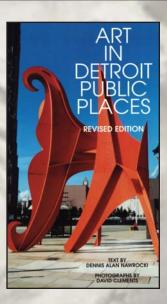
Midtown Loop Public Art Master Plan





As is true of any modern urban complex, one has to look beneath surfaces 'for the true character or nature of a place."

Dennis Nawrocki *Art in Detroit Public Places*



On the Cover:

Lois Teicher, *Curved Form with Rectangle and Space* stainless steel, 2000

Introduction





The University Cultural Center Association (UCCA) has been a firm advocate of the complementary nature of cultural activity and neighborhood development, and believes that the synthesis of these two elements are necessary for the revitalization of Midtown. The Midtown Loop Greenway is a prime example of how these two pursuits are intertwined: the construction of quality public space further enriched by a public art program will ultimately create a new destination spot, while at the same time become a significant expression of this community. Perhaps UCCA's primary role in this project is that of a catalyst – fostering relationships and opportunities that lead to positive change. UCCA believes that the Midtown Loop is about enhancing our public assets and forging connections throughout the district, and will be a testament to this growing synergy between economics and art. This is a major development strategy for Midtown that has the potential to further attract residents, consumers and businesses. And there is no better or natural partner for redeveloping Midtown than the arts organizations and artists who helped create this public art master plan. Together, we have developed an integrated vision outlined in these pages which we hope will renew and accentuate the unique character of Midtown.

Susan T. Mosey, President UCCA

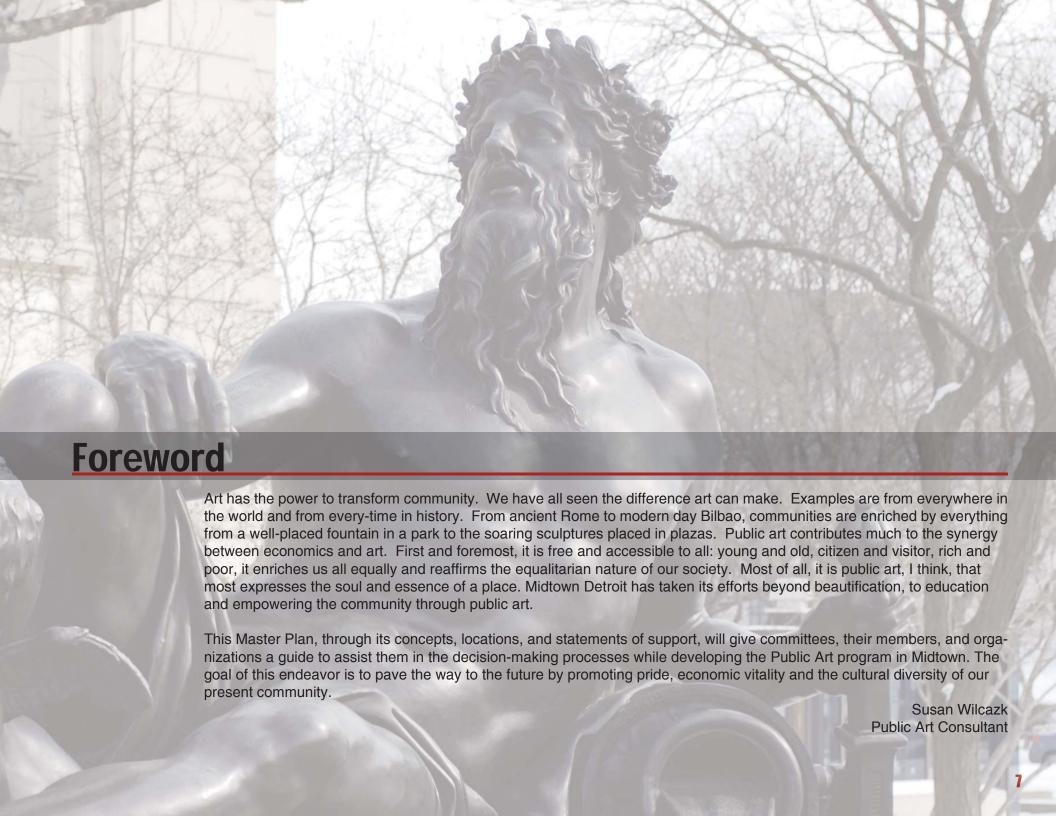


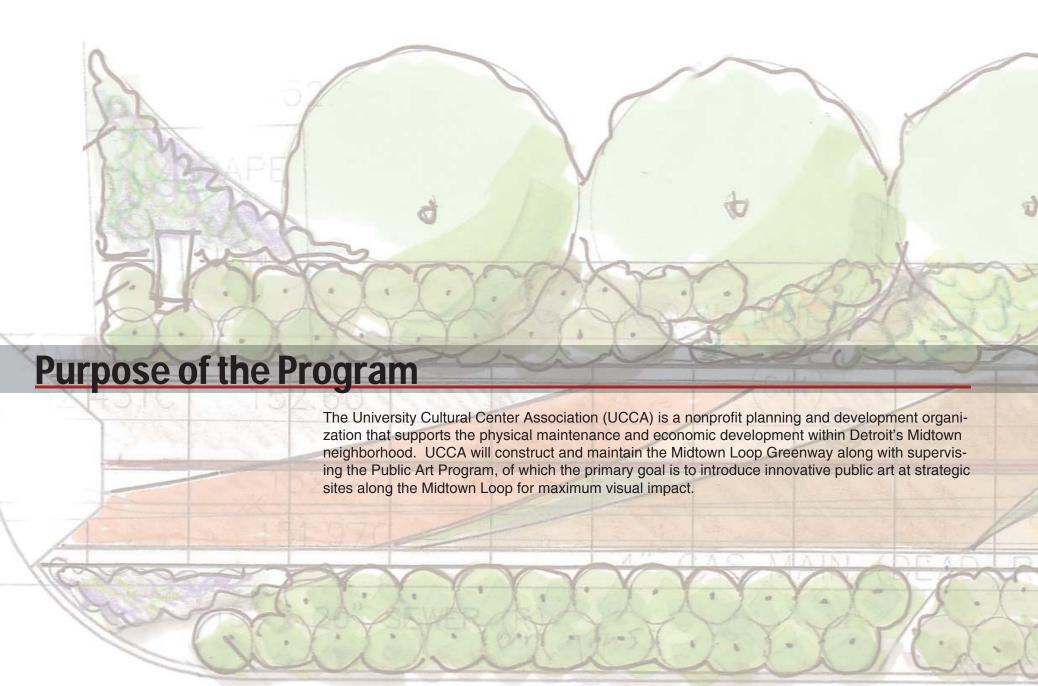
Background Photo:

