



# LOCKE STREET PUBLIC ART IDEAS CHARRETTE

## Group Comments

January 8, 2009

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Parish Hall

### 1.0 Background:

This charrette was organized to bring together members of the Kirkendall community with an interest in Locke Street and public art to determine those qualities, characteristics and stories that define Locke Street and the surrounding neighbourhood for the purpose of providing themes for a future public art installation along the street. The results of this charrette, along with a stakeholder focus group held on January 5<sup>th</sup>, will serve as the basis for a description of the street and proposed themes in a Request for Proposal to artists to create a public art installation on Locke Street South. This information will also be used by the jury to select a piece of public art that successfully reflects the local community and local context.

Those attending were shown a short presentation discussing the definition of public art, the processes for selecting public art, the \$50,000 project budget, possible locations and examples of public art.

### 2.0 Discussion:

The thirty five persons attending were divided into four groups and provided the following comments in response to a series of questions intended to guide the discussion. Their comments have been colour coded by group and similar comments have been noted together to identify common themes and concerns shared among the four groups.

Group A – Blue

Group B – Black

Group C – Red

Group D – Green

2.1 What are the qualities, characteristics, and stories of the Kirkendall community you think should be the subject of a public art installation along Locke Street?

- Hair salons
- Antique stores
- Antiques helped to develop the sense of the street
- Walkability
- Walkability
- Walkable
- Know the owners of businesses
- Business are members of the community
- Intimate
- Sense of connection
- People have taken personal ownership of the street
- Accessible – visually, socially and physically
- Accessibility
- Something for everyone
- People know each other
- People and community
- Community
- Busy people
- Locke Street exists because the neighbourhood uses it
- Part of the neighbourhood
- Small town in a big City
- Urban but small
- A place to meet
- Meeting place/activity – cross pollination of ideas
- Social/meeting place
- Familiarity
- Comfortable
- Seeing and being seen –sense of Theatre (not like Queen St. W. in Toronto)
- Grounded
- Authenticity
- Real – Authentic- Grassroots
- Independence/creativity
- Unofficial
- Locke Street has evolved without much City involvement
- Sense of history connected to past
- History
- Gentrification “in a good way”
- Afraid of fast change
- Change and future
- Quirky
- Cool/trendy place to be
- Safe
- Good place to raise a family
- Neighbourhood of families
- Family/reunion

- Centre/heart of the neighbourhood
- Welcoming, warmth
- Welcoming to a diverse group of people
- Diversity
- Livable
- Little Gem/ oasis in the centre of the city – tucked away

## 2.2 Who uses Locke Street?

- Younger families
- A lot of locals use the street
- Sense of family
- Locals
- Families
- Tourists that locals bring

## 2.3 What are the key physical features that make Locke Street unique?

- Narrow
- Not too long
- Store fronts
- Stores face the street
- “Main Street” character
- Continuous space and experience along the street
- Big windows face the street (reflections in glass)
- Diverse
- Diversity of the architecture
- Good architecture – streetscape – front porches
- Eclectic buildings
- Residential and commercial tightly knit – integrated
- Good building scale
- View – geography – whole street in one view – escarpment
- View from the railway bridge of the whole street
- Arched railway bridge acts as a gateway
- Railway bridge
- Escarpment as background
- Slow, safe pedestrian friendly
- Small scale – breed familiarity
- Escarpment, reservoir
- HAA grounds – better utilized – more focus
- Churches
- Church steeples
- Railway bridge
- Bold Street basin
- Alleyways
- Pedestrian access
- Frid Street industrial –railway roundhouse
- No high rises
- No modern development

- No pretension
- No loud signage
- West side “main street” character
- East side residential character
- Architectural features
- Many large trees in the neighbourhood – unique species
- Wood hydro poles
- Library

2.3 What key stories about events and people do you recall when you think about Locke Street and the Kirkendall neighbourhood?

- Street festival
- Festivals/bazaars
- David Church (present)
- Bagel shop
- Business history
- Race track
- Tram turn around
- Flood
- Industry – ceramics – newspaper
- Chedoke – golf/skiing/winter sports
- HAAA Grounds – Hamilton Tigers first Grey Cup
- HAAA Grounds - Tennis/track

2.4 What type of public art is most appropriate for Locke Street?

- Permanent or Temporary?
- Integrated with street amenities such as benches or garbage receptacles?
- Integrated with street infrastructure such as poles and manhole covers?
- Stand alone or a series?
- Like both ideas of temporary and permanent
- Permanent
- Permanent
- Prefer an integrated series
- Consider a series with pieces from more than one artist
- Mapping tracking boxes
- Art on utility boxes
- Hydro poles
- Hydro poles
- Community Bulletin Boards
- Innovative approach to seating
- Poles
- Hanging/ around posts
- Sound art
- Think of the view from the bridge
- No street banners

- Banners
- Man hole covers
- Sidewalks-integrated
- Parking meters
- More bike racks (funkify)
- Bike racks
- Functional art
- Benches/garbage containers
- Genuine art – not decoration
- Not functional
- Functional/Interactive
- Consider a piece hanging across the street
- Sculpture
- Water feature
- Clock

### 2.5 Where should public art be located on Locke Street?

- Series
- Series, dispersed preferred
- Both sides of the street
- Hub
- Possible danger of “labeling” Locke Street if a series of items are used
- Child reading sculpture at the library

### 3.0 When asked to prioritize the most important characteristics of the street the following were noted.

- People know each other
- Small town in a big City
- A place to meet
- Quirky
- Safe- good place to raise a family
- History: family, churches; sporting; industrial; business
- Walking Neighbourhood: slower pace; access to necessities; patronage, loyalty, people live here; local festival; familiarity
- Creativity/Entrepreneurial Independence: creative class; artists, musicians, writers; businesses
- Sense of Theatre – shared, public, livable, vibrant
- Sense of Diversity – buildings and people
- Walking – continuous along the street
- Room for creativity and artist’s voice in the proposal
- Art – not decoration

- No Gimmicks or themes up and down the street provide variety
- Do not want the theme to be so specific that is limiting like the recent theme used on Ottawa Street.

#### 4.0 Common Themes Among the Groups

4.1 What are the qualities, characteristics, and stories of the Kirkendall community you think should be the subject of a public art installation along Locke Street?

- It is a place to walk
- It is a social meeting and gathering place
- It is a family friendly place
- The street is at the heart of the local community and is a genuine reflection of the inclusive and welcoming nature of the diverse neighbourhood that surrounds it.
- The street has evolved in an independent and authentic way remaining grounded in its history while reflecting changes in the community

4.2 What are the key physical features that make Locke Street unique?

- Diverse architecture, relatively narrow road and smaller scale buildings combine to create a pedestrian friendly environment
- Defined length: the majority of the street can be seen in a single view from the railway bridge to Aberdeen
- Views of the escarpment
- Churches

4.3 What key stories about events and people do you recall when you think about Locke Street and the Kirkendall neighbourhood?

- Locke Street Festival
- HAAA Grounds – Sports – Hamilton Tigers first Grey Cup
- History of local businesses
- The former pond at Bold and Locke Streets
- The former street car at Herkimer Street

4.4 What type of public art is most appropriate for Locke Street?

- A permanent installation was generally preferred
- Integrated with infrastructure such as hydro poles or utility boxes

4.5 Where should public art be located on Locke Street?

- A series of pieces dispersed along the street was generally preferred



Hamilton

Community Services Department  
Culture Division