



Downtown Kansas City Street Art/Creative Placemaking Pilot Project, 2014

Creative Placemaking is a way in which a community can reinvent pedestrian space. Often this type of endeavor speaks to, and reflects, the issues, concerns, and objectives of its surroundings. Creative Placemaking is a site for reimagining our commute, workspace, and residence; essentially, the place we call home. Creative Placemaking is not prefabrication; it is a direct commitment with voices, styles, and rhythms of the city generating artwork. And, Creative Placemaking in Kansas City exemplifies these values.

In this first iteration of Creative Placemaking in downtown Kansas City, visual artists demonstrate talents alongside performing artists to generate an energetic creative culture within the business district of Kansas City. This endeavor hopes to supply a deep arts ecology that represents local artists working in new and innovative ways within the unique and vibrant environment of downtown design. Working with twenty artists to develop projects that respond to the climate, architecture, and composition of downtown Kansas City, the Arts in the Loop Foundation has facilitated a series of works that ask businesses, visitors, and residents to re-imagine the downtown landscape.

*Visual artworks from **Mark Allen, Rachele Gardner, Madeline Gallucci, and Robert Bustamante** help to envision new ways of exploring our downtown businesses, generating lively two-dimensional pieces that invest in pre-existing architecture to illuminate new visual engagement with spaces we see every day. Muralist **Phil Shafer** developed a street art-inspired work that illustrated identification politics within a robust, colorful aesthetic. Multimedia artist **Laura Isaac** utilized video, technology, and narrative to envision the downtown landscape through a dream-like lens.*

*Performances in Oppenstein Park have promoted a relationship between existing public art projects and a vision for further performative practice within this downtown public space. These performances have been eclectic in scope, ranging from experimental jazz from Mnemosyne Quartet, game playing with artists **Charlie Mylie** and **Lindsey Griffith**, interactive installation and storytelling with **Jose Faus** and **Emily Evans Sloan**, a site-specific night performance by local band **Quadrigarum**, a video and sound performance installation by **Mara Gibson** and **Caitlin Horsmon**, and a community engaged performance by **Sean Starowitz**.*

Connecting local visual artists with downtown Kansas City is a mutual benefit. Through creating a relationship between these artists the downtown community, Kansas City may begin to develop a new type of local visual arts visibility. This type of connection is crucial to enriching Kansas City's vision of how to engage and develop visual and performing arts culture within the city limits, and how these projects are understood within a national conversation on supporting homegrown creative culture.

Jessica Borusky, Curator
October, 2014

The Artists



Lunch Hour Knitting Circle and Letter Writing Café, by Emily Evans Sloan & Jose Faus, Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park, September 17, 2014



Angry Zebra Mural, by Phil Shafer, located on the Bonfils building near 13th & Grand, September – December, 2014



Ethereal Waters by Mark Allen, located on the east façade of the Cosentino's Parking Garage on Walnut between 12th & 13th Streets, September – November 15, 2014



Construction Players, by Lindsay Griffith and Charlie Mylie, Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park, September 9, 2014



Migratory Sounds by Mnemosyne Quartet, Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park, August 28, 2014



We Were Here Together Separately, by Laura Isaac, throughout the Art Impact Zone, October – January, 2015

The Artists



Drone of My Drone, performance by J. Ashley Miller & Quadrigarum, Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park, Sep. 10, 2014



Wrapped by Madeline Gallucci, Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park, October 2014 – April 2015



Poke a Dot by Rachele Gardner, on the Cosentino's Garage on Walnut south of 12th Street, Nov. 2014 – Jan. 2015



People as Monuments, by Sean Starowitz, Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park, Oct. 16, 2014



Map of Rain Hitting Water, HD video, color, live accompaniment/stereo, 11 min., 2011

Map of Rain Hitting Water performance by Caitlin Horsman, Mara Gibson and Mark Lowry, Prairie Logic on the Green Roof, 1217 Main Street, April 15, 2015, 7 pm



City Jungle by Robert Bustamante, Missouri Bank Garage, on 11th Street west of Main, Nov 2014 – May 2015

WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS
2014 Downtown KC Creative Placemaking Pilot Project

Gold



Silver



Bronze



Art Impact Zone



More Info

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