Lois Teicher, *Curved Form with Rectangle and Space* stainless steel, 2000

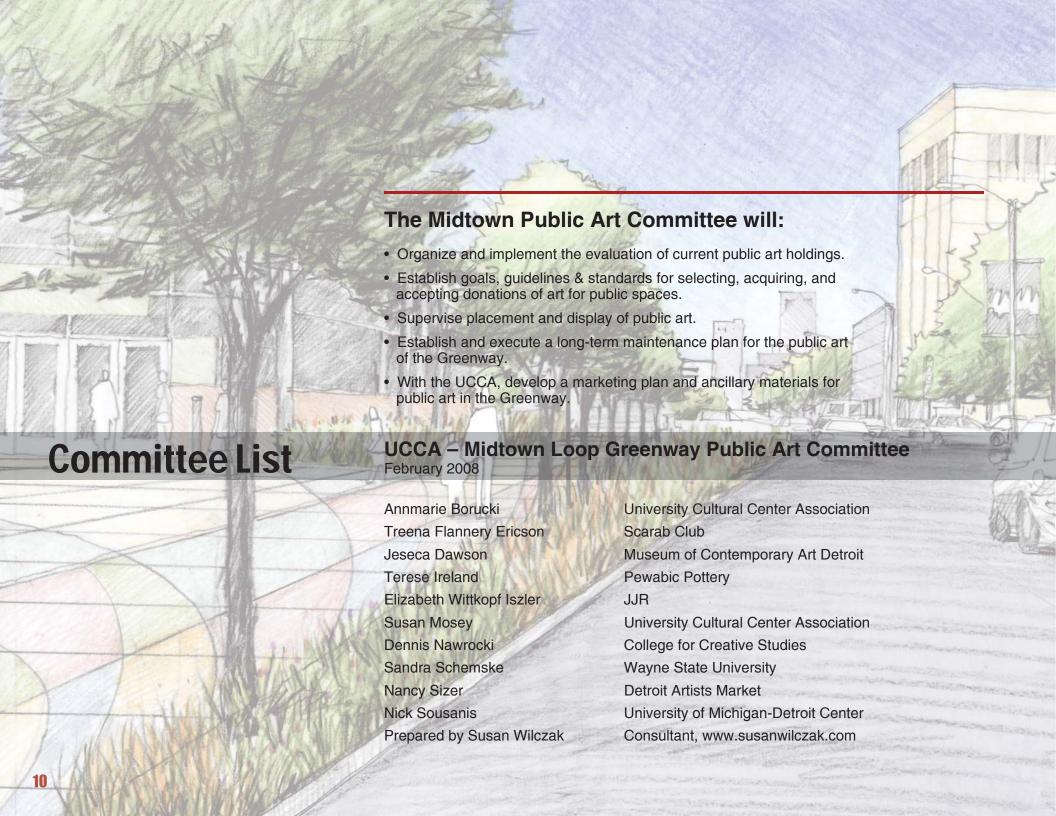
	Introduction	3
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	Committee List	10
	Midtown Loop Plan	11
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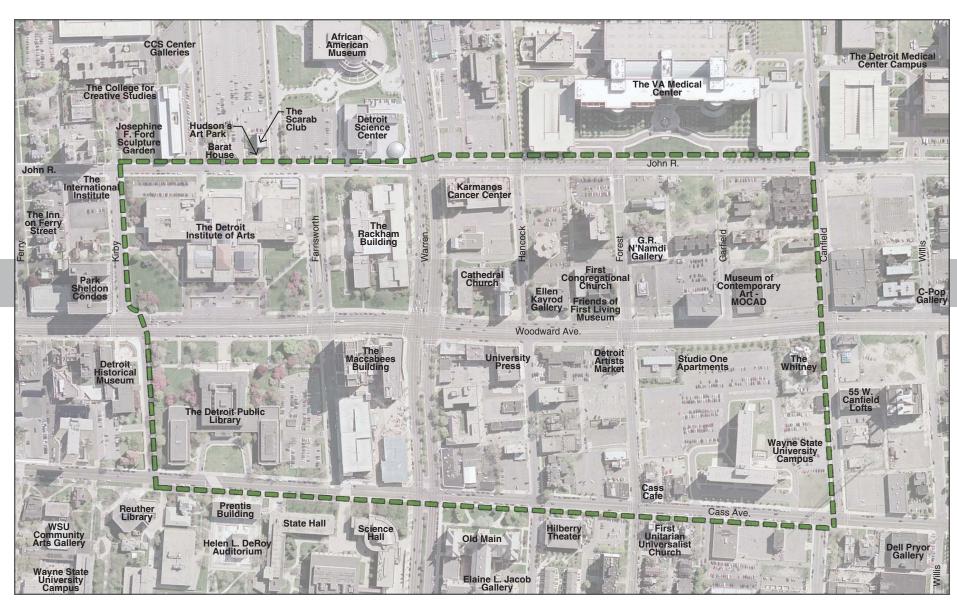






Midtown Loop Urban Greenway

The greenway is a non-motorized system that will provide important benefits to the community, including health, recreation, tourism, cultural interpretation, environmental sustainability, and economic development. This 1.8 miles of trail has the potential to tie together the extraordinarily rich blending of people and places along its route.







Opposite Page:

Preliminary illustrative plan for the Midtown Loop.

To the Left:

Illustration for proposed improvements in front of the Detroit Science Center.

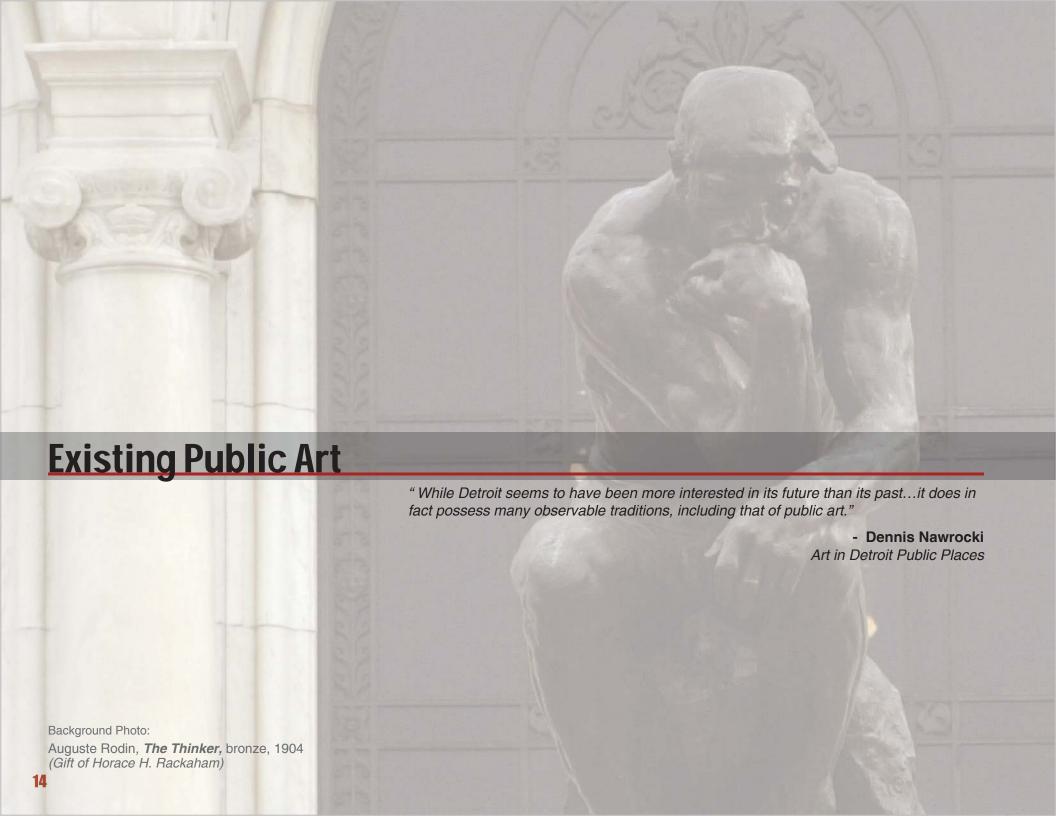
Below:

Illustration for proposed improvements in front of the VA Medical Center.

