

# ART IN PUBLIC PLACES BOARD

## 2001 ANNUAL REPORT

### BACKGROUND

The Art in Public Places Board held their first meeting in July of 1995. The APP board meetings are being held the third Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Center.

Members who served in 2001 were Ann Carr, Elizabeth Dale, Deanna Gram, Alan Howe, Jane Liska-Smith, Roger Sherman, and Cori Hixon-Cunningham. Ann Carr served as Chairperson and Jane Liska-Smith served as Vice-Chair.

### ADMINISTRATION, POLICIES & GUIDELINES

The APP Board continues to devote much time to identifying ways in which policies will be administered in specific projects.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

As directed by City Council Policy Agenda, the APP Board continues to work on opportunities for art in community gateways, review the use of Utility funds for art, and develop guidelines, criteria, and evaluation forms for the donation of memorials and monuments to the City of Fort Collins.

Staff is in the process of developing a Memorial Catalogue. This catalogue will show opportunities for community members to place memorials with the city. Staff is gathering information from city departments on what these opportunities might be, i.e. artistic benches, trees, etc. This process is a proactive way of combining the needs of the city with well-designed and placed memorials.

### 1% PROJECTS (Completed)

The Park Planning and Development Department gave a presentation on the development of **Cottonwood Glen Park**. The Board moved to hold a pre-proposal meeting, distribute an RFP, and begin the regular open competition process to incorporate art into the park. The pre-proposal meeting offered artists and neighborhood residents the opportunity to visit the site and ask questions about the project. The selection committee voted on artists' proposals and moved to accept Christopher Weed's "Watermelon Slices." Mr. Weed has installed the two tactile stainless steel pieces in the area between the pond and the picnic area.

Through an open competition, the Selection Committee chose artist Rafe Ropek's "Municipal Axis" sculpture. This metal sculpture has been installed in the rotunda of the **Civic Center Office Building**. It seemingly appears to float in the rotunda, between the first and second floors.

The Civic Center **Four Corners** Project involves the public right-of-way area of the Civic Center Plan. Artist Andrew Dufford designed bronze pavers which are inset in the sidewalks. He has also designed light pole enhancement sculptures that have been attached to the light poles on Mason St. These sculptures are intended to mirror the stylized designs found in the bronze pavers. In a comprehensive outreach effort, Art in Public Places Staff presented the proposed project to the Civic Center Project community: Larimer County Commissioners (Justice Center),

Civic Center Office Building Design Team, Downtown Transit Center Design Team, Downtown Business Association and the Civic Center Parking Structure Management.

### **1% PROJECTS (Pending)**

The Advanced Planning Department met with the APP Board to outline the various gateways to the city and options for APP and Advanced Planning to work together as a team. Mr. Mapes discussed the "City Plan," as the central guide on growth and development and identifies gateways as the "key entryways to the city, interchange areas, and other major arterial streets into the city." The board discussed being attentive to future projects that may be gateways to the city. The City's Transportation Department made a presentation to the board on the **North College Improvement Project**. After some discussion, it was decided that this was an excellent opportunity for a gateway into Fort Collins. The exact location and selection process will be decided at a future board meeting.

Design Consultant Andrew Dufford has been participating in design team meetings for the **Mason Street Transportation Corridor Project**. He has helped define areas and opportunities for art. His recommendations, which were published in the project's master plan, include: entries and access, paving, signage & wayfinding, walls, bridges & railings, rest areas, seating, site furnishings and utilities, temporary works, signature pieces, and public/private opportunities. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Dufford continues to work on the overall art concept and design concept for a rest area. The Board plans to hold open competitions based on his recommendations.

The City's Engineering Department approached APP staff and inquired about extending Andrew Dufford's **Four Corners** bronze pavers to Mountain Avenue. Artist Andrew Dufford has created three new designs for the proposed pavers. When fabricated and installed, this will complete a two-block section on both sides of Mason Street.

Artist Andrew Dufford was commissioned to create kinetic sculptures with transportation themes for the new **Civic Center Transit Center**. He has built a prototype for one of the four pieces and has installed it on the site. The next step will be to fabricate the four final pieces and install them on the four bus shelters located in the middle of the site. This work compliments the streetscape of light pole enhancement sculptures and the bronze pavers that this artist designed and installed along Mason Street.

Artist Michael Hayden has collaborated with Fort Collins' BHA Design Inc. and other city departments to design an **Old Town Bus Shelter** to replace the existing bus shelter on Oak Street Plaza. The team is working on a design concept to present to the APP board, project neighborhood and City Council.

Design Consultant Barry Rose attended design meetings for the **Gardens on Spring Creek Project** and created an art plan that he presented to the Board. He recommended commissioning an original single work of art during phase one of the construction and gave location preferences for such a project. A second recommendation was to solicit additional funds through a community project. It was the consensus of the Board to hold an open competition for a sculpture at the entry plaza to the main building. Proposals will be submitted in 2002.

The Board created an RFP and held an open competition for the **Water Cycle Wall Project** and accepted the selection committee's vote to recommend Janet Austin as the artist for this project.

