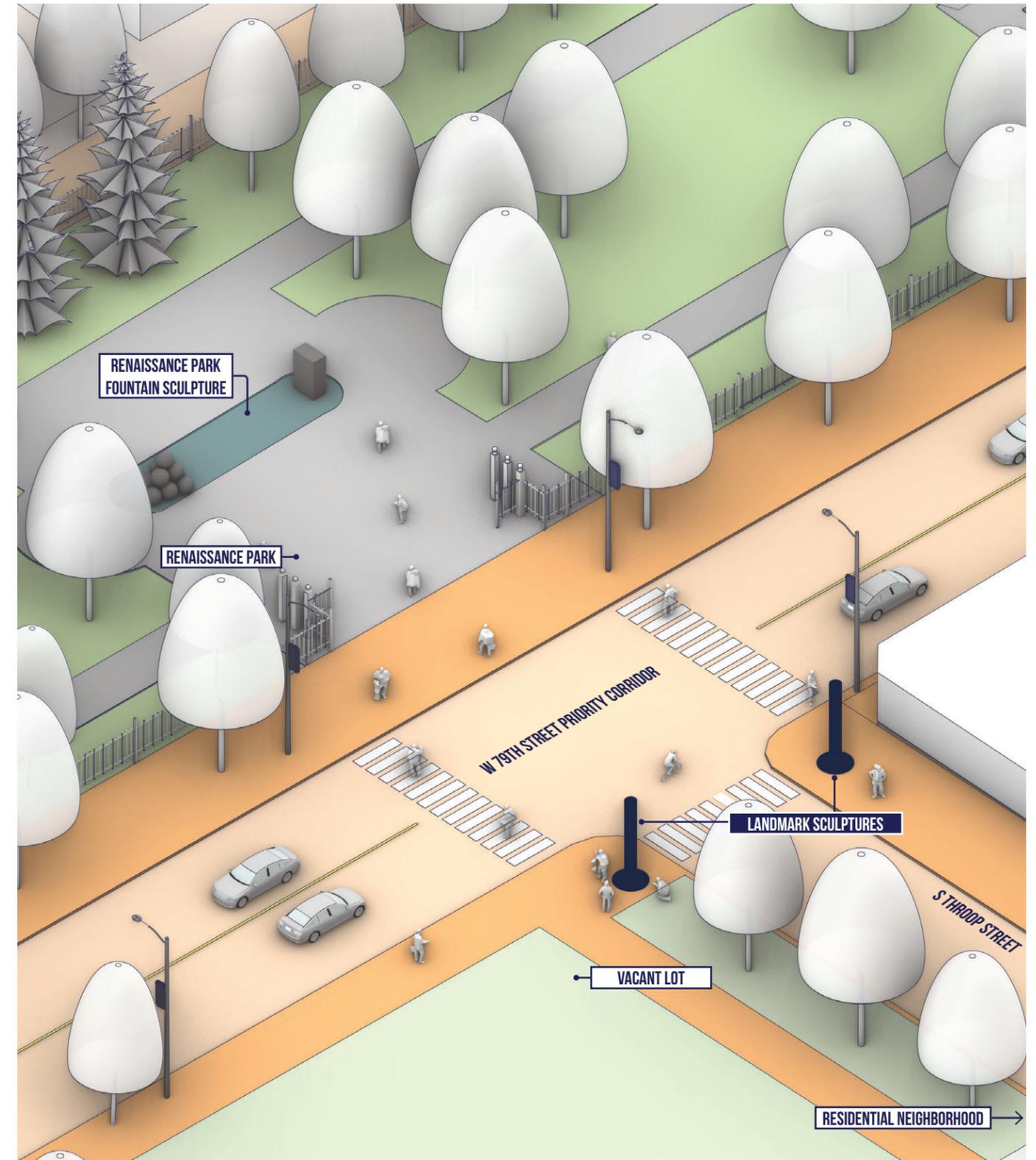


Figure 8-9th St. Sculpture Landmark installation example

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: LARGE-SCALE MURALS

Large-scale murals, like the recently completed mural on 79th Street titled “Colors of Community,” by Dorian Sylvain, can help reinvigorate 79th St. a once thriving commercial corridor.

The design narrative for a new mural should consider the community’s desire for art that creates positive change and unites the community. As one example, Adinkra symbols are important to the community’s image and identity and are often used in the community’s existing public art, such as the recently completed afrocentric mural “Colors of Community.”

This location and implementation of a large-scale mural will be implemented through a collaborative partnership between DCASE and key stakeholders.