Midtown Loop Urban Greenway

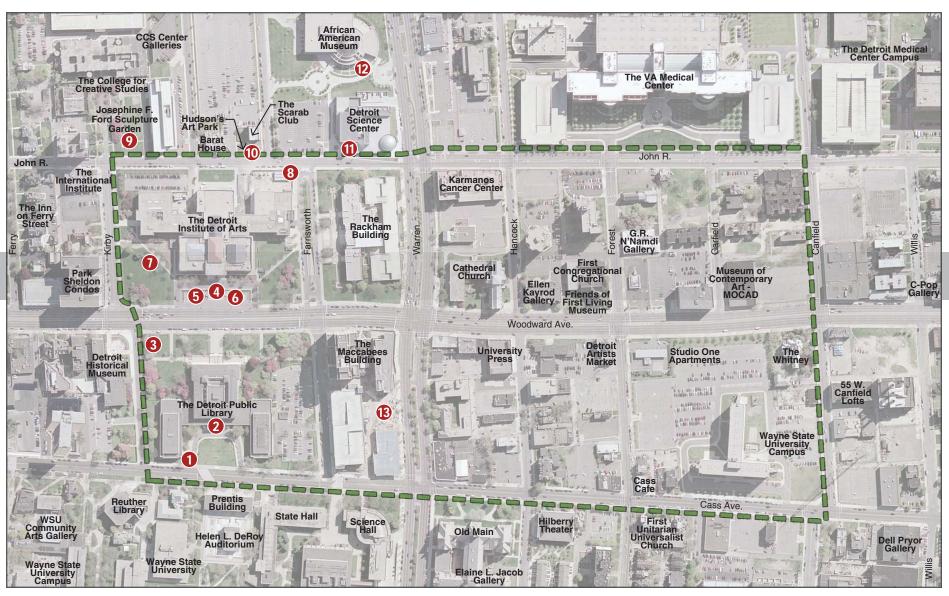
To make the Midtown Loop viable—to make it a part of everyday life, and yet elevate it to the level of being a public attraction—it needs to provide basic amenities for pedestrians, be unique, highly visible and yet offer an experience that no other city can match. The overall design of the Loop will introduce a colorful paving surface, pedestrian lighting, attractive and sustainable landscaping, benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, and dog litter stations, adding amenities never seen before along these streets. The Loop will dramatically transform the appearance of the streets it will line, and will spotlight the many new developments that are planned, underway, or have already been completed along this route. But it is truly the public art component that elevates this greenway to the level of becoming a tourist attraction. Clearly, public art will play a defining role in encouraging people to walk along the greenway, not around it, and provides us with our best opportunity to showcase Midtown as a creative neighborhood while further enhancing our public assets.





Existing Public Art Within View of the Midtown Loop

Whether financed by public money or private bequests, the works included provide valuable ties to the past and positive statements about the future.



Existing Public Art Within View of the Midtown Loop

Background Photo:

Joseph DeLauro, *Exploration*bronze, 1967

Detroit Public Library

- 1 Joseph DeLauro, Exploration, bronze, 1967
- 2 Millard Sheets, *The River of Knowledge*, mosaic, 1963
- 3 Ference Varga, *Copernicus*, bronze, 1973;

Detroit Institute of Arts

- 4 Auguste Rodin, The Thinker, bronze, 1904
- Unknown Artist, Nymph and Eros, bronze, Early 20th Century
- Onknown Artist, Le Fleuve la Garonne, bronze, Early 20th Century
- 7 Tony Smith, Gracehoper, painted steel, 1972
- 8 Alexander Calder, *Jeune fille et sa suite*, painted steel, 1973

College for Creative Studies - Josephine F. Ford Sculpture Garden

- Sculpture garden consisting of numerous works from the DIA permanent collection.
 - Jean Arp, Torso of a Giant, Bronze, 1964
 - Alexander Calder, The X and Its Tails, steel plate w/ black paint, 1967
 - Reuben Nakian, Goddess of the Golden Thighs, bronze w/ area of metallic gliding, 1964-1966
 - Anthony Caro, *Up Front*, sheet Steel, steel beams & paint, 1971
 - Michael D. Hall, Ashtabula, steel, oil paint, 1972
 - Richard Serra, Mozarabe, steel, 1971
 - Etienne-Martin, Grand Couple, bronze, 1946
 - Albert Paley, *Untitled*, corten steel, 1992
 - George Rickey, Two Lines Oblique Down, Variation III, stainless steel, 1971
 - Raymond Duchamp-Villon, Le Cheval Majeur, cast bronze, modeled 1914, cast 1966



Photo Below:

Nymph and Eros, bronze, Early 20th Century

Background Photo: Richard Bennett, *Sentry*, aluminum and gold, 1954

Hudson's Art Park/Scarab

Lois Teicher, Curved Form with Rectangle and Space, 2000 (owned by UCCA)

Steve Veresh, Phoenix, wall relief/painted metal, 1976

Detroit Science Center

11 Steve Veresh, Mobius Solid, coated fiberglass, 1983

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

Pichard Bennett, Sentry, aluminum and gold, 1954

Wayne State Welcome Center/Barnes & Noble

13 Invisible Doors, Tyree Guyton, welded steel w/ enamel paint, 2007

Many other important sculptures can be found throughout the campus of Wayne State University. More information about these sculptures can be found in Dennis Nawocki's book, *Art in Detroit Public Places*.



Photo to Left:

Lois Teicher, *Curved Form with Rectangle and Space* stainless steel, 2000

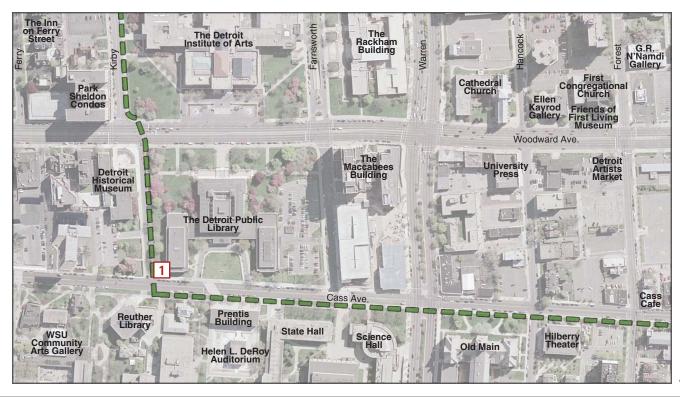


The Concept - Midtown Loop Public Art Plan

This plan was developed through a creative and exploratory process, and represents an integrated vision of arts organizations within the greater downtown area. The Committee identified 12 different sites located directly along the Midtown Loop that provided the best opportunities for placement of public art. These sites are indicated on the map below and are further explored in the following pages. The Committee then identified themes that defined the spirit and potential of these sites, taking into consideration the missions, values, histories, and programming of the many institutions located at these areas, along with their connections to the community. These motifs will help provide the framework for how public art will be chosen at these sites.







Approximate size of site: 10,895 sq. ft.