This project is a collaborative project between the APP Program and the Utility Department's Watershed Program. The project site is near Spring Creek, just south of the Drake Pedestrian "Foot Bridge," and includes a wall that will serve as an observational focal point. The Utility Department has worked with local elementary and junior high school students in order to acquire design ideas to add artistic embellishments to the wall. The artist has installed tile mosaics to the wall to represent the water cycle. She will install bronze and ceramic tiles inspired by student work that represent the animal cycles in the summer of 2002.

The Park Planning Department presented the **Case Park** project to the APP Board. It was their suggestion to work with the art teachers and students at the adjoining high school on a collaborative project. The project team members, along with Fort Collins High School art teacher Judi Bassani, selected artist Jim Lynxwiler to be the artist/mentor on this project. They invited students, parents, staff and the public to create ceramic tiles for this project on "Pops in the Park," night which took place in May.

Park Planning and Development Department added Design Consultant Andrew Dufford to the **Fossil Creek Community Park** Design team. Mr. Dufford participated in a design charrette and helped define the park theme and certain park elements. Andrew Dufford was then selected from the APP Resource List by members of the Design Team to create an art piece for the park. He is currently working on design concepts to present to the APP board and City Council.

The Engineering Department gave a presentation to the Board on the **Taft Hill Road Project**. They gave a description of the project and outlined possible opportunities for art. The Board moved to commission artist Carolyn Braaksma to design elements for the concrete retaining walls under the bridge where Taft Hill Road and the Spring Creek bike trail meets. The artist has also proposed artistic attachments to the bridge railing that compliment the wall design.

Staff met with Park Planning and Development to discuss the design of Harmony Park in Southeast Fort Collins. APP staff is coordinating a collaborative project with Preston Junior High School and Traut Core Knowledge to incorporate art into **Harmony Park**. Opportunities for public art include the core area (restrooms and playground), teaching observation areas, i.e. "teaching circles", and enhancement of the pump house. The project team will select an artist from the pre-approved Design Consultant Resource List.

Staff created a request for proposals for a **City Hall Water Feature** project. The water feature will be placed in the central area of the Xeriscape Garden, replacing the sculpture that is currently there. That sculpture, entitled "Solstice" will be relocated to a new site. An RFP was created and artist Richard Hansen was selected to work with a city team on the specific needs for this site. This project will be funded with Utility funds and will have a water theme/purpose. Mr. Hansen's design concept has been presented to the APP board and will be presented to City Council for final approval.

The APP Program was working towards a collaborative project at Colorado State University with the State's Art in Public Places Program. The city's money was coming from Pedestrian Accessibility improvements at the site. **CSU Annual Trial Demonstration Gardens** at the Old Fort Collins High Park. We were in the process of selecting a final artist when the state 's money for this project was put on hold.

Staff from the Natural Resources Program gave a presentation about the **Nix Farm Natural Areas Facility** project to the APP Board. The City is restoring the site and using it for the Natural Resource Department. An RFP was created to commission an artist to work with the Design Team and department staff to create art for the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Demonstration Garden. The artist selected is Joe McGrane. He is currently working on design concepts with the team.

The Project manager and architect for the **Collindale Clubhouse Replacement** project presented plans for their upcoming project to the board. The Design Team stated that they were interested in the idea of design elements being used throughout the building, rather than a single sculpture. The board decided to commission artist Carolyn Braaksma. She is currently working on design proposals.

### **DESIGN CONSULTANTS**

This process adds an APP Design Consultant to the Design Team at the start of a project to work towards early integrated, site-specific works of art. The Design Consultant List of pre-approved consultants currently includes 11 artists from Fort Collins and the Front Range. The Board agreed that the Design Consultants' terms should be two years and the call for design consultants should occur every two years. The board reviewed new applicants in September.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS**

The staff and board members hosted a full-day regional Art in Public Places Consortium Meeting in July. The invitation was sent to all the Colorado Art in Public Places staff and board members to attend round table discussions and presentations on public art. This event gave the opportunity for these programs to share information. Some of the topics discussed were maintenance, artists working on design teams and visions for the future.

The APP staff with the assistance of board members curated a special outreach exhibition to help publicize the city's program. The exhibit, entitled "Discover Art in Public Places" was on display in the Lincoln Center's Lobby Gallery in conjunction with the Poudre School District Student Exhibition. The APP exhibit highlight background information, models, and samples from a number of art pieces placed by this program.

APP staff has been contacted by the Parks Dept. to assist in acquiring artistically painted trashcans. Staff is in the process of contacting the Poudre School District art teachers and students to work on this collaborative project.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Staff oversaw the replacement of several of the Utility Service Center "Energy Fields" rods. The new rods that were installed are of a stronger, less flexible design.

Staff is researching materials used on specific public art projects and is currently developing a maintenance plan for its collection.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

One APP staff member attended a national Public Art Conference in Seattle. She has added images to our APP digital library and presented images of the artworks she toured along with information on Seattle's 30 year-old program.