LARGE-SCALE MURAL ILLUSTRATION (FOR SCALE PURPOSES ONLY)

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

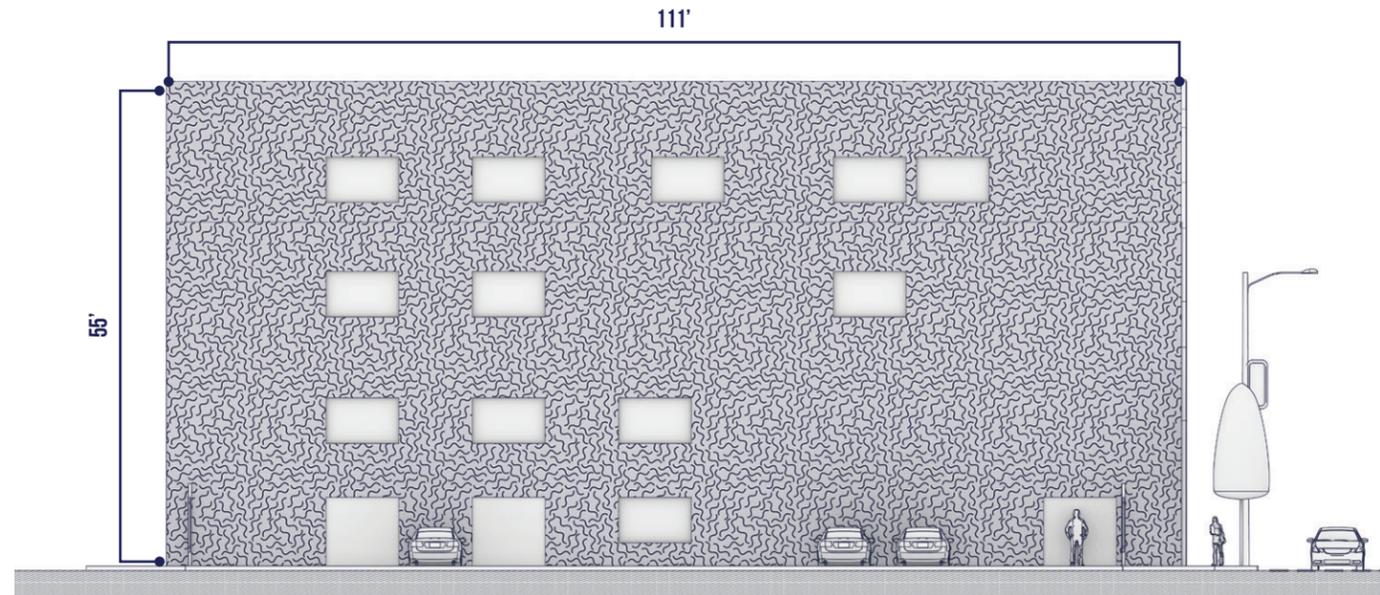


Figure 9-Preliminary design considerations for a large-scale mural on 79th St.

LARGE-SCALE MURAL ILLUSTRATION (FOR SCALE PURPOSES ONLY)