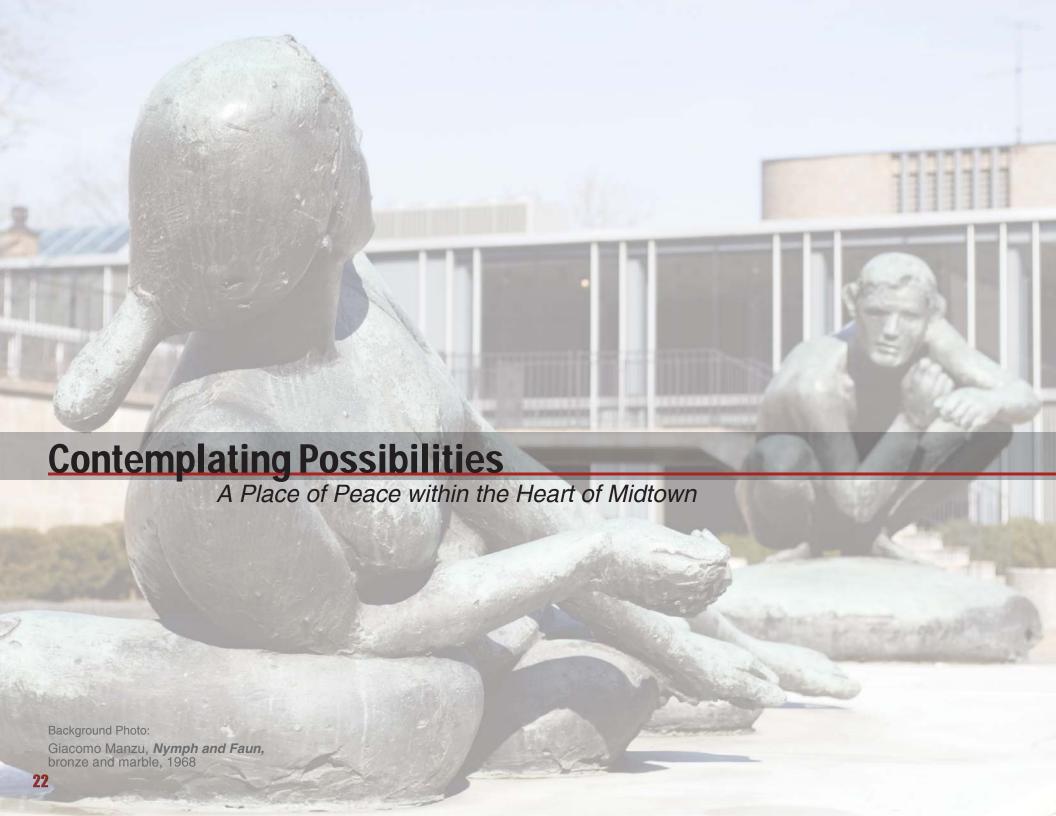
Existing Conditions

Site One:

Children's Library Wing of the Detroit Public Library - Main Branch

This site is located at the corner of Cass and Kirby on the north side of the Children's Library wing of the Detroit Public Library - Main Branch. Just across Cass is Wayne State's Reuther Library with the Historical Museum on the opposite side of Kirby. For such a highly travelled route by both pedestrians and vehicles, this site remains relatively calm and protected due to the trees that dot this stretch of lawn and the distance it is set off from Cass. The site is suitable for an artful playscape or for sculpture that can evoke the spirit of the stories held on the shelves just inside the Children's Library – for public art that inspires the child within all of us.







Approximate size of site: 7,915 sq. ft.

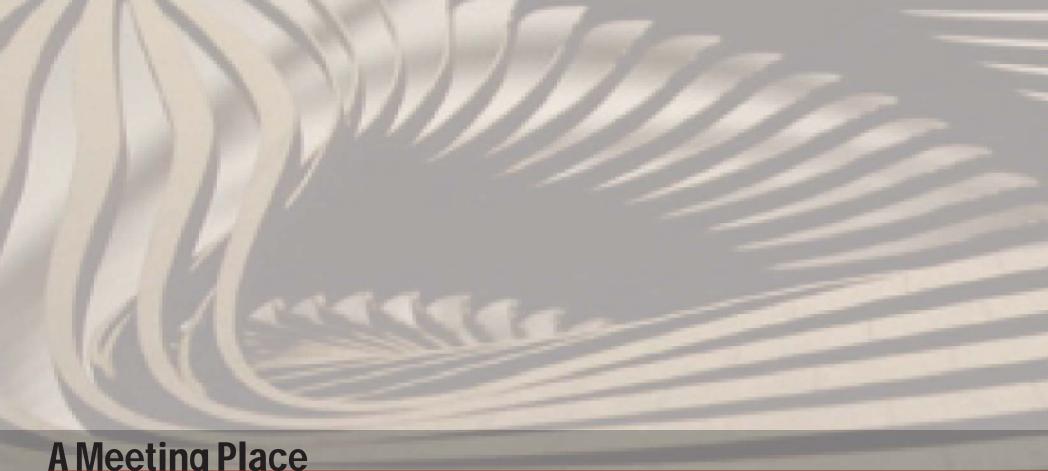
Existing Conditions

Site Two:

The Detroit Library

This site is located on the northeast side of the Detroit Public Library - Main Branch, just along the sidewalk that directs library visitors to the Woodward entrance. It is just east of the Children's Library site and situated directly across from the Historical Museum entrance on Kirby. With this site set back from Woodward, it also remains relatively calm and quiet, further enhanced by the established trees that border this property. This area lends itself to being a place of respite and contemplation, for reading a book, or hosting a picnic, and ultimately for public art that encourages congregation and complements this sense of calm.





A Meeting Place

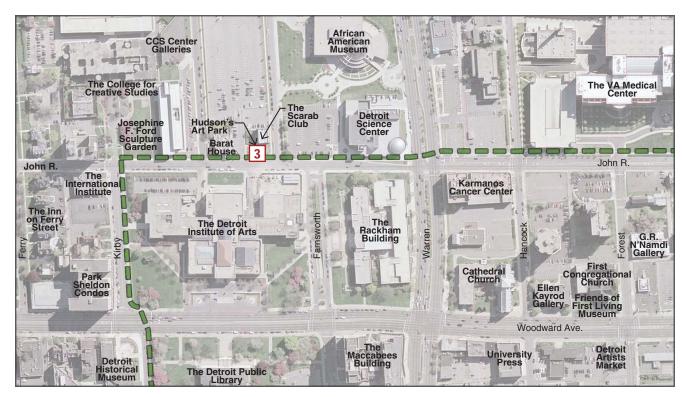
The Epicenter of the Museum District

Located in the heart of the Cultural Center, the Scarab Club has been dedicated to supporting the arts through exhibitions, concerts, sketch sessions, and literary events for more then a century. We are proud of our long association with the UCCA and applaud its commitment to the arts.

The Midtown Loop is a tangible demonstration of the UCCA's belief that public art is more then an accessory or afterthought in relation to community development. It brings a sense of pride and place to the people who live, work and study in the community and creates a destination for others to visit and discover. It emphasizes Midtown's rich history and encourages exploration of the businesses, galleries and institutions along the route. Most important, the project will serve as a celebration for the creative spirit and an example of the rich possibilities of what a community can be.

Background Photo: Yu-Chih Hsiao, Soft Steel Bench steel, concept, 2006

Treena Flannery Ericson, Gallery Director The Scarab Club



Approximate size of site: 6855 sq. ft.

