



Gateways Master Plan Public Comment

as received by staff

<p>Fri 3/17/2017 8:31 AM</p> <p>Elisabeth Long</p>	<p>I saw some signs just went up by the north entrance of Priest Point Park on East Bay Drive that hint at the prospect of an art installment.</p> <p>This is fantastic - I love the variety and talent that the art around town displays.</p> <p>I was wondering if the nearby residents will have a vote on what piece may/will be installed at the Priest Point Park area? The beauty and uniqueness of this stretch of road is that it is a mile of unobstructed nature -trees, ferns, water - and the art that is installed should compliment our appreciation of nature instead of possibly clashing with it.</p>	<p>Thanks for checking in! YES! The kick-off meeting is happening March 30, and after that, we will host 8 meetings for the neighbors of each gateway – most likely April 28 – 30. I will work to have those meetings promoted through the neighborhood associations. A survey is also coming soon – on the website at www.olympiawa.gov/artplan! See press release below.</p>
<p>Fri 3/17/2017 4:23 PM</p> <p>Karen Messmer</p>	<p>I was a bit taken aback by the signs I saw in a couple of places yesterday - I believe these are promoting involvement in the arts plan process. The signs were close enough together that I could not read them while driving by, and they looked like campaign sign clutter to me.</p> <p>I get that you are trying to reach out to folks where they walk in their neighborhoods. Frankly my first reaction was that some business or organization had been out putting up signs in public rights of way - the kind of clutter I find annoying.</p> <p>I guess I can only ask that these are truly temporary and I hope they do generate some involvement.</p>	<p>Thanks for checking in! Yes – these signs are temporary. Just up through the end of April. They are meant to give people a sense of where the gateways are. The webpage and press release encourage citizens to keep an eye out for them. The “fine print” on the final sign is for pedestrians.</p>



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<p>Monday, March 20, 2017 11:40 AM</p> <p>Nikki McClure</p>	<p>I have been seeing the ‘IMAGINE PUBLIC ART HERE’ signs around town. It is exciting to see Olympia invest in art. Yet I feel some of the locations are not properly situated.</p> <p>The two that I have encountered where the IMAGINE signs alone are jarring enough are on East Bay Drive at Flora Vista RD and at Henderson and Eskridge Boulevards. Both of these entrances are the gateways to giant trees and dense parks. Public art at these places would be an eyesore. Priest Point Park and Watershed Park sweep me away with their beauty. Imposing more of the man made world onto them would take away the uplifting feeling that I get every time I pass through the parks.</p> <p>I live on Flora Vista Rd, and placing art in the median there would encourage pedestrian crossing without a crosswalk. Artwork could obscure and create a possible safety issue with cars coming out of Flora Vista trailhead and neighborhood, dogs off leash at the park, and the high speeds that people still maintain heading South on Boston Harbor Rd. There is enough to keep track of at that intersection without adding public art to ponder. The placement at Watershed Park is similar. The road sweeps uphill, traffic is moving faster than it should, and schools and young drivers make that a tricky intersection already.</p> <p>I feel that placing the artworks as gateways to the city where the built neighborhoods begin/end would be a much better choice. Change the location on East Bay to the other side of Priest Point Park. Move the location on Henderson closer to the neighborhoods or Yelm Highway. As they are proposed now, artwork at these two parks will diminish the natural beauty.</p> <p>No artist could make anything as great as the trees.</p>	<p>Thanks Nikki~</p> <p>You'll find more information about the project at www.olympiawa.gov/artplan As the website notes, the gateway locations originate with the Comprehensive Plan, and are part of a greater concept of grand boulevards leading into the City. In addition to the kick off meeting March 30, there will be neighborhood meetings planned around each gateway location in addition to an online survey. As I understand it, moving the locations will require formal amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, so not an easy change. Receiving community input about gateway location change can be helpful to making that recommendation.</p> <p>I will forward your comments to our project consultant, Framework Cultural Placemaking.</p>
<p>Tue 3/21/2017 8:17 AM</p> <p>Amy Stull</p> <p>Olympia Police Department</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>Just wanted to let you know that “celebrating the entrances” is a concept in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. It creates territorial markers as well as shows people not familiar with the area that someone cares and therefore is likely to be a capable guardian of the space if crime occurs. Thought you might find that interesting and maybe useful.</p>	<p>I did not know that! Thank you! I will pass it along!</p>