NOTES: DRAWING DOES NOT REFLECT PROPOSED DESIGN OR PLACEMENT

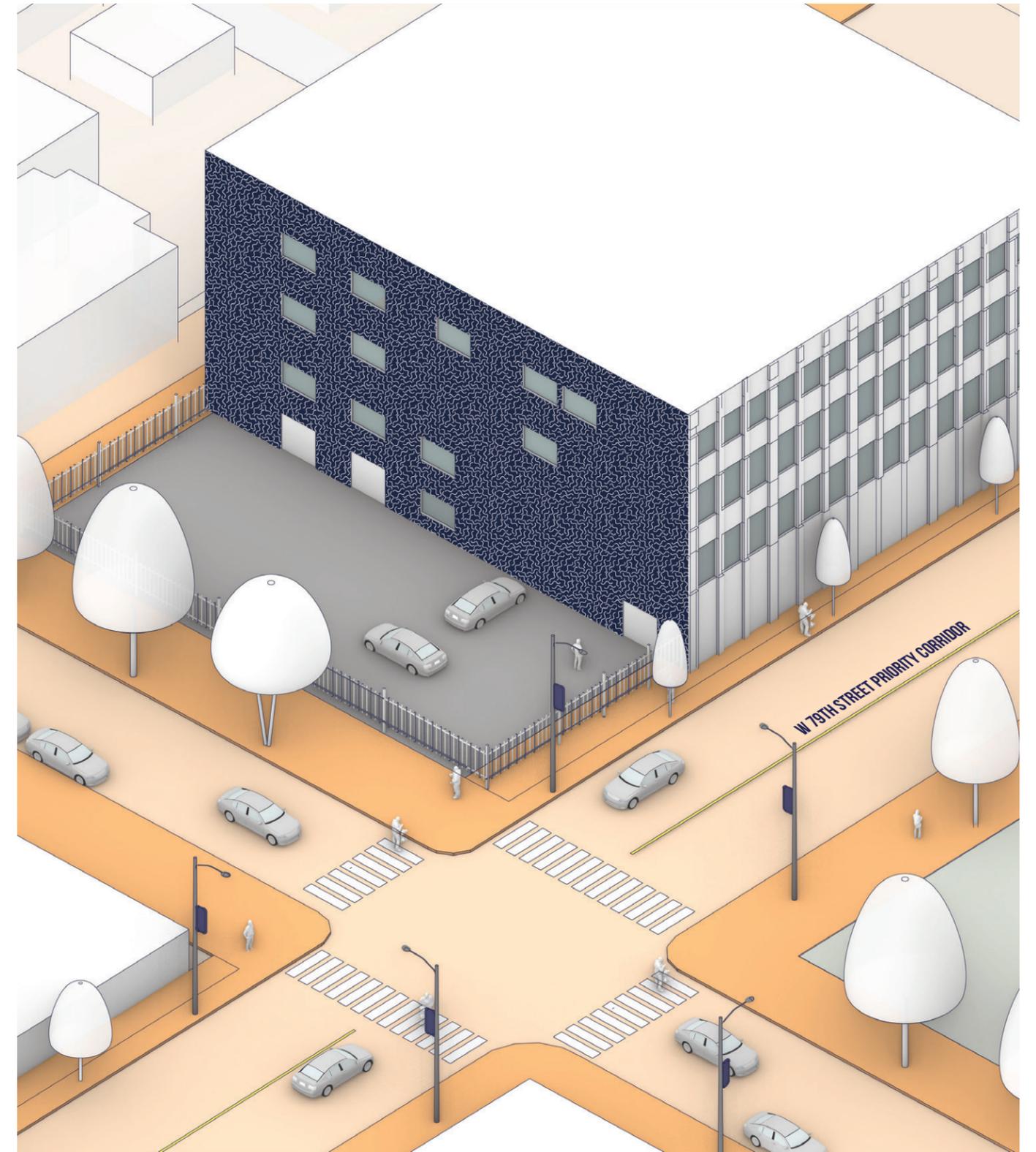


Figure 10-Contextual considerations for determining a large-scale mural location on 79th St.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: 79TH ST + HALSTED ST

Another focus area identified through the feedback from Auburn-Gresham’s residents and stakeholders is the surroundings of the 79th St and Halsted St’s intersection. Some of the opportunities identified there are:

- New wayfinding signage for one or more corners of the intersection.
- New street furniture for Green St near 79th St.
- Improve the adjacent urban fabric by adding a facade installation to the vacant building on the Southeastern corner of 70th St and Green St.

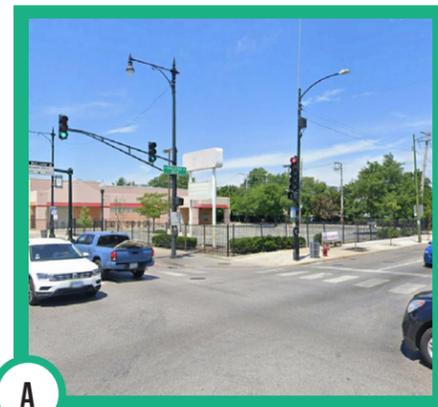


Figure 11-79th Street and Halsted Street opportunities

GRAPHIC LEGEND

- City owned vacant lots
- ISW Corridor
- Key Sites
- Proposed Buildings

EXISTING CONDITIONS



A
MAJOR INTERSECTION

79th Street and Halsted Street



B
SPACIOUS SIDEWALKS

Green Street and 79th Street



C
ADJACENT URBAN FABRIC

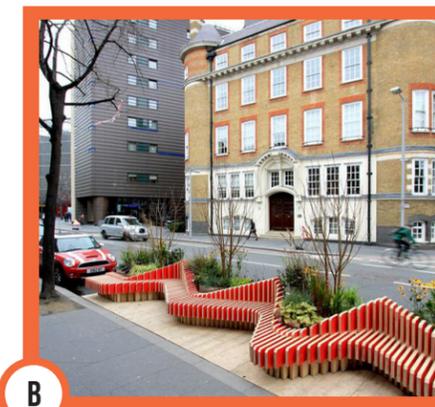
Vacant Building at the SE corner of 79th and Green

OPPORTUNITIES



A
WAYFINDING

Boston Seaport District - Boston, MA
Pentagram



B
STREET FURNITURE

The Parklet Bench - London, UK
WMB Studio



C
FACADE INSTALLATION

Desert in Bloom - El Paso, TX
Olalekan B. Jeyifous

WHAT'S NEXT HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

Based on the planning and engagement process, DCASE will work with City departments, elected officials, and community partners to help steward implementation of recommended projects.

Additionally, DCASE has existing resources to stay updated and connected regarding upcoming public art opportunities:



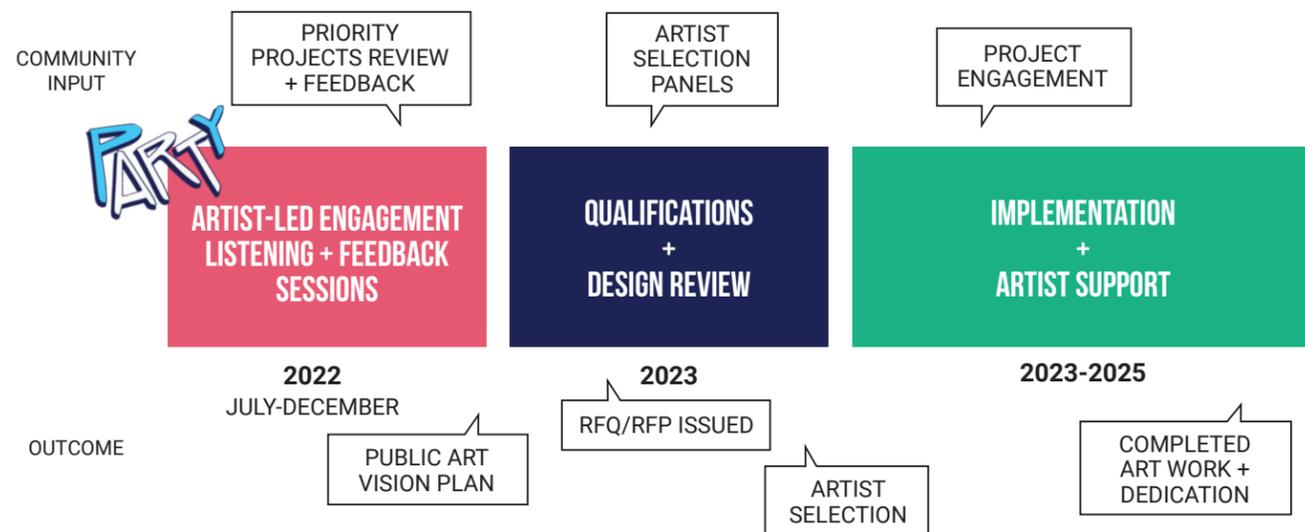
If you are an **artist**, make sure you are DCASE's mailing list to receive RFQ/RFP notifications.

