

Memo

DATE: October 21, 2014
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Margaret Garrington, Chair Public Art Commission
CC: Public Art Commission Members
Ann Seltzer, staff liaison
Dennis Slattery, council liaison
RE: Annual Report to the Mayor and City Council

Mayor and City Council,

The Public Art Commission is pleased to report our work over the past year and our focus in the months ahead.

Gateway Island Project

The Gateway project continues to be our primary focus. In early January we issued a “Call for Artist”/Request for Qualifications. We received 65 responses. After numerous meetings we culled the list down to four artists we felt were the best qualified to design, fabricate and install a public art piece of a magnitude suited for the site. Each of the artists has since come to Ashland to tour the community and see the Gateway site first hand. To help inform the artists about the site and the Ashland community, we sought public response to four questions via outreach through the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, the Art Center newsletter, the Gallery Association, the City Source, the City’s website, during First Fridays and a display at the Ashland library. Attached are the responses compiled as word clouds. These results have been provided to the artists.

The artists will return to Ashland in the fall of 2015 and present their concepts to the community. A selection panel will determine which artist will be commissioned. Installation will occur in the fall of 2016.

Calle Staircase

We have contracted with a local artist to execute a sculpture for the upper pedestal adjacent to the Calle Guanajuato staircase (design approved by the City Council earlier this year). Due to an injury, the artist is not likely to complete and install her work until late next spring.

Walkway between New Theater and East Main Street

As recommended by the Downtown Beautification Improvement Committee and approved by the City Council, we are currently developing a “Call for Artists”/Request for Proposals, for public art to be installed along the walkway between New Theater and East Main Street.

Public Art Inventory

One of the goals identified during our goal setting session in March 2013 was to develop an inventory of public art in Ashland. We are currently working on that project and have decided that the inventory should include not only art commissioned by the PAC but also artistic elements in the community that contribute to the overall aesthetic of Ashland such as the beautiful stone wall at the entrance to Lithia Park. We look forward to working closely with the Ashland Chamber of Commerce on the print version of a guide to public art in Ashland. Currently, Jason Wegner in GIS is developing an electronic public art story board for the city's webpage and eventually we intend to develop an on-line "app" that can be linked from the City's current mobile site.

Newest Public Art

"Seasons of Gratitude" by Denise Baxter at the Ashland Emergency Food Bank was dedicated this past summer. Three new utility boxes are currently being painted: one at the corner of Oak Street and A Street (artist Yelena Joy) and two at the corner of Pioneer Street and A Street (artist Ann DiSalvo). On behalf of the community, the PAC thanks Barry and Katharine Thalden for donating funds to execute the mural and thanks to Brent Thompson for donating funds for the three utility boxes.

Goals and Timeline

The Public Art Commission met in March of 2013 to identify our goals and to develop a work plan to implement those goals over the next three years. Our goals include:

- Complete current and ongoing projects
 - Gateway project 2013-2016 (finalize RFQ, develop a timeframe, publish the RFQ, plan community involvement, activate selection process, installation of final piece in Fall 2016)
 - Calle sculpture project 2013-2014 (installation in 2014)
- Review, update and expand the Public Art process for the installation of public art
 - Develop a process and application packet for murals 2013 (completed)
 - Complete an inventory of Public Art in Ashland 2014 (current)
- Secure additional funding through grants
 - Develop a grant writing strategy (ongoing). Note: Last spring the PAC submitted a grant application to the National Endowment of the Arts for support for the Gateway project. We expect to hear the outcome of that grant in November.
 - Develop a matrix of appropriate granting organizations and deadlines 2013 (completed/ongoing)
 - Develop narratives to use in grant applications (as appropriate for specific projects)
- Identify future public art projects 2015
 - Identify future sites for public art outside of downtown
 - Identify placeholder for public art within the downtown

- Pursue an agreement with the Parks Commission on the placement of public art in parks
- Develop collaborative partnerships (ongoing)
 - Collaborate with other Commissions on projects
 - Keep Council apprised of the work of the PAC
 - Seek opportunities to add aesthetic value to city-owned functional pieces
- Expand public awareness of public art (ongoing)
 - Identify/develop opportunities to showcase PAC installations
 - Consider hosting/participating in First Fridays
 - Explore “coming soon” signage at public art installation sites
 - Consider developing a mobile application of public art in Ashland

The goals and work plan can be viewed on the city’s website at www.ashland.or.us/publicart
 We will be meeting again soon to update the Goals and Timeline.