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Mon 4/3/2017 7:07 PM

Steve Cifka

I noticed the Public Art proposal at the corner of Eskridge and Henderson (by Watershed Park). I LOVE the idea of public art, but am curious if that exact location at the intersection is being considered. I ask because it is a very dangerous intersection, people routinely come around the blind curve from Watershed way too fast (crosswalk) and there are consistently serious accidents there. I worry that adding more visual things will make it even less safe. A bit farther down the hill away from the intersection would be far safer. Anyway, just a concern...I walk there almost every day. Thoughts? That said, what a wonderful project! I think Public Art plays a huge role in welcoming people in tangible ways.

RESPONSE:

How kind of you to respond. I will be out of town the week of April 27, but it sounds like a thoughtful, informed process.

I think I want to make 2 points:

1. I really, really like the idea of gateway art. The power of welcoming people is very real and sets the tone in a crucial way.
2. Henderson and Eskridge is a particularly dangerous intersection with heavy traffic before and after Oly High gets out, often with young, inexperienced drivers. My friend's high school daughter had a serious accident there last year.

The danger, in addition to the volume of traffic waiting to cross Henderson from both directions, is that traffic coming south on Henderson past Watershed is usually going 40mph up the hill and suddenly comes around a blind corner to the intersection. Even when checking carefully for traffic, you can get caught by surprise.

I think a good solution would be farther northwest along Henderson so as not to add to an already visually complex intersection.

Thanks for your observations! The concept of the [Gateways](#) as envisioned by the planning Commission was to signify entry INTO Olympia, so I planted the signs on the approach to town, and in places where I could easily hammer them in. So that is NOT the literal "X" that marks the spot!

We have been engaged with City transportation engineers from the beginning and will continue to work with them every step of the way. Your comments will certainly become part of the conversation and I hope you don't stop there! We are planning a meeting around that particular Gateway location on Thursday, April 27, 6:30-8pm at the Transformational Life Church at that intersection. The intent of our public outreach is to determine physical parameters – how are the 8 Gateways different, how are they similar? Are they literal arches or gates? Are they a set of paired vertical elements. Or are they all different but sharing a color or a theme? Your particular location has a City owned parcel across the street (to the west). Is that the best spot for this location?

Hope you can make it!