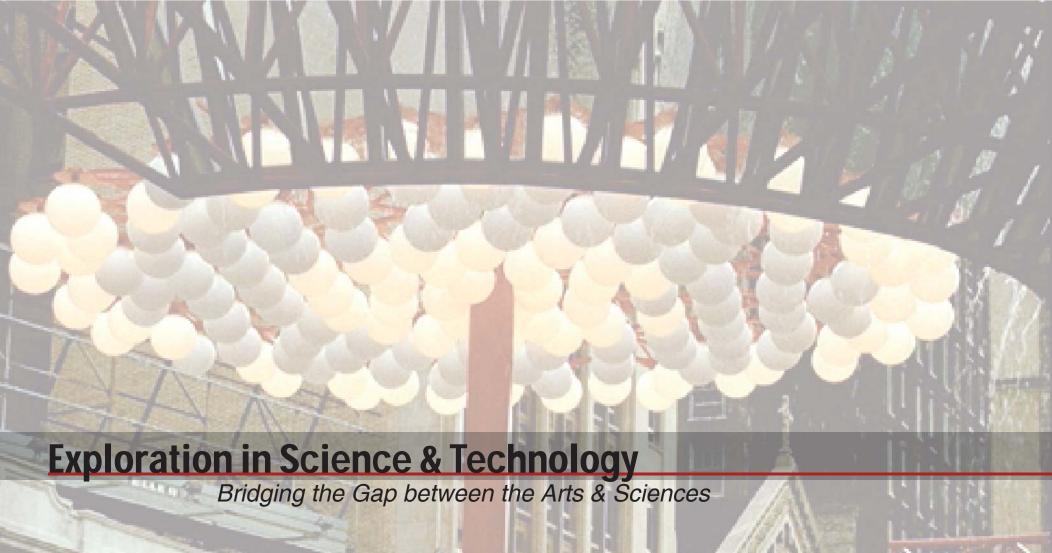
Existing Conditions

Site Three:

Hudson's Art Park

Hudson's Art Park is located on John R, directly across from the entrance of the Detroit Institute of Arts and in front of the historic Scarab Club. It borders the drive into the Cultural Center Parking Lot and sits across the street from the Detroit Science Center. Already placed in this park is the UCCA-owned sculpture, Curved Form with Rectangle and Space, created specifically for the site by artist Lois Teicher, as well as a relief on the exterior wall of the Scarab Club, Phoenix by artist Steve Veresh. The missing element is a place for people to sit and converse, to catch their breath between museum visits and a place for people to meet up. Hudson's Art Park provides a novel opportunity for the creation of bench seating and other imaginative amenities to complement this functional park space.



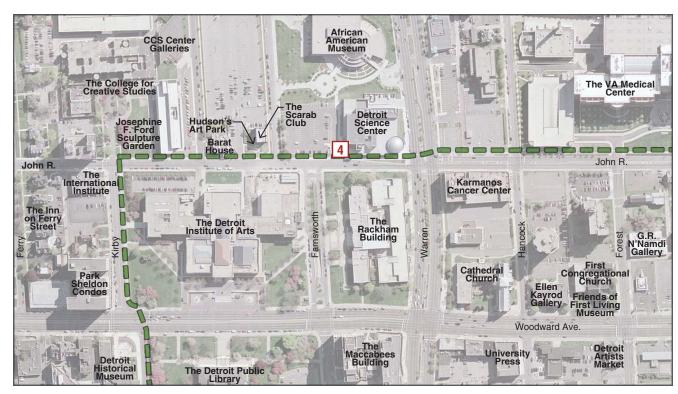


The Midtown Loop will create an interactive, lively environment to encourage healthy living, while being a unifying element to the neighborhood. The UCCA Public Art Program is an invaluable layer to the Loop that will provide everyone the opportunity to have access to a wonderful variety of public art possibilities. JJR is proud to be involved in the development of these projects and looks forward to continuing to design places that will create opportunities to incorporate the arts in Midtown.

Elizabeth Wittkopf Iszler, Landscape Architect

Background Photo:

Jim Pallas, *Century of Light*, glass & steel, February 2008



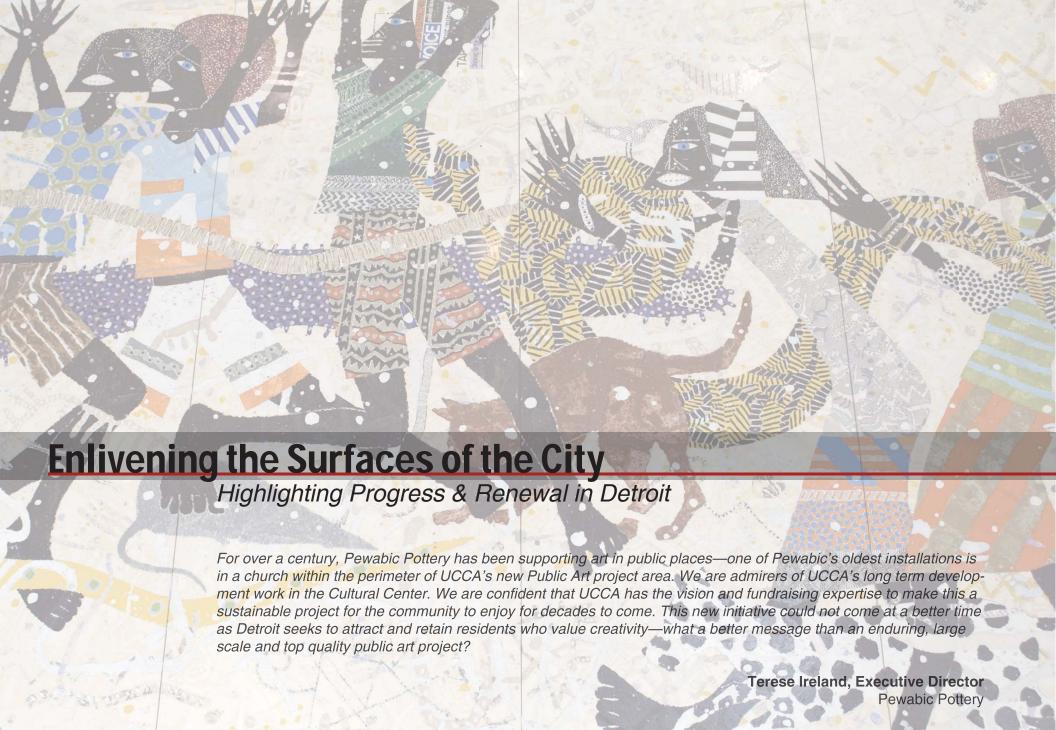
Approximate size of site: 5,505 sq. ft.

Site Four:

Detroit Science Center Plaza

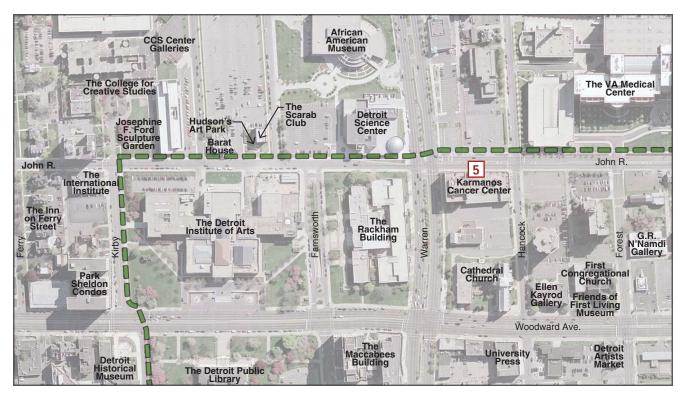
The Detroit Science Center hosts over 240,000 visitors a year, and is located on John R at the corner of Warren Avenue, directly across the street from the Rackham Education Memorial Building. It will soon expand by building a new science and math charter middle school on the eastern side of its campus and will incorporate a new museum entrance facing the Detroit Institute of Arts, nearly doubling the size of its facility. Enlivening the plaza with public art would not only create a more welcoming environment, but it could serve as an extension of the museum's exciting exhibits. This site is ideal for public art that is whimsical, interactive, that explores digital technologies and which ultimately helps to bridge the gap between the arts, technology and the environment to inspire a new way of looking at our relationship with the planet.