One final comment:

The Public Art Commission requests the City Council consider revising AMC 2.10.040 ‘Quorum and Effect of Lack Thereof’ to allow a quorum of more than one half of the *appointed* commissioners. Currently the language requires a quorum of more than one half of the members including vacant positions.

To my knowledge, the PAC has have never had a full roster of seven members. Many of us have actively recruited people we meet that are interested in public art to apply for a seat on the Public Art Commission. Few are able to devote the time required of commissioner. Modifying the ordinance language would mean that we can continue to meet and do our work, even if one member is unable to attend the meeting. Other commissions with vacancies may also find this useful.

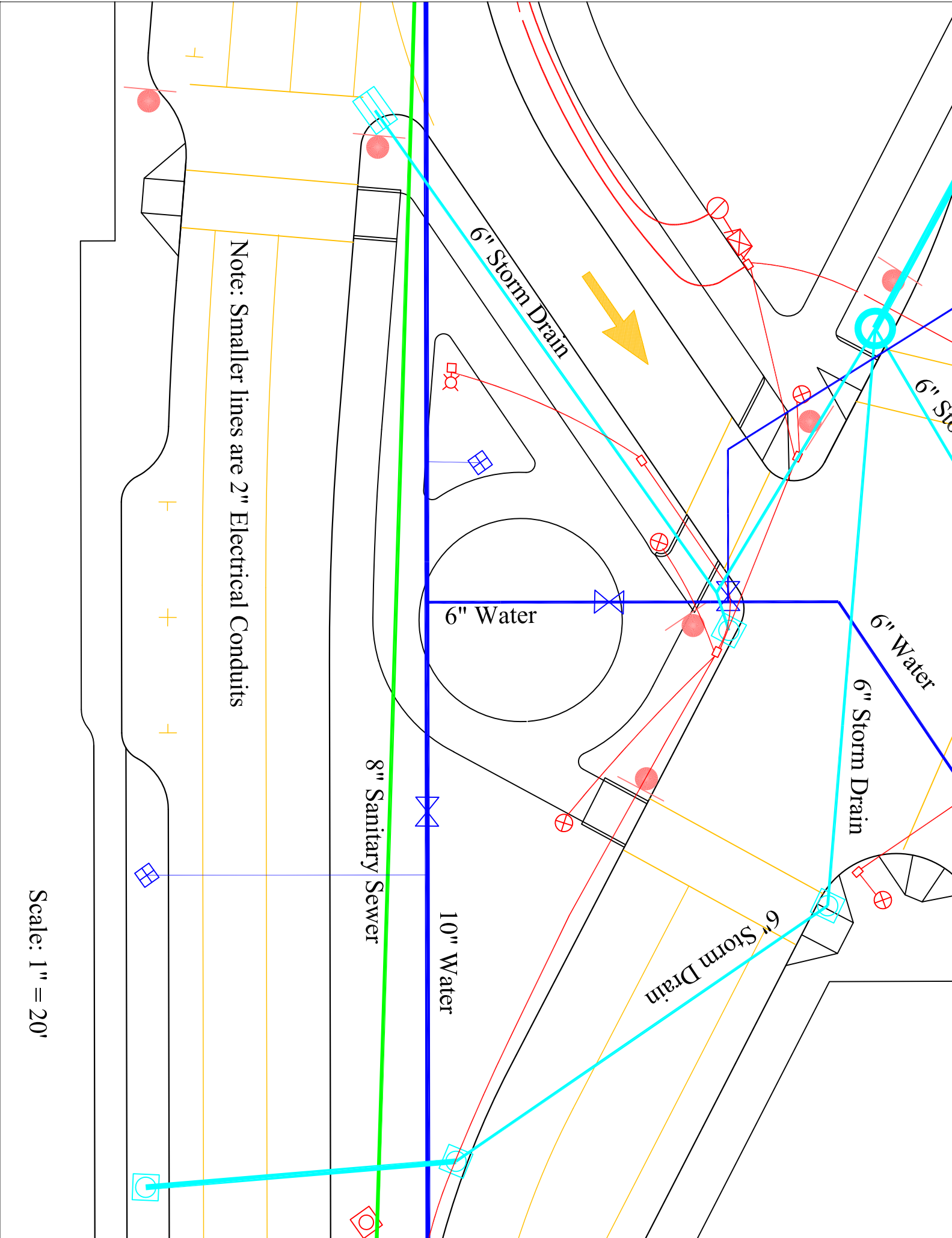
Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

Describe Ashland in Three Words



All Questions Combined





Note: Smaller lines are 2" Electrical Conduits

Scale: 1" = 20'