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<p>Sat 4/8/2017 5:25 PM Jerry Marsh</p>	<p>I support public art to beautify our city. Four signs are placed at the corner of Eskridge and Henderson Blvd. asking me to imagine public art HERE! I cannot! We love the greenbelt that provides us natural green space as we drive through it almost daily. Given the natural beauty of this area I cannot imagine public art enhancing the experience. Please Imagine Public Art being placed elsewhere and not in a space already cherished for its' natural beauty.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. I will forward them to the master plan team!</p>			
<p>Fri 4/7/2017 8:53 AM Laudan Espinoza</p>	<p>I am inquiring about the signs on Henderson heading towards the city through the watershed park. There are a few signs that read "Imagine Public Art Here" with city branding.</p> <p>I wanted to know if there are currently plans for some sort of public art at that location? If so, how much is any proposed project going to cost?</p> <p>Any insights you can provide is greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>There are no plans as such. We are starting from a concept from the City's Comprehensive Plan, and going through a public process to determine parameters, such as exact locations, size, estimated costs, etc. Have you seen the project web-site? www.olympiawa.gov/artplan We will soon be adding the meeting schedule for neighborhood outreach. The meeting for that location is Thursday, April 27, 6:30-8pm at Olympia Transformational Life 1717 Eskridge Boulevard SE. Hope you can make it! And if you can't there, is also an online survey for comments at the web address above.</p>			
<p>Mon 4/10/2017 4:02 PM Deb Ross</p>	<p>I see that one of the possible spaces for new public art is at the foot of Schneider Hill, where West Bay Drive divides to go up the hill or on to Tugboat Annies.</p> <p>I'd love to see some art there that celebrates the historical importance of this location: I am particularly interested, of course, in the Schneider family's contributions to the diverse industries and activities of Olympia's history, as well as the immigrant experience in general. The Schneiders settled here after they moved up from near the airport, and the family were here for generations (one great-grandson of the original settlers, Ron Secrist, is still alive and was actually born on the homestead).</p>	<p>Thanks Deb! I'll pass that along to the team. I'm also just putting together information about the upcoming neighborhood meetings associated with each gateway location. The date, time and location for that area follows, and you are welcome to join in!</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1213 1219 1898 1382"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1213 1219 1423 1382">West Bay Dr & Schneider Hill</td> <td data-bbox="1423 1219 1661 1382">April 29 SATURDAY 11:30am-1pm</td> <td data-bbox="1661 1219 1898 1382">Garfield Elementary—Library 325 Plymouth St</td> </tr> </table>	West Bay Dr & Schneider Hill	April 29 SATURDAY 11:30am-1pm	Garfield Elementary—Library 325 Plymouth St
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<p>Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:59 AM Stephanie Smith</p>	<p>Q: Are you the contact to whom I would send thoughts regarding the signs posted on Olympia's East Bay Drive: "Imagine" "Public Art" "Here"?</p> <p>A: Yes! And you can participate in the project survey at www.olympiawa.gov/artplan There is also more information about the project there.</p> <p>Thank you for your quick reply. I sincerely applaud your enthusiasm for this project. However, I do not endorse it. It does nothing to change the fact that I live in a city with deteriorating streets, neighborhood roundabouts that are forested with weeds, a chaotic cityscape with eyesore lots, poorly maintained school campuses, and an infrastructure that is obviously struggling to meet the wants/needs/demands of the people who live here.</p> <p>I acknowledge, the project has merits. I understand your purpose.</p> <p>Truly, though, what does other cities' gateway art say? Who believes in "Lacey, the city of kites soaring above frolicking children?" Planting a monument to an ideal does not make it a reality.</p> <p>I will spend my time on projects that invest in maintaining what already IS Olympia.</p> <p>Thanks, anyway, for the invitation.</p> <p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>The gateway through Priest Point Park is already fully equipped with natural art. PLEASE consider that placing human art there would undermine the beauty that is already in place.</p>	<p>Thank you - I'll add your comments to the record.</p>
<p>Tue 4/18/2017 6:43 AM Susan Smiley Burgoon</p>	<p>I've seen signs in two locations for public art- the Deschutes Parkway and the intersection of Harrison Avenue and Division Street. I understand that these sites have been determined as gateways. I believe both are poor choices for public art.</p> <p>Enforcing the integrity of original landscape plans, so that the Harrison/ Division corner, and many other sites in the City, wouldn't degrade to unsightly streetscapes would be a valuable use of public funds. This approach would add to the attractiveness of the entire City, with multiple benefits.</p> <p>Respecting the beauty of nature in a natural setting, has also proven to be an attraction, to residents and visitors alike, in communities throughout Washington.</p> <p>Photographs are attached.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div>	<p>Thank you - I'll add your comments to the record.</p>



