

NICOLLET MALL PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

Short Summary of Staff, Design Team and Public Art Advisory Panel Comments



HAIL MINNESOTA

(92 Manhole Covers)

Kate Burke

"It is my hope to spark thoughts of the richness of the natural environment of Minnesota."

Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art

Manhole covers are a unique public art form and exist only a few cities. It is unlikely that future artists will find foundries willing to do these projects. These works are elegant and beautiful.

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Survey respondents ranked this work above average in terms of contributing to place. This artform takes a mundane piece of infrastructure and makes it special.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work above average in connection to community.

Use Resources Wisely

These works are low in maintenance and could last 100 years or more.



ENJOYMENT OF NATURE

Kinji Akagawa

His intention was to embrace and reflect the historic, environmental and multi-cultural/multi-lingual context of downtown and to encourage relationships and interaction.

Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art

Is one of only two early works by this artist locally.

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Survey respondents ranked this work above average in contributing to place. Design Team would like to configure it to work amongst the trees one block north.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work below average in connection to community.

Contribute to Community Vitality

Is well used, people often seen sitting there.

Use Resources Wisely

The City made a large investment in conserving this sculpture 3 years ago. With annual maintenance, it could survive for 75 years or more.

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SCULPTURE CLOCK

Jack Nelson

This is the only element on the Mall that remains from the 1960's Halprin design and is a rare, early example of integrated public art.

Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art

Design team would love to see it stay on the Mall. Provides continuity with the Mall's past. Unique in terms of mid-century modernism, artistic timepiece, kinetic nature, and verticality.

Value Artists and Artistic Processes

Have not been able to reach artist. He was known for these kinetic pieces.

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Respondents ranked this work above average in contributing to place.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work above average in contributing to community, even when it wasn't functioning. Community members have expressed concern it may not return.

Contribute to Community Vitality

This work is iconic and probably unique nationally.

Use Resources Wisely

This work needs considerable conservation and would require careful annual maintenance. It did operate for a number of years. Would probably qualify for a legacy grant.



STONEBOATS

(Two Benches), **Stanton Sears**

"...While these forms are not literally boats, they owe much of the elegance of their form to the functional requirements of real boats."

Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art

These are early examples of functional free-standing artworks in Minneapolis.

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Survey respondents ranked this work below average in contributing to place. Design team plans to keep them on the Mall.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work below average in connection to community.

Use Resources Wisely

Damage caused by maintenance equipment and skateboarders is significant. If this damage can be prevented they could last 50-100 years or longer.

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TABLEAU

George Morrison

...the basis of all art is nature; it creeps into even abstract art. The look of the North Shore was subconsciously in my psyche, prompting some of my images."

Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art

Very significant artist. Morrison is one of Minnesota's most important 20th Century artists, and also its most notable and honored Native American artist.

Value Artists and Artistic Processes

The pavement mosaic is meant to be viewed from above – it is also important for viewers to be within it, and inside it.

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Survey respondents ranked this work above average in contributing to place.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work above average in connection to community.

Use Resources Wisely

If the technical issues are addressed and with regular maintenance, this work could last 100 years or more. If they are not resolved, there should be a "plan B".



SHADOWS OF SPIRIT

(Seven shadows)

Tacoumba Aiken and Seitu Jones

Honors seven folks who built Minneapolis: Dred Scott, a Dakota woman, the first Chinese immigrant, Meridel LeSueur, Nellie Stone Johnson, the founder of the Democrat-Farm-Labor; and those involved in the 1934 labor strike.

Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art

Rare permanent work (non-mural) for these artists who have gone on to develop important careers. Arguably the most important African-American public artists in the state.

Value Artists and Artistic Processes

Artists say this work was "made for the Mall...The shadows make the Mall feel humane."

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Survey respondents ranked this work below average in contributing to place. People may not notice this work. The pieces should be closer together so they are seen as a series. Educational information would also be helpful.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work below average in connection to community.

Use Resources Wisely

Has needed very little maintenance and had very few problems. There is no reason this work cannot survive 100 years or more.

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GREAT BLUE HERON, LOON AND SAGE GROUSE FOUNTAIN

Elliot Offner

“The sculpture will be of three birds, all strongly embodying a sense of incipient action. The birds will be a Loon, the state bird of Minnesota, a Great Blue Heron, and a Sage Grouse; important birds in the natural life of Minnesota.”

Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art

Only fountain artwork owned by the City. Offner has received awards for his sensitive and expressive renderings of fish, animals and birds. Most of his sculptures are small scale. This piece is a rare, large-scale Offner work. This is one of the two most important pieces on the Mall. It is iconic.

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Survey respondents ranked this work above average in contributing to place. The public views this as a calming amenity in an otherwise very active space. This work has a large footprint and is in a very congested area on the Mall. It needs to be relocated and might be workable on the south end.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work average in connection to community.

Use Resources Wisely

If maintained well, it should last indefinitely; more than 100 years. All water features require regular care and maintenance, but annual maintenance of \$12,000 is not very expensive and will go down with replacement of parts.



A HISTORY OF MINNEAPOLIS DESIGN 1890-1990

(8 Shelters), Philip Larson

The designs are tributes to Minnesota architecture and culture. This is an example of architecturally-integrated work featuring an interplay of glasswork and its environment.

Value Artists and Artistic Processes

In terms of relocation, Larson says the shelters celebrate where they are – downtown Minneapolis, and need to be read in a series. He has several ideas regarding relocation.

Enhance Community Identity and Place

Survey respondents ranked this work average in contributing to place. The current shelters are not returning, the new shelters have a very different design, and this glass cannot go into the new shelters, due to the type of glass and scale.

Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities

Respondents ranked this work average in connection to community.

Use Resources Wisely

The shelters require a high level of maintenance. The glass continues to be vandalized and periodically breaks. They need to be re-sited where this won't occur. This work is costly to maintain, but could have a lifespan of 50 years.