

# CREATIVE PLACEMAKING COMMISSION



# 2023 UPDATE AND 2024 WORK PLAN

Appointed by the Bloomington City Council, the Creative Placemaking Commission advises the City Council on using arts, design, culture and creativity to help accomplish the City’s goals for change, growth and transformation in a way that also builds character and quality of place in Bloomington.

**SOUTH LOOP DISTRICT CREATIVE PLACEMAKING VISION:** Sustained creative placemaking efforts will establish the South Loop as a distinctive destination known for welcoming people and using the arts to transform the neighborhood physically, socially, and culturally.

**SOUTH LOOP DISTRICT CREATIVE PLACEMAKING GOALS:**

- **URBANISM:** ensure urban design excellence in transforming the built environment;
- **ANIMATION:** animate public spaces and strengthening the social and cultural fabric;
- **INVOLVEMENT:** involve and empower people who inhabit and care about the South Loop;
- **IDENTITY:** elevate and project South Loop’s identity;
- **LEADERSHIP:** build capacity to sustain creative placemaking leadership and champions; and
- **INVESTMENT:** attract new development and establish a resident creative sector.

**THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A CITY-WIDE CREATIVE PLACEMAKING MASTER PLAN, WHICH WILL ESTABLISH A VISION, GOALS, AND PRIORITIES, AND BE USED AS A GUIDE FOR FUTURE EFFORTS.**

*The following responses were collected during our practical visioning session in 2020. \*Denotes element of focus:*

<b>GIVEN WHAT WE KNOW OF OUR CREATIVE PLACEMAKING PLAN, WHAT ELEMENTS DO WE WANT TO SEE IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS AS A RESULT OF OUR ACTIONS (2021 – 2023)?</b>
<b>*Grand and Colorful Places to Play</b>
<b>Welcoming &amp; Thriving Green Spaces</b>
<b>Walkable, Engaging Urban Amenities</b>
<b>Cohesive &amp; Distinct Wayfinding</b>
<b>Intentional &amp; Equitable Engagement of Stakeholders</b>
<b>Safe &amp; Accessible Mobility Hub</b>

## **CREATIVE PLACEMAKING COMMISSION**

### **2023 WORK AND PROJECTS**

**COMMISSION MEETING ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION OVERVIEW:**

- Monthly meeting updates, discussion, and development of 2023-2024 projects and events, and prioritization of 2024-2025 projects.
- Presentations: 4RM+ULA and Juxtaposition Arts – Small Business Center Engagement; Juneteenth presentation from

Faith Jackson; Update on Carbon31 development from Mark Fabel; City Code mural ordinance presentation from Nick Johnson; Bloomington Forward presentation from City Manager Jamie Verbrugge; Carbon31 Mural commissioned by McGough presentation from Mark Fabel.

- Commissioners participated in: Small Business Center committee; Welcoming and Connected Board meetings; Public Health COVID-19 artwork panel; Creative Placemaking Master Plan RFP panel.
- Commissioners joined the Port Authority Commission on a city-wide tour focused on commercial nodes and potential future redevelopment sites.
- Commissioners volunteered at events throughout year, such as Latino Conservation Week Festival and PRIDE to share information about Creative Placemaking efforts.
- Updated Creative Placemaking Commission bylaws and ordinance related to selection of Commissioners.
- Year-end review and evaluation discussion of projects and activities.