Background Photo:

Charles McGee, Blue Nile, Enamel Painting on Alucobond, 1987

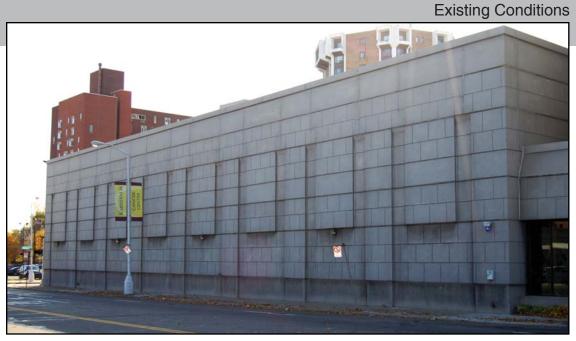


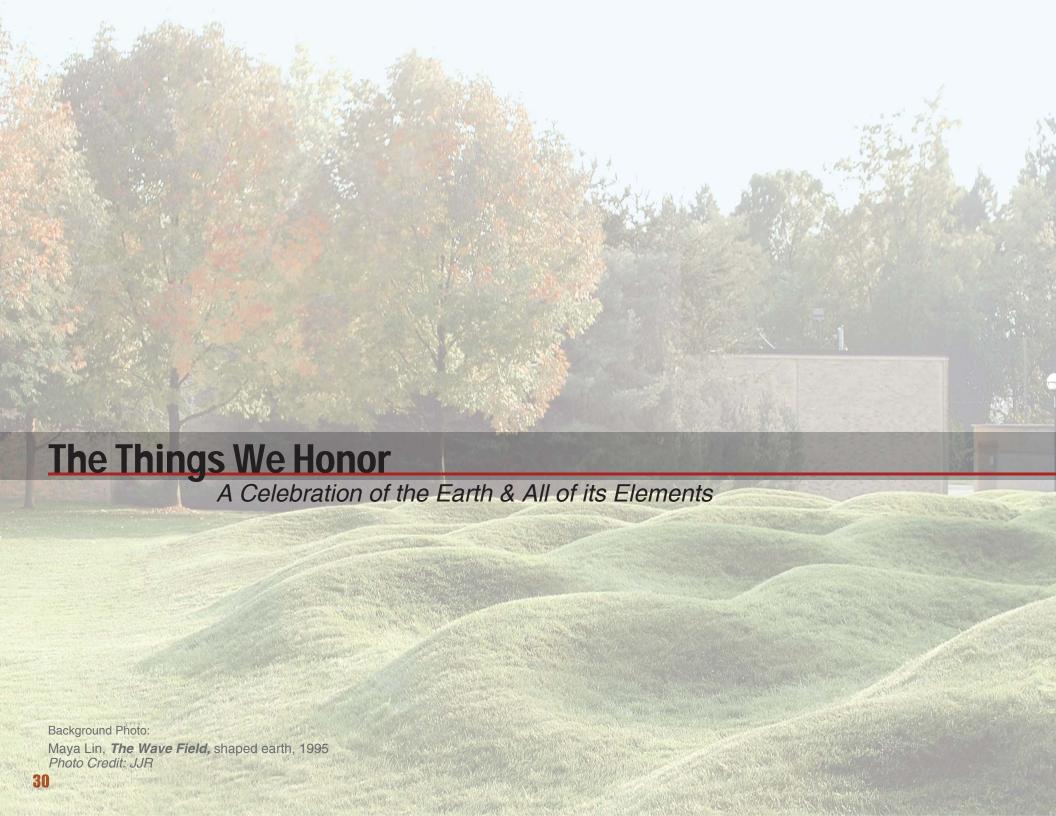
Approximate size of site: 1,745 sq. ft.

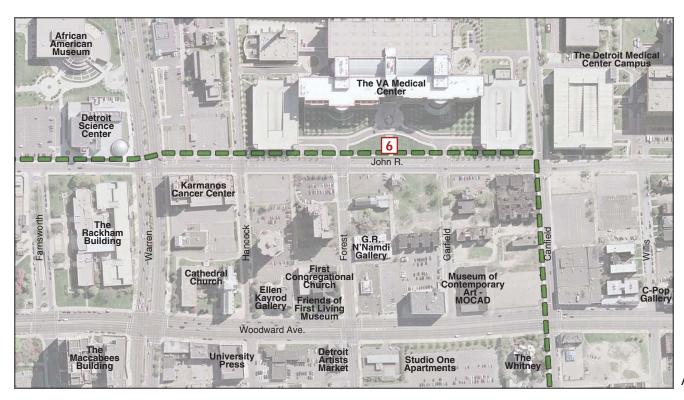
Site Five:

Karmanos Meyer L. Prentis Comprehensive Cancer Center

This highly visible site is located on John R between Hancock Street and Warren Avenue. The Meyer L. Prentis Cancer Center is the primary laboratory research facility of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. The exterior of this building provides an ideal opportunity to transform empty walls into recovered public assets with a colorful series of murals or reliefs that captures the energy of this urban environment, while celebrating progress and renewal in Detroit.







Approximate size of site: 21,790 sq. ft.

Site Six:

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center

The VA Medical Center serves over 300,000 patients a year and is located on John R between Forest Avenue and Garfield Street directly across from the Sugar Hill Arts District. This large area of lawn in front of the facility provides an excellent opportunity to incorporate public art in order to create a more welcoming environment. This area presents the largest site along the Midtown Loop, and lends itself beautifully to a public art installation that possesses both an aerial dimension as well as a street-level dimension. Whether it is an earth work, expansive land art, a water feature or a series of connected organic sculptures, this installation must stand out from its surrounding landscape and be visible from an aerial perspective. At ground level, viewers should have a more intimate experience with the work and feel encouraged to linger on the VA Medical Center's grounds.



EUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DETROIT

On The Edge

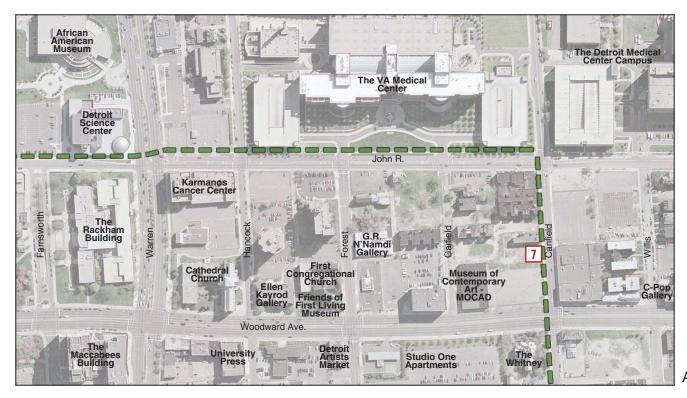
Exploring Emerging Ideas in the Contemporary Arts

MOCAD is proud to be part of Detroit's Cultural Center, where art and education thrive. UCCA's Public Art Program along the Midtown Loop reflects MOCAD's mission "to fuel crucial dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement." We see this project as an opportunity to provide the public access to contemporary art, and therefore improve the quality of life and create even stronger connections within the community.

Jeseca Dawson, Administrator
MOCAD

Background Photo:

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit exterior, 2007 Martin Creed, "Everything Is Going To Be Alright," Neon, 2007 Barry McGee, Graffiti Mural, 2006 Photo Credit: Courtesy of Martin Creed and Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York



Approximate size of site: 18,345 sq. ft.

Existing Conditions

Site Seven:

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD)

This site is currently a vacant lot that borders Canfield Avenue between John R and Woodward, and has been designated to be used as a sculpture garden by Midtown's newest museum, MO-CAD. Negotiations are currently underway to potentially place a public art installation by a locally-grown international artist on these grounds. This site is highly visible from Woodward and will ultimately serve as an emblem of the museum's mission to fuel crucial dialogue by presenting art at the forefront of contemporary culture.