Sign up visiting bit.ly/DCASEnewsletter or scan this QR code.



Visit [ISWpublicart.org](https://www.iswpublicart.org) and:

- Sign up to be considered to participate in **artist selection panels**.
- Find about **project updates**, plan documents, and stay connected.



“These public art projects are a great opportunity to prototype a good model of community engagement that can serve other investment and development processes. We need to make sure that community participates in as many steps of the process as possible.”

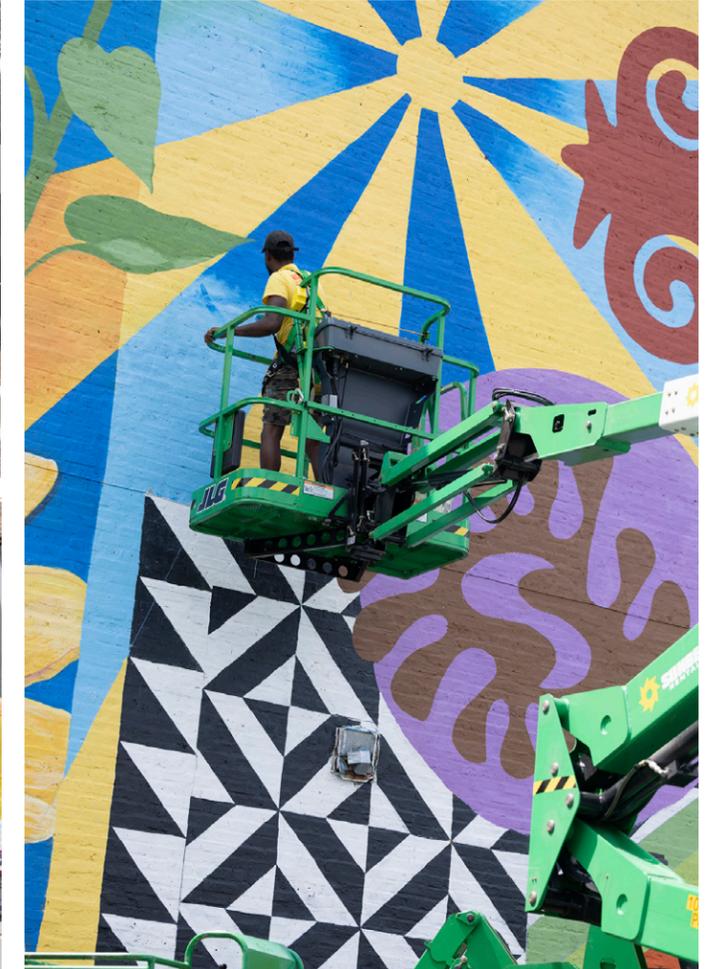
Public Art Reimagining Tour Participant
October 2022

DOCUMENTATION AND RESOURCES

P.A.R.T.Y. engagement events were hosted between July and November 2022, and explored different formats for gatherings and conversations to accommodate inclusive engagement. From neighborhood walks, pop-ups and focus group conversations, this artist-led process created connections with residents and community stakeholders who shared their insights, perspectives and questions about the Public Art Vision process and outcome.

This section includes:

- Community mapping documentation
- Summary of artist-led community events
- Feedback on engagement activities
- Acknowledgements
- Referenced artwork



Public Art Reimagining Tour
July - October 2022

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Auburn Gresham neighborhood tour was hosted on June 25, 2022, starting at the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation's HQ on 79th St and Racine Ave. Before any community engagement was held, the P.A.R.T.Y. team met with local stakeholders to listen and learn about areas of opportunity for public art in the neighborhood:

- Projects and initiatives in the pipeline
- Existing infrastructure
- Areas for intervention for improved safety

Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation was a key partner in helping organize this tour to speak with stakeholders in the community and introduce the planning and engagement process.

This neighborhood tour included stops and conversations at the following locations:

1. GAGDC HQ / Dorian Mural on 79th & Racine
2. Healthy Lifestyle Hub / Affordable Housing on 79th & Peoria
3. Leo High School on 7901 S Sangamon St
4. Fencing Project on 79th & Green
5. Empty Lot / Plaza on 79th & Halsted

Main observations collected during the walk are summarized on the following page.