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<p>Thu 4/27/2017 12:04 PM</p> <p>Bob Jacobs</p>	<p>These are my comments for the record on the Oly Hi meeting last nite, which I had to leave early to attend another meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only two of us attended. Better publicity may be in order. 2. I was glad to meet Angel Nova. She seems very nice. 3. The hired facilitator seemed very nice too, and quite organized and knowledgeable. Sorry I didn't get her name. <p>Now to the actual substance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. I agree with the other person who attended that basic city services need to come first. The deteriorated condition of our streets -- and soon our buildings -- is a huge problem that needs funding ASAP. 5. However, if and when these gateway art works are installed, I have several suggestions that apply to all of them: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. They should be low-maintenance installations, in order to minimize long-term costs. b. They should have low vandalism potential in terms of : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) materials/construction (2) location -- traffic islands, like Lacey's, not planter strips next to sidewalks. c. low accident generation potential (distraction). <p>I hope these comments will prove helpful.</p>	<p>Thank you -- glad you could make it!</p> <p>Response: Another thought --</p> <p>When using OHS for meetings, <u>specify the North St. or the Carlyon Ave. entrance.</u></p> <p>We all guessed wrong and had to backtrack and go around -- a lengthy route.</p> <p>This is true for all large schools, HS and MS. They have multiple entrances.</p>
<p>Wed 4/26/2017 9:52 AM</p> <p>Nikki McClure</p>	<p>I have a friend from Japan arriving Friday to stay with us, so I can't make the meeting.</p> <p>But here is what I would say. Please share with others who attend.</p> <p>I wish it were somewhere else. I think it will detract from what is already there- the grandeur of the forest against which any artwork will seem small and unneeded.</p> <p>Whatever is chosen, I hope it is obscure and in no ways realistic or narrative, That it leaves EVERYTHING unsaid and up to the viewer to decide. I also hope that it is durable and not shiny, does not obscure traffic, and is not a surface for graffiti.</p> <p>But if it is narrative, then an obelisk with a story of geologic time- not just white settler history, but rock and forest history- would also do. It would get mossy and lichen covered.</p> <p>No text. No people. No animals, please.</p> <p>Please keep me posted about the process.</p>	



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<p>Mon 5/8/2017 6:40 PM</p> <p>Stephen Baker</p>	<p>I like public art. Am also surprised Woodruff Park isn't named as a host site. Seems like there is a lot more traffic - both vehicular and pedestrian at Woodruff, than in some of the other proposed locations -e.g. West Bay Drive. If the point is human enjoyment ya need to go where the people are. And there already is the 7-Oars Park, too --which to me seems more WBD-themed.</p> <p>My perspective, having resided on both WBD and across from the park.</p>	<p>The Gateways concept originated with the Olympia Planning Commission and is “codified” so to speak, in the City’s Comprehensive Plan. They had envisioned Gateways tied to grand boulevards leading into the city – which is why many of the gateways points (East and West Bay Drives, Deschutes Parkway) were chosen. So in picking up the Gateway component for public art, the Arts Commission is not particularly free to make location changes. If there is a substantial reason to make a change, an amendment can be made to the Comprehensive Plan, with significant justification and public input. The Comp Plan text and map can be found at www.olympiawa.gov/artplan There is also a survey there, if you have not yet taken it!</p> <p>I will add your comments to the record and forward them to the consultant team.</p>
<p>Wed 5/10/2017 11:28 AM</p> <p>Todd Stamm</p>	<p>I just wanted to congratulate you and the Arts Commission on keeping this project moving forward. I’m sure I’m not the only one both surprised and pleased with the energy you’ve brought to this idea. I was especially impressed with how well your public outreach describes what had been a rather vague concept.</p>	<p>Happy to add this to the record - thanks! I hope you have filled out the survey - www.olympiawa.gov/artplan Closes tomorrow!</p>
<p>Fri 6/9/2017 10:49 AM</p> <p>Jackie Wall (Nisqually Tribe)</p>	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>Thank you for the notification. I hope that you are incorporating native design into at least some of these works of art. Some of the locations may be in sensitive areas, especially those near the water. I look forward to receiving any updates on this project.</p>	



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<p>Fri 6/16/2017 11:33 AM</p> <p>Stephanie Neil</p>	<p>Thank you for contacting the Squaxin Island Tribe Cultural Resources Department regarding this project. I am responding to you on behalf of Rhonda Foster, THPO. Sorry it took me so long to respond to you, we've had a really busy spring here and I'm way behind. This sounds like a great project that will be a lot of fun. I understand from your email below that you do not yet know what ground disturbance will look like so please just keep us informed when you know more.</p>	
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