



2019 Year in Review

Art in Public Places

The Art in Public Places (AIPP) Commission is comprised of 15 registered electors appointed by City Council, each of whom serves a three-year term. The Commissioners who served 2018-2019 were: Laurel Alterman, Peter Alexander, Darcie Chinnis (Secretary, resigned November 2019), John Hanson (Treasurer), Brenda Isaac, Randi Long (Vice Chair), Amy Mann (Chair), Paul Meese, Julie Stone, Cindy Tiger, Yvette Wagner, Azarie Wurtzburg. Retired commissioners include: Brenda Isaac, Paul Meese, Julie Stone, Melanie Sidwell. New appointees include: Pamela Batchelor, Holli Bradish-Lane, Noah Hess, Susan Horowitz, and Frances Parker.

Aren Rodriguez served as the City Council liaison. Amy Mann was elected chair following Paul Meese's retirement.

ADMINISTRATION:

After nearly twenty years of dedicated service to the program, Art in Public Places Administrator Lauren Greenfield stepped down from the helm. Luckily, Lauren (a passionate cyclist) remains as a vital part of the City of Longmont team serving as Traffic Control Coordinator for Planning and Development Services.

In August, the Art in Public Places program transitioned to a full-time staffed Administrator with additional assistance by the Museum's Registrar. With the additional help of university interns, staff has been able to address a number of priorities including: collections management, record keeping and documentation; maintenance for the aging collection; outreach and education. The AIPP Commissioners also serve a valuable role as they perform volunteer duties for the AIPP program, including assisting with collections care reports, participating in outreach events and actively promoting the collection as ambassadors for the program.

PROJECTS

2019 projects were implemented by many teammates during the Art in Public Places transition. Museum staff stepped in to complete the Shock Art and Art on the Move programs. The team executed contracts, installed artworks, and kept the program moving forward without skipping a beat.

Angela Brill, the new program administrator, jumped right in to complete three large installation projects, launched two significant maintenance projects and maintained additional program oversight. Museum Registrar, Aileen Jijina, began the daunting project of organizing collection files by accession number into a singular location and updating the collections database to match. This project will be a key in the future comprehensive maintenance and full collections management. The program goal is to continue to responsibly diversify the collection and add to the enjoyment of Longmont's public spaces while methodically assessing the collection and implement best practices.



Photo: 2019 Art on the Move selection "Chipeta-Mai" by Kasia Polkowska and Kyle Cuniff

DICKENS NATURE AREA

Commissioned in 2015, Boulder-based artist Joshua Wiener worked very closely with the Art in Public Places administrator and Parks project manager, Steve Ransweiler, to install the work prior to the opening of the park and the Dickens Nature Park piece was finally installed in late summer of 2019. “Rejuvenation” is a thoughtful installation nodding to the ultimate power of Mother Nature. Installed alongside the St. Vrain River, the work commemorated the City’s recovery efforts from the 2013 flood that caused hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of damage in Longmont. Wiener’s piece is a canopy-like structure flowing like the river water and casting organic wavy shadows as the sun moves overhead. The laser cut canopy is supported by beams intended to simulate falling rain to the on-looker. The artwork is rated and installed to withstand another 100-year flood. “Rejuvenation” by Joshua Wiener is a true engineering wonder, while also beautiful and inspiring.



Photo: Detail of “Rejuvenation” by Joshua Wiener. Dolomitic limestone, verde marble and metal, 2019. Dickens Nature Farm.

RESILIENT ST. VRAIN

As runners, walkers, parents with their strollers, and cyclists alike stroll along the St. Vrain Greenway just east of the Dickens Farm Nature Area Bridge, one cannot miss the dynamic installation of “A Lady and a Damsel”. The base for the work is tree stumps, which were slated to be removed as part of the Resilient St. Vrain restoration project, but were instead offered as pillars for public art. The oversized critters depicting a ladybug and dragonfly are keenly crafted by artist Amanda Willshire, by upcycling materials such as an old Honda motorcycle motor cover, a Volkswagen hood, old golf clubs and bicycle kickstands. The work is beloved by the many who travel the St. Vrain Greenway for leisure and transport.