#### **2023 CREATIVE PLACEMAKING ACTIVITY/PROJECTS AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Hosted the “Making it Public” public art workshop for Artists in January to build local capacity.
- Ongoing participation in the development of the Small Business Center programming and marketing committees. Supported engagement efforts including an Open House in August.
- Participated as an organizational partner of Wakpa Triennial Art Festival from July through September, coordinated and promoted the following affiliated events in Bloomington during this timeframe:
  - Latino Conservation Week event on Saturday, July 22. Partnered with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Indigenous Roots provided art installations, arts activities, and performances.
  - “Here Now: Instructions for Listening,” pop-up activity at Old Cedar Avenue Bridge on July 23, led by artists Tara Perron and Sandy Spieler.
  - Bloomington Indigenous History Presentation from Peter DeCarlo and Kate Beane at Civic Plaza on August 22.
- South Loop Community Garden: finalized site construction and garden plots, installed cyanotype art banners by Sheila Novak and Erin Genia in October.
- Creative Sparks: Installed *The Beacon of Unity* sculpture by Shirin Ghoraiishi and Safa Sarvestani at Bloomington Central Station Park in October.
- Continued promotion of South Loop Public Art Audio Tour in the Otocast App.
- Organized tours of South Loop public art for Ukrainian Exchange students, National Forum for Black Public Administrators, and QCOMP staff from Bloomington public schools.
- Artwork maintenance for Artbox cluster by Erik Sletten, and landscaping for *Confluence of Science and Nature* mural by Erik Pearson and *The Goldfinch* by Donald Lipski.
- City-wide projects and activity outside South Loop District, (funded from other sources):
  - Hometown Poetry program: installed 4 poetry signs in Bloomington parks, stamped 10 poems into sidewalks. GIS map of locations created.
  - Sponsored first Bloomington Juneteenth event, participated in meetings, supported marketing and event coordination.
  - Old Shakopee & Old Cedar Avenue: installed façade improvement projects at local businesses, including signage, patio heaters, wall repainting, window decal display, custom bench, and landscaping.
  - Supported the development of Public Health’s COVID-19 Artwork RFQ, trained intern on call for art process, facilitated artist selection process and panel meeting.
  - Worked with City’s Planning department on the mural ordinance, and the creation of the Murals Policies and Procedures document.
  - Hired new Creative Placemaking Specialist Kathryn Murray.
  - Developed and promoted a city-wide Creative Placemaking Master Plan Request for Proposals (RFP). Reviewed 17 applications and interviewed top scoring candidates.





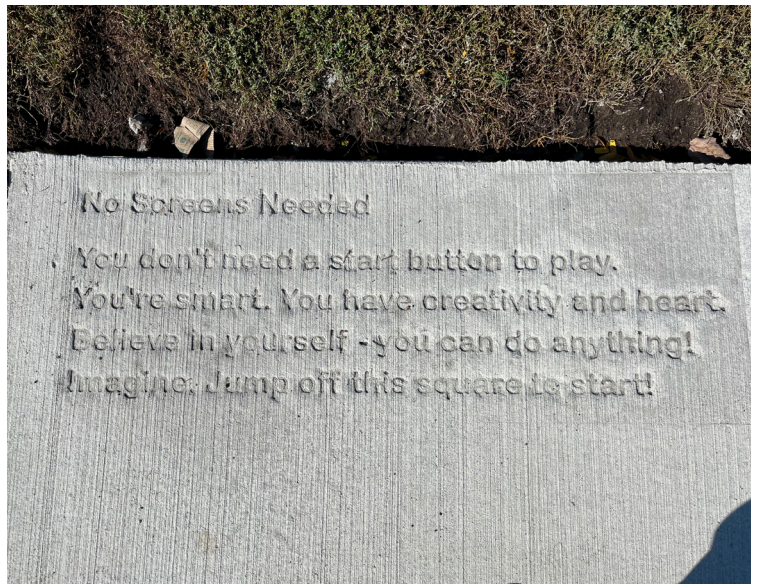
*Old Shakopee & Old Cedar placemaking, custom bench.*



*Old Shakopee & Old Cedar placemaking, custom window decals.*



*Hometown Poetry Sign*



*Hometown Poetry sidewalk stamp*



*Latino Conservation Week Festival, photo credit: Drew Arrieta*



*Latino Conservation Week Festival, photo credit: Drew Arrieta*





*Juneteenth: Celebrating Black Excellence*



*Juneteenth: Celebrating Black Excellence*



*Cyanotype banners at South Loop Community Garden, by Sheila Novak and Erin Genia*