Representing the Consciousness of Midtown

The UCCA's Greenways Project and Public Art program bring beauty, life, and hope to our community - all vital to its continued health and growth. It represents a small change in the physical landscape, but an enormous transformation in how people experience and live in this city. It's a gift to residents, sure to spur more investment and growth, and a bright spot to show visitors, as Detroiters already know, that there is a wellspring of activity and creativity here. It's a tremendous show of support and investment in our future, and I'm thrilled to see it come to fruition.

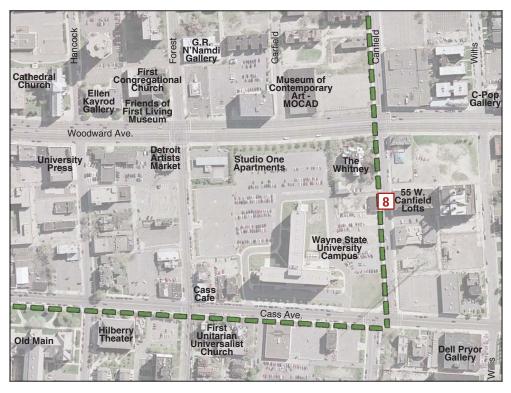
> **Nick Sousanis Director of Exhibitions, Work: Detroit** University of Michigan - Detroit Center

Editor-in-Chief www.thedetroiter.com

Background Photo:

Nick Laskey, MOCAD Graffiti Tunnel, February 2008

Photo Credit: Zeb Smith



Site Eight:

Canfield Warehouse Building

This site represents a part of Midtown that is currently experiencing dramatic development. Across the street is one of Midtown's newest loft housing developments, 55 West Canfield, whose ground floor is slated to be the new home for Avalon International Breads which will bring a whole new energy to this block. Just east of this site sits the historic Whitney restaurant which has experienced major renovations since being under new ownership. And behind this nondescript building, the construction of Studio One Apartments will introduce 120 units of quality rental housing bringing new residents, new retail and vitality to this area. This site has great potential to serve as an art-making project between professional artists and the community. A colorful mural project could create a bridge between public art, community revitalization, and its residents, and serve as a potential tourist site alongside a more traditional historic landmark like the Whitney.

Approximate size of site: 10,545 sq. ft.





Existing Conditions

Background Photo:
Robert Sestock, Logic,
welded steel, 2005

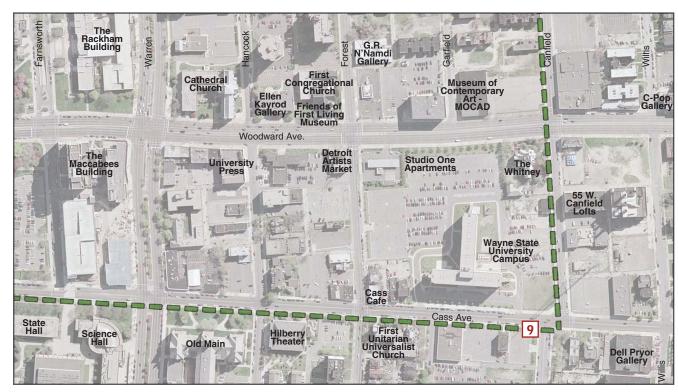
Back to Roots

Celebrating Detroit's Artists

The UCCA Public Arts Program is a key addition to our community, and directly supports the Detroit Artists Market's mission to foster a vibrant and distinctive artistic community in Detroit and Michigan by promoting, exhibiting and selling the work of emerging and established artists, through educational programming and art exhibitions. With every addition of private, nonprofit, and public arts to this area, Midtown asserts its commitment to the cultural, educational, and economic talents and growth of our entire community. The Detroit Artists Market whole-heartedly endorses the UCCA and its leadership on this important initiative.

The UCCA Public Arts Program does more than simply add public art back into our shared environment – it will do so in a way that creatively weaves together neighbors, institutions, businesses and visitors. This Public Art Program amplifies the themes of connectedness, culture, education and hospitality which define Midtown.

Nancy Sizer, Director Detroit Artists Market



Approximate size of site: 2,195 sq. ft.

Existing Conditions

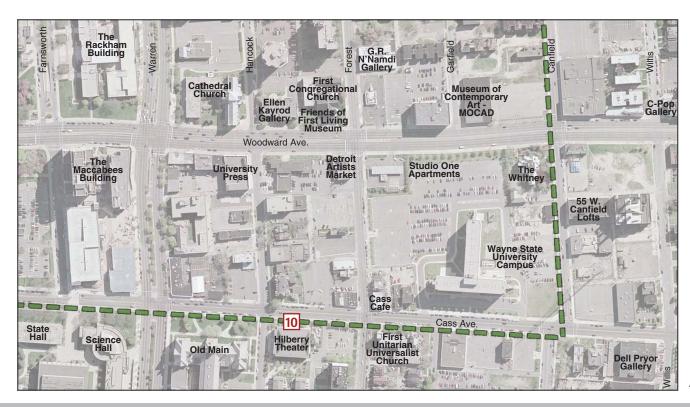
Site Nine:

Northwest corner of Cass and Canfield

This site is located at the northwest corner of Cass and Canfield. Just west of this space are Traffic Jam Restaurant, Motor City Brewing Works, Canfield Lofts and Midtown's newest retail gem, Bureau of Urban Living. South of this site is the West Willis Village featuring Dell Pryor Gallery, Flo Boutique, Goodwells Natural Food Market, and the new Willy's Overland Lofts development. As part of the North Cass Neighborhood, this area thrives off of its homegrown flavor when it comes to the businesses that reside here, and this corner should be no different. It is an ideal location to serve as a small pocket sculpture park that could feature rotating exhibits of both emerging and established Detroit artists of all ages and stature.





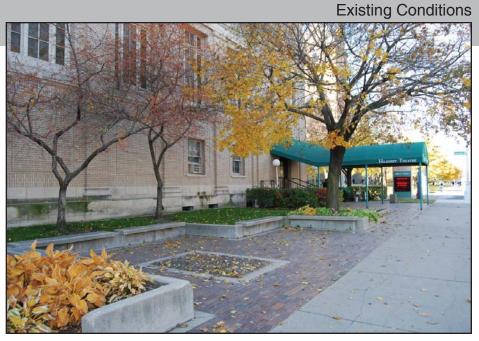


Approximate size of site: 1,750 sq. ft.

Site Ten:

Wayne State University Hilberry Theatre

This site is located outside of Wayne State's Hilberry Theatre on Cass Avenue at the corner of Hancock, home to Detroit's oldest noncommercial theatre. Each year, this theatre plays to the second largest audience in Michigan—second only to the audience at Detroit's Fisher Theatre. Right outside of this theatre is a small bricked plaza suitable for a sculpture that would complement the frontal neoclassical style of the building and encourage theatre patrons and other passersby to linger in this intimate space.





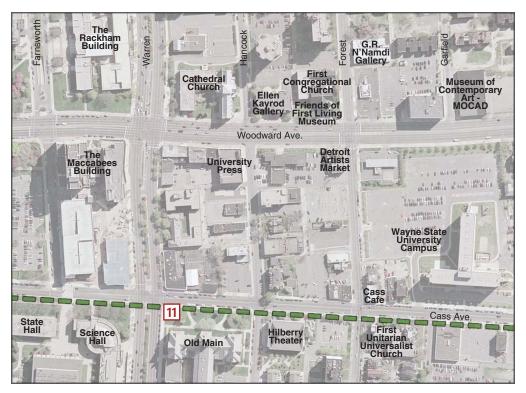
Intersection of Art & Culture

"The UCCA Public Art Project offers an exciting opportunity to enhance the everyday lives of those on our campus and in our community and to foster a connection with the creative energies of the human spirit within an urban environment."