“A Lady and a Damsel” by Amanda Willshire. Steel, bicycle, motorcycle and automobile parts, glass, LED lights, solar panels, 2019. St. Vrain Greenway.

SHOCK ART

In its 10th year, the Shock Art program was executed with significant community involvement. Nearly 30 artists submitted scale models that were displayed for the public in collaboration with Oldetown Marketplace. The community came out to vote and five more selections were chosen for the collection, which nears fifty pieces. Artists selected in 2019 were: Jan Burch, Joyanna Gittings, Jennifer McDuffie, Mario Jose Olvera, and Salowa Salzer.



“Beaded” by Mario Jose Olvera

2019 Shock Box selection scale model (left) and completed switch box (right).

Located on Fordham between 119 and Nelson

COLLYER PARK

Artist DeWitt Godfrey researched Collyer Park and responded to the landscape design – lots of turf for free play and the large tree canopy providing shade. He also noticed it was missing a common element of this kind of design, a gazebo. The artist says “Natural geometries and systems, from plant spores; to seashells; to honeycombs; inspire my work where simple rules give rise to extraordinary complexity. My projects are inextricably site specific and dependent and emphasize relational existence of form within contexts of material, process, public space, and collaboration. The parts form a community of similar, yet distinct, dependent elements, which form an aesthetic, structural, and material ecosystem. Analogous to my process, a dry wall mason’s objectives and process are constrained and inspired by site, available material, experience, and improvisation, and like my sculpture, are acts of interpretation not declaration.”



“Gazebo” by DeWitt Godfrey. Weathering steel. 2019. Collyer Park



ART ON THE MOVE

Celebrating fifteen years, Art on the Move continues to provide working artists a fair wage for loaning artwork to the City for temporary display. To keep up with similar programs, the stipend was increased to \$1,000 for artists to lend and transport their work to Longmont. Artists from as far away as San Juan Valley joined local favorites in a diverse display – to the delight of residents strolling downtown. Seven artists participated including: Jody Bliss, Justin Deister, Maureen Hearty, Kasia Polkowska, Sue Quinlan, Reven Swanson and Charlotte Zink.

VANDALISM AND PROTECTION PLAN

Following a series of vandalism events hitting a popular mural in the collection, a partnership between the City graffiti specialist, City officers and the AIPP Administrator positively identified the suspect of the repeated events. To address vandalism and collection protection, the commission formed a task force to research best practices and products. A proactive protection plan for Art in Public Places collection pieces is now in place. The artist team who originally completed the mural was engaged to redesign and paint the mural – this time with a sealant, which will protect the work for many years to come. The addition of the vandalism and protection plan will enhance a more comprehensive collection maintenance strategy.

VOLUNTEERS

In addition to the many hours Art in Public Places commissioners dedicate to meetings, task force activities, and maintenance reports for the collection, the program engages volunteer hours in many outreach activities. In 2019, these activities included facilitation of the Shock Art voting event, engaging children in an art activity at ArtWalk in the AIPP booth, recruiting board commissioners and selection panelists.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

CU Boulder student Alexis Newton, who is considering further studies and a career in the field of museum and art collections, participated as a fall intern dedicating over 150 hours to the program. Alexis received an introduction to cataloguing collection pieces, database organization, and trinomial registration nomenclature. She then went into the field and completed a series of collection assessments. Alexis' final project and report for the commission was a thorough evaluation of the current GIS traffic data provided by City partners and data provided by the Longmont Downtown District Authority. Alexis cross referenced the traffic and pedestrian data with Art in Public Places collection locations to quantify annual engagement with the collection. The findings are astounding.

One fifth of the program artworks, both permanent collection and artworks on loan is accurately captured by 20 traffic and 3 pedestrian counters. With these data points, the data collection suggests that:

- Art in Public Places artworks in Longmont receive over 19.7 million views annually.
- The ten most visible pieces in the collection receive over 20,000 views per day.
- Shock Art boxes are enjoyed by nearly 50,000 people per day.