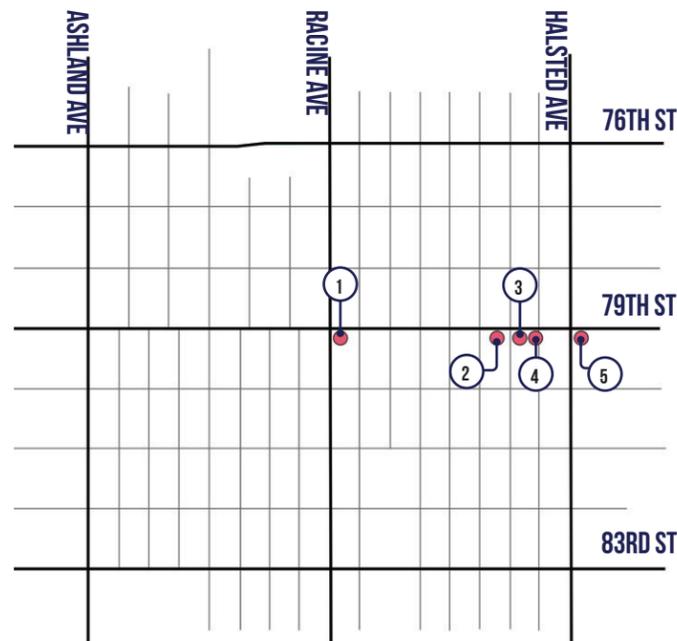


Figure 12-Map of the Auburn Gresham neighborhood tour

ART AS PART OF EDUCATION

Schools could be key partners for Public Art, and involve their facilities as well as their student body and teachers to collaborate in public art projects. Leo High School is currently engaging with artist Dorian Sylvain mural project.

CONNECTIONS TO CREATE A HEALTHY DISTRICT

New ISW improvements, especially Healthy Hub, have the potential to connect with other notable elements of the neighborhood to create a type of "health district" of the neighborhood.

CELEBRATING ANCESTRY AND IDENTITY

Use of Adinkra symbols, culturally sensitive images in the neighborhood. Some opportunities include large historical public art (informational landmarks), wayfinding and/or neighborhood plaques.

SAFETY AND WALKABILITY

The community is safer, but it also has to look safer. Vacant buildings could be activated with temporary art panels and event spaces to attract developers and in order to have these buildings sold and repurposed soon.

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour June 2022



Public Art Reimagining Tour June 2022

PHASE 1 - AWARENESS

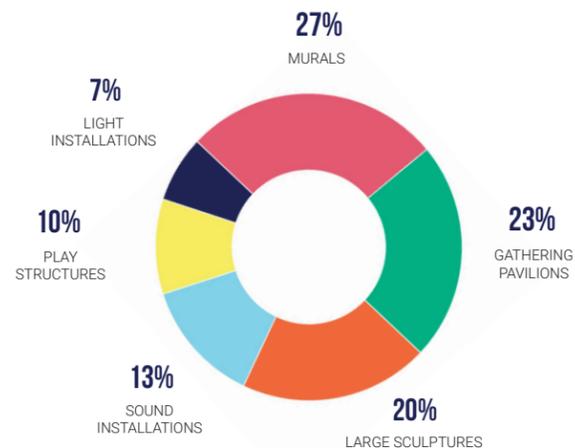
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

This Phase 1 event was held on July 10, 2022, at Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) HQ's parking lot at 79th St and Racine Ave. The goals of this first event were to:

- Introduce the artist cohort, the planning process and timeframe of this campaign, and the funding ready/available for investment in public art projects.
- Gather initial insights and input about themes, ideas, locations and types for public art possibilities.
- Inspire new possibilities for permanent public art through the public art catalog.

This artist-led pop-up joined the Painting Day of a mural designed by INVEST South/West artist-in-residence Dorian Sylvain, hosted by GAGDC. Some of the conversation questions and prompts included:

- What does public art mean to you?
- What stories from the community should be celebrated or acknowledged?
- In which places would public art investment support neighborhood vibrancy and safety?
- What sites and why could be key places for public art?



The Public Art Catalogue was a key part of the engagement toolkit used to elicit input from the community about what types of public art they prefer and why. This catalogue compiled nearly 50 examples of implemented public art projects located in Chicago, the U.S. and the world.



ATMOSPHERIC WAVE WALL
Olafur Eliasson
Chicago, IL



LAKEVIEW LOW-LINE PORT
PORT
Chicago, IL



SOUNDING BRONZEVILLE
Chris Buchakjian
Chicago, IL



SOUND STOPS
Symphoria
Syracuse, NY



IMPULSE
Lateral Office
Montreal, Quebec



MIDWAY CROSSINGS
James Carpenter
Chicago, IL

WRITE LOCATIONS, PLACES AND SPACES FOR FUTURE PUBLIC ART. WHY ARE THESE SPOTS KEY?

