



LOCKE STREET PUBLIC ART IDEAS CHARRETTE

Focus Group Report

January 5, 2009.

9:00am to 11:00pm

City of Hamilton Culture Division Offices, 77 James Street N Suite 305.

Attending:	Bill Manson	Historian
	Patti Beckett	Arts Advisory Commission
	Tony Greco	Locke Street Business Improvement Area
	Mary-Lou Reiman	Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association
	Siobhan Lynch	Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association
	Brian McHattie	City of Hamilton Councillor Ward 1 (Partial Attendance)
	Ken Coit	City of Hamilton Culture Division (Facilitator)
Regrets	Wendy Kemp	Locke Street Merchants Association
	David Zimmer	City of Hamilton Community Renewal Division

1.0 Background:

This focus group was organized to bring together stakeholder groups with an interest in Locke Street, the Kirkendall neighbourhood 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 focus group, along with a charrette held on the evening of Thursday January 8, 2009, 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.

The group was 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:

Stakeholders provided the following comments in response to a series of questions intended to guide the discussion:

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?

- Locke Street is whatever you want it to be
- Put your imprint on it
- Evolution
- Trendy
- Meeting place
- Socializing place
- It has a neighbourhood focus – now expanding beyond the neighbourhood
- Running into people you know
- Friendly place
- Community atmosphere
- Feels like “my” street
- Diverse people
- Small stores with owners present – stores have diverse personality
- People are invested in it both financially and socially
- Vibrant
- Great place to meet
- Diverse
- Daytime FUN
- Community
- Old fashioned personal service
- Cozy and compact
- Walking , kids , dogs
- Welcoming, sociable

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

- Not long
- Intimate, small, cozy, street not wide
- Walkable
- Nice residential commercial mix
- Store fronts
- Unique areas adjacent – Tuckett Street
- Variety of architecture
- Signage hanging over the sidewalk, not all flat to buildings
- Churches “community environment”
- Independent organic growth and change overtime
- Very few buildings have been demolished over time

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

- First horse race track
- Churches
- Former street car turn around at Herkimer
- Bob-Daniel Lanois – local musicians and artists
- There was a pond near bold where creek once crossed the street
- Former industrial sites north of the tracks
 - Campbell Pottery – made sewer pipes
 - Northwest corner of Jackson and Locke always vehicle oriented –was once a blacksmith shop
- Hamilton Tigers played at the HAAA grounds.

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?
 - Places to sit (single seating not bench)
 - Places to stand and lean?
 - Avoid murals (can't have murals as all walls are on private property)
 - Street furniture
 - Hydro pole series
 - Series of pieces at the centre of the street.
 - Consider light projections or sound art

2.5 Where should public art be located on Locke Street?

- At Chatham Street
- At the Library
- At Herkimer street (if there is an opportunity to take some of the roadway)
- A series of pieces along the street

3.0 Consensus Items

3.1 When asked to prioritize the most important characteristics of the street the following were noted:

- A people place – meeting and socializing
- Welcoming community atmosphere – feels like “my street” to the members of the community
- Diversity – the street represents a rich mixture of people, uses and experiences that have evolved and continue to evolve in an independent way that genuinely reflects the diversity and history of the Kirkendale neighbourhood.

3.2 When asked to prioritize the most important physical qualities of the street the following were noted:

- Small and intimate “cozy”
- Walkable
- Diverse – Architecture from many periods, Residential and commercial mix

3.3 Type of Public Art

- The group generally preferred a permanent piece over a temporary one.



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