- Sandra Schemske, Art Collection Coordinator
Wayne State University

Background Photo:

Charles McGee, United We Stand, Concept

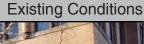


Site Four:

Wayne State University Old Main Building Front Lawn

This site is prominently located at the intersection of Cass and Warren Avenues, and features Old Main Building, Wayne State University's place of origin. Inside, Old Main houses a planetarium, recital hall, art gallery, rehearsal space for the Hilberry and Bonstelle Theaters, practice studios for the performing arts, an anthropology museum and over 40 general classrooms. The large span of lawn at the southwest corner of Warren and Cass provides a unique opportunity to commission a large public art installation along with seating to create a quality public space that would encourage students to congregate here - creating a new hub of interaction. Not only could it be a place to hang out before and after class, and a place to eat lunch from one of the restaurants across the street, this site has even greater potential to serve as an emblem of Wayne State's investment in creative activity and in the Midtown community.

Approximate size of site: 4,655 sq. ft.





Background Photo: David Barr and Sergio De Giusti, Transcending, bronze reliefs, 2003

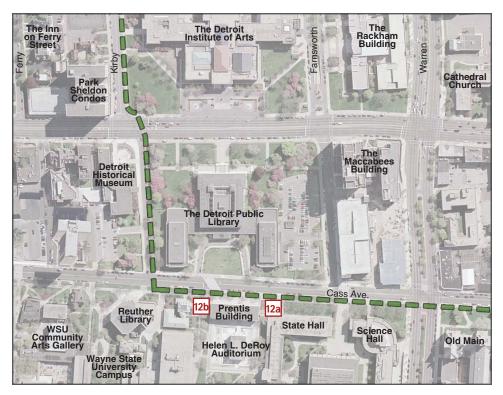
Connecting Campus & Community

In the Fall of 2007, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan awarded \$124,500.00 to the Wayne State University Art Collection: Stability and Accessibility initiative. These funds will help identify conservation needs, conduct critical restoration, document artworks and expand the audience for the 'Cass Corridor' collection and the outdoor sculptures.

Through this important grant, WSU will be moving some of the newly restored outdoor sculptures to more prominent locations along the Cass Avenue/Phase II of the Midtown Loop, providing an opportunity to highlight the university's collection of outdoor sculpture while making this resource more easily accessible to the public.

The Wayne State University Art Collection is pleased to be working with the University Cultural Center Association's Midtown Loop Greenway Public Art Program on this exciting project as it will connect campus to community and awaken a new audience to the value of arts and culture.

Sandra Schemske, Art Collection Coordinator
Wayne State University



Site Twelve:

Wayne State University – Public Spaces Flanking the Meyer & Anna Prentis Building/School of Business Administration

This site actually represents the two areas that flank Wayne State's Prentis Building located on Cass Avenue, directly across from the Detroit Public Library. These are areas that include sidewalks that are highly traveled by students and other pedestrians, and would greatly be enhanced by the addition of colorful public art to reflect the energy of this campus. Furthermore, this site would serve as an excellent showcase for some of its newly restored sculptures from their 'Cass Corridor' collection.

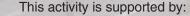
Approximate size of site(s):

12a - 9,340 sq. ft. (space located between Prentis Building & State Hall);
12b - 13,990 sq. ft.. (space located between Prentis Building & William C. Rands House/Business Annex)

Existing Conditions







the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS & the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.





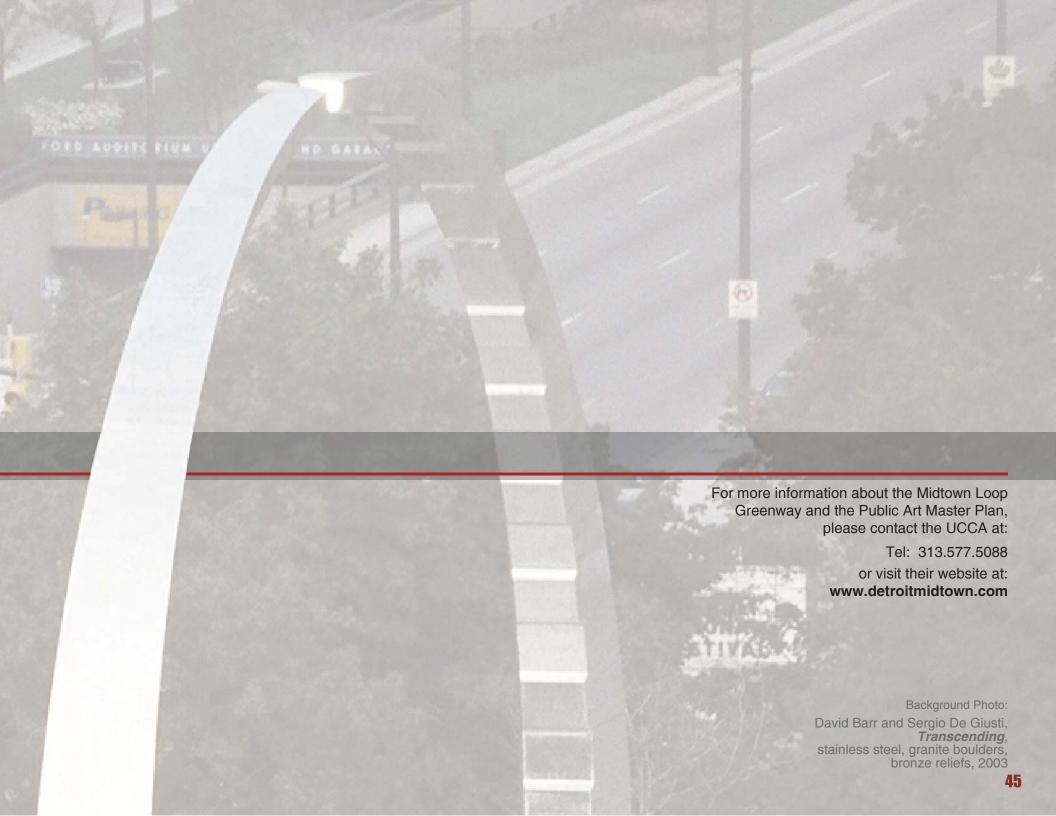
A great nation deserves great art.

Conclusion/Thank You

In preparing this master plan, UCCA convened several meetings that included representatives from various arts and cultural organizations in Midtown and held continuous dialogues with a number of artists whose works are on prominent display in Detroit. This master plan and an additional best practices manual are the result of these conversations.

The University Cultural Center Association (UCCA) would like to thank the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs for grant funding which made possible the creation of the Midtown Loop Greenway Public Art Master Plan. UCCA would also like to thank public art consultant, Susan Wilczak, for her guidance through this process. Equally important, UCCA would like to thank the members of its Public Art Committee who dedicated many hours to this creative endeavor, including: Treena Flannery Ericson, the Scarab Club; Jeseca Dawson, MOCAD; Terese Ireland, Pewabic Pottery; Elizabeth Wittkopf Iszler, JJR; Dennis Nawrocki, College for Creative Studies; Sandra Schemske, Wayne State University; Nancy Sizer, Detroit Artists Market; and Nick Sousanis, University of Michigan Work: Detroit Gallery. Thanks also go out to the staff members at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Marsha Miro of MOCAD, Gerri Kelley of Pewabic Pottery, Giorgio Gikas of Venus Bronze Works, Inc., Sharon Stachecki of JJR, and artists: David Barr, Sergio DeGiusti, Charles McGee, Fritz Olsen, Jim Pallas, Robert Sestock and Lois Teicher.

March 5, 2008





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