- School sidewalks and playground areas
- Areas around City of Chicago's properties with positive messages
- 102nd and Halsted
- On stop signs
- 78th and Carpenter
- Sidewalks traveling school routes so kids see it

THEMES, IDEAS AND/OR STORIES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN PUBLIC ART

- Peace symbols everywhere
- A chance to bring communities together
- Homage to leaders of the community
- Large gateway in and out of AG!
- Intergenerational representation
- Tagging of new businesses
- How to love hardened Black women
- Adinkra symbols in metal
- Resilient
- Hope
- African American Pride
- A chance to bring communities together
- Culture represented in large statue

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour
July 2022



Public Art Reimagining Tour
July 2022

PHASE 2 - VISIONING

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The P.A.R.T.Y Phase 2 event took place at the Bourdeau Griffin Design Center on October 5, 2022.

The goals of the second event were to identify potential themes and locations for public art in the neighborhood for which neighborhood maps were available for participants to suggest potential locations for public art.

The event was led and facilitated by The Floating Museum using the following prompts:

- What should be honored in Auburn-Gresham?
- What would you like public art to do for Auburn-Gresham? And where?



Public Art Reimagining Tour
October 2022

PEOPLE + BELONGING

- "Our seniors that have helped build the community and have seen it in all of its eras should be honored. They deserve to see the community beautified."
- "Public art should honor the elders who've stayed in Auburn-Gresham."
- "Public art should honor seniors of Auburn-Gresham, the holders of history."
- "Public art should include pieces that make people feel represented."
- "Public art should honor business owners."
- "Public art should honor community leaders."
- "Public art should honor our seniors and share their stories because they have seen the community through it all."
- "Public art should honor Black artists creating the art in Auburn-Gresham."
- "Auburn Gresham residents should feel represented by art."

WELLNESS + RESILIENCE

- "Auburn-Gresham is accessible and that should be honored."
- "Public art should honor the social commentary that the neighborhood represents."
- "Public art should create a space for people to express themselves and provide a destination for people with artistic impulses to find each other — E.g. 79th and Vincennes."
- "Public art should convey safety, tranquility."
- "Grassy area to walk and experience art."
- "Public art should beautify, electrify, invigorate, inspire and awaken."
- "Public art should bring pride and build a stronger community to support a constant theme "I know I can go to Auburn Gresham to see."
- "Public art should exhibit a strong sense of culture."
- "Public art should attract new businesses."
- "Public art should be a destination place that exhibits a healthy, growing, thriving community."
- "Public art should show community pride."
- "Public art should serve the people of the community. It should bolster culture, spark dialogue that is progressive for its inhabitants, and remain absolutely accessible."
- "Public art should be a place where you can get help."
- "Public art should be uplifting to see vibrancy coming back."
- "Public art should make Auburn Gresham become a destination."

BLACK HISTORY + CULTURE

- "Public art should honor the history of the once growing Black population and those who are continuing to fight for AG's life whether they are older residents or newer and incoming."
- "The people, the history, culture and Adinkra proverbs should be honored."
- "Public art should honor historical ties to Black power movement i.e. Operation PUSH (79th and Halsted)."
- "Public art should honor Adinkra symbols - ancient languages, stories and proverbs."
- "Public art should honor streetwear designers."
- "Public art should honor operation Bread basket"
- "Public art should honor minority / Black artists & owners."
- "Public art should honor Black fabrication."
- "Public art should educate — about ourselves, learn about the neighborhood and communities that have existed here."

ENVIRONMENT + INFRASTRUCTURE

- "Public art should be in the main corridor as well as the arteries and blocks!"
- "There should be art by public transportation."
- "There should be public art by the new metra station."
- "Art shouldn't be hidden - there should be art in the outer regions outside of the 79th street corridor."
- "There should be art where residents are - not necessarily in the commercial area."
- "There should be art in areas off 75th that the general public might not know is there."
- "Public art should be by train tracks and viaducts."
- "Grassy area to walk and experience art."
- "Graffiti art on viaducts."
- "Public art should transform: take something that's never looked at into an alternative beauty"
- "We need to draw in development to connect our corridors".
- "Art should attract new residents."
- "Reduce manual depreciation."
- "I would like to see some type of "welcome to AG" sign or monument or arch."
- "Public art should include gathering spaces."
- "Public art should be functional — something that announces something is happening to complement other uses in the area and contribute to make things better — art as a link for the community to advocate and develop itself."

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour
October 2022

PHASE 3 - RESPOND

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Phase 3 event was held on November 16, 2022 at Leo High School. Its main goals were to:

- Provide overview of PARTY / Public Art Planning
- Report back on what was heard in the previous phases
- Get community to respond to project opportunities
- Provide clear understanding of next steps

Three project opportunities were presented to the community:

- A Gathering Installation on 79th and Sangamon St, on the future Leo High School Plaza
- A Landmark Sculpture on 79th and Throop St
- A Mural on 79th and Green St, on the Eastern Wall

of the Healthy Lifestyle Hub

In addition to sharing their views on the projects above, participants also engaged in conversation sparked by the following questions:

- How could you see the Leo High School Plaza being used? How can public art support those uses and activities?
- How can these projects represent and respond to community needs?
- What else should be considered?
- How can the RFQ/RFP process be more inclusive?