*Small Business Center engagement, Juxtaposition Arts installation*



*Latino Conservation Week Festival, mural in progress by Pablo Kalaka. photo credit: Drew Arrieta.*



*"The Beacon of Unity," by Safa Sarvestani and Shirin Ghoraiishi.*



## **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

- Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Ranked 6th Among 20 Most Arts-Vibrant Large Communities in The Nation in 2023, SMU DataArts.
- Wakpa Triennial Art Festival named #5 of 10 Best New Festivals in USA TODAY.
- Indigenous History of Bloomington presentation at Civic Plaza black box theater sold out, 96.8% of attendees learned something new.
- WE Mural and South Loop public art featured in John McGivern's Main Streets Bloomington episode.
- Visitors continue to engage with the South Loop Public Art Audio Tour in the Otocast App. Total location views have more than doubled since going live in 2021.
- Augmented Reality Tour on Old Cedar Avenue Bridge by Adam Davis-McGee and Nancy Musinguzi: 42,885 total views (as of December, 2023). Top played and favorited lens is the Timeline. We continue to reach a younger audience with this project, with 25 years as the average age.

# **CREATIVE PLACEMAKING COMMISSION**

## **2024 PROJECTS AND EVENTS**

### **SOUTH LOOP DISTRICT**

- Seven new Artbox designs on utility boxes. Paint one Xcel Energy transformer.
- Creative Sparks, develop call for art and select artists.
- Develop an art database and formal artwork maintenance plan.
- Install 10 artwork plaques.
- Continue project scope development for Old Cedar Avenue Bridge art installation and research of Bloomington's indigenous history.
- Develop call for artist process for potential mural on the façade of the Hyatt.
- Community Garden: open garden, maintenance of garden and native plants. Install artful shade structure, benches, picnic table, and garden sign. Organize an opening celebration on June 29th and potential exhibit of banners at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.
- Bloomington Central Station Park Music Series (June 23, July 14, and August 4, 4:00-6:30 PM)
- Latino Conservation Week Festival (July)
- Explore idea of a temporary installation in the vacant lot in front of SICK.
- Small Business Center, focus on exterior art opportunities.
- On the One Music Festival at Bloomington Central Station Park, to take place in the summer.

### **CITYWIDE**

- Creative Placemaking Master Plan: engagement, outreach, demonstration project.
- Pond House art project – partner with Parks and Recreation develop scope and artist selection process with Dakota Advisory committee.
- Old Shakopee/Old Cedar Avenue (1 Artbox, explore potential pop-up event and mural).
- Hometown Poetry: stamp remaining 4 poems, repeat stamps if there is an opportunity.
- Continued efforts to build artist capacity and provide resources.
- Review mural permit applications.
- Develop an art donation policy.
- Continued advisory role with the Bloomington Remembers Veterans Memorial.
- Partner with Parks and Recreation on public art and creative placemaking at parks and BIG.
- Continue to learn, research, and share indigenous history of Bloomington.



**BLM.MN/CPC**



## Creative Placemaking Commission

### 2024 Meeting Schedule

Meetings typically take place the first Wednesdays of the month from 5:00 – 7:00 PM and are held at Bloomington Civic Plaza (1800 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington) in the McLeod Conference Room, (\*unless otherwise noted).

Some members of the Commission and presenters may participate electronically as permitted by law, Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021.

Visit the [City's agenda management system](#) to view the agenda, staff reports, and other documents related to this meeting.

#### Regular Meetings

Wednesday, January 3 (Chadwick Conference Room)

Wednesday, February 7 (Chadwick Conference Room)

\*Wednesday, March 13

\*Wednesday, April 10

Wednesday, May 1

\*Wednesday, June 12

\*Wednesday, July 10

\*Wednesday, August 14

Wednesday, September 4

Wednesday, October 2

Wednesday, November 6

Wednesday, December 4