Public Art Reimagining Tour
November 2022

INCLUSIVE PROCESS

- "In what ways is community engagement factored into the budget?"
- "We are missing ways for Black artists in the community to be involved. We should empower, give resources and uplift the local, Black artist who may not be familiar with the RFP process."
- "We should try to pair artists together for mentorship. Knowledge sharing."
- "It is important for people in the community to see other people that look like them doing art."
- "There should be a class that teaches people how to go about the RFP process."
- "There should be more outreach to younger artists."
- "People in this community have a scarcity mindset so we need to provide opportunities for engagement."
- "Community engagement component should be included as part of the art piece budget."
- "One idea is to pair new community local artists with experienced artists to prepare the community to succeed."

LEO HIGH SCHOOL PLAZA

- "It would be great to have another plaza in addition to this one. The east side of the Healthy Hub would be a great location for another plaza or art piece. The vacant bank is also a good opportunity for a plaza."
- "There is an absence of outdoor learning spaces. This plaza has the opportunity to become a great learning space."
- "There is also an absence of spaces for seniors to gather. Leo High School Plaza could become a wonderful intergenerational space that the school and elders can use."
- "The school has made a promise to be integrated with the community, but Auburn Gresham still has the stigma of being unsafe. This space could become a welcoming and safe place for people to gather."
- "Leo High School is close to a senior center and a daycare, so there is the opportunity for teenage boys to engage with the oldest and the youngest in the community. This space has the opportunity to connect older and younger people in the community."
- "The plaza should respond to Leo High School needs."

MULTIPLICITY OVER SIMPLICITY

- "We should think about plaza/art in other locations that speak to the needs of other community members such as seniors."
- "People are going to feel like they are being avoided if they don't get a piece of the project. How can we have micro-zones of projects?"
- "Projects that are close to bus stops would be good since there is typically a larger volume of people passing by or perceiving them."
- "Is there a way to incorporate simple projects into vacant lots? Small, mini projects in more lots instead of one larger project. This could help build capacity with the consistency of telling the same story across the neighborhood."
- "Catalyzing spaces - micro zones throughout the block."
- "It is natural to want to stretch out resources, but we run the risk of losing the impact of the art."
- "Art should have a ripple effect. Beautiful public art should inspire others to do the same."
- "To change the DNA of a community through art, a connective tissue of art should run through the neighborhood."
- "There is already art in Renaissance Park, so Sculptural Landmarks should be somewhere else."
- "It would be good to see more than one plaza come up, activate the vacant bank and create cohesive spaces."
- "Where are our urban trees? Nature is part of design and community residents should be compensated to care for these natural elements."

Community feedback for Public Art Reimagining Tour
November 2022

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY MAPPING

Throughout community engagement events, community members and stakeholders pointed out potential locations and projects that could help activate or revitalize different areas of the neighborhood. They identified places and suggested public art typologies and programs that could help activate or revitalize different areas of the community. A few proposals heard from Auburn Gresham residents and stakeholders were:

- To create a mural on the 79th Street's new Metra station overpass
- To activate the vacant lot on the intersection of Morgan St and 77th St
- To create positive activation on the Carpenter St / 78th St intersection
- To include organic shapes, playscapes and Windform sculptures at Foster Park.



NEW METRA STATION AT 79TH ST



VACANT LOT AT 77TH ST AND MORGAN ST



VACANT LOT AT 78TH ST AND CARPENTER ST



FOSTER PARK

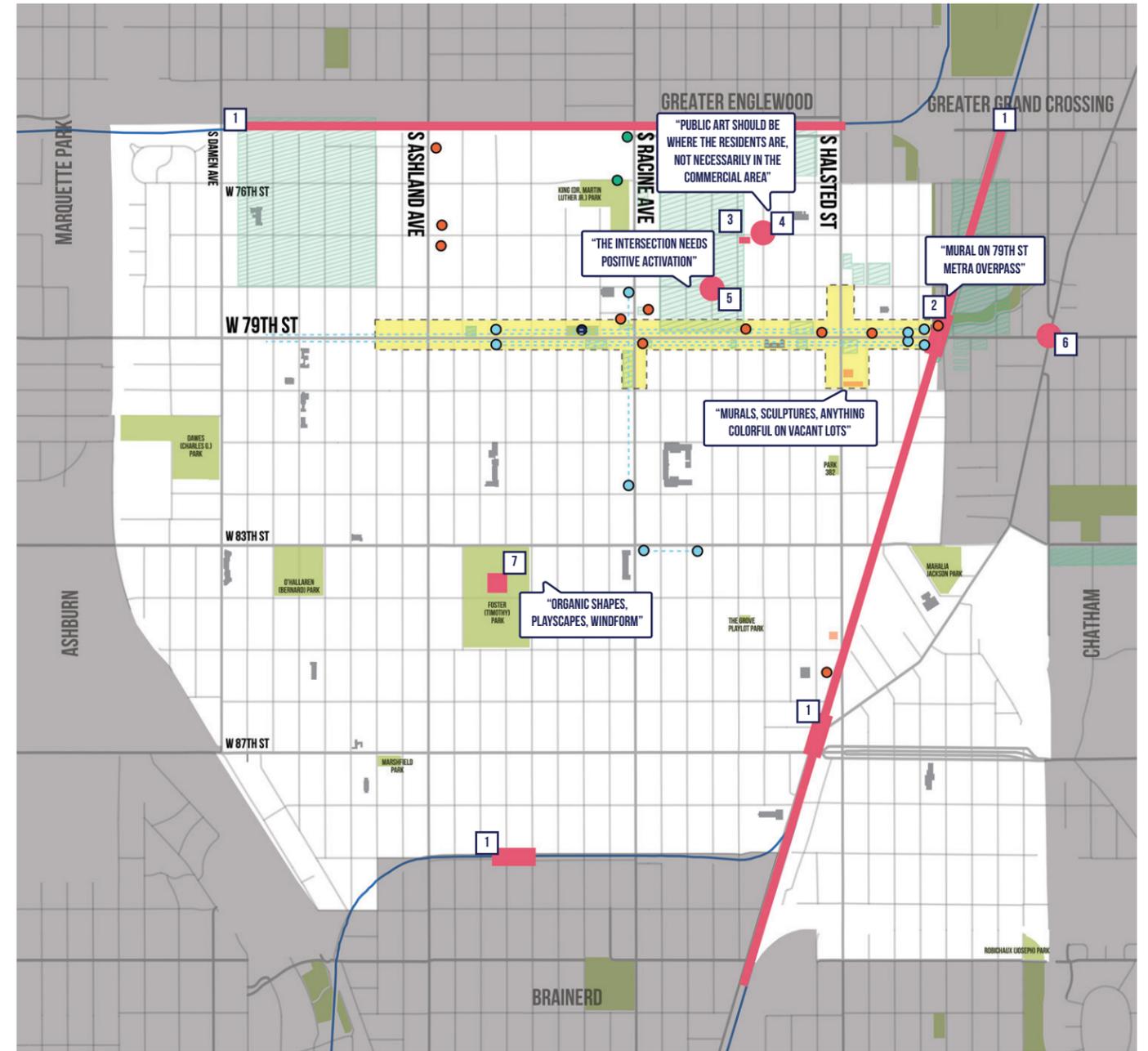


Figure 13-Sites and opportunities identified by the Auburn Gresham community

Source: GAGDC's Quality of Life Plan (2005), GAGDC's Quality of Life Plan (2016), Block Club Chicago (June 2022), Invest South West, City of Chicago Parks - Public Art Dataset; City of Chicago Mural Registry; Chicago Sun-Times Murals and Mosaics Interactive Map, Google Street View, P.A.R.T.Y Events (2022), Music Lives Here

GRAPHIC LEGEND

- Neighborhood Initiatives
- City Owned Vacant Lots
- Schools
- ISW Corridor
- Parks
- Site Opportunities

EXISTING PUBLIC ART

- Murals
- Sculptures
- Infrastructure
- Markers/Wayfinding

SITE OPPORTUNITIES MAPPED BY COMMUNITY

- 1 Train Tracks and Viaducts
- 2 New Metra Station
- 3 Vacant Lot / Garage
- 4 77th St and Sangamon St
- 5 78th St and Carpenter St
- 6 79th St and Vincennes Ave
- 7 Foster Park

ENDNOTES

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1-INVEST South/West neighborhoods
- Figure 2- Neighborhood initiatives in Auburn Gresham
- Figure 3-Map of catalytic projects in Auburn Gresham
- Figure 4-Location of priority projects along the Auburn Gresham INVEST South/West Priority Corridor
- Figure 5-Preliminary design considerations for proposed Sangamon Plaza Gathering Installation
- Figure 6-Preliminary design considerations for proposed Sangamon Plaza Gathering Installation
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- Figure 8-79th St. Sculpture Landmark installation example
- Figure 9-Preliminary design considerations for a large-scale mural on 79th St.
- Figure 10-Contextual considerations for determining a large-scale mural location on 79th St.
- Figure 11-9th Street and Halsted Street opportunities
- Figure 12-Map of the Auburn Gresham neighborhood tour
- Figure 13-Sites and opportunities identified by the Auburn Gresham community

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHY:

- Buzz McBride
- Borderless Studio / PORT
- Glenn Willoughby

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Quality of Life Plan - Auburn Gresham (2005)

Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
<http://www.gagdc.org/Our-community/About-Auburn-Gresham/Qualityoflife-plan-sets-goals-projects.html>

Invest South/West Auburn Gresham

City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/invest_sw/home/auburn-gresham.html

ISW Auburn Gresham: : 79th Street Corridor Improvements

City of Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
<https://chicagocompletestreets.org/portfolio/invest-south-west-auburn-gresham-79th-street/>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The City of Chicago and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) commissioned this report to develop a framework for Auburn Gresham' Public Art Vision. DCASE and the artist cohort composed by Englewood Arts Collective, The Floating Museum and VS Creative Consulting provided oversight throughout the process.

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) have been key in this process, and coordination with them will continue in pursue of strategic alignment of implementation efforts, funding and resources.

Special thanks to the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) for their support in convening local stakeholders and active engagement in the conversation about public art in the community. Thank you to all that participated in the community engagement events:

Norma Sanders, GAGDC
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 Cynthia Love
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 Pat Davis
 Yerendi Cintron
 Ayo Odunsi
 Amir Curry
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 Monique Gaston
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 Stefanie Mielke
 Vincent Jett
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 Solveia Roscoe
 Maxwell Emcays
 Kennedi Love

