

# **Imagine Art Here! Richardson Workshop Report**

## **Background**

On June 11, approximately 45 people gathered at Huffhines Recreation Center to participate in Imagine Art Here!, a workshop facilitated by Via Partnership and Todd W. Bressi as part of an initiative to develop a public art master plan for the City of Richardson. The purpose of the workshop was to help give shape to a public art vision for Richardson and to provide critical input into identifying places for and approaches to public art throughout the community.

## **Workshop Format**

The workshop began with a welcome from Arts Commission chair Richard Luttrell and Assistant City Manager Shanna Sims-Bradish. Consultants Meridith McKinley of Via Partnership and Todd Bressi then reviewed the public art master planning process, and how the Imagine Art Here! workshop would play a role in forming the recommendations in that plan.

The consultants then made a 20-minute presentation about public art, focusing on a number of places or settings specific to Richardson: Parks and Trails, Community Facilities, Neighborhoods, Galatyn / Eisemann Center Area, Main Street/ Belt Line / 75 Area, and New Development Areas (Telecom Corridor / Bush Turnpike).

Participants were then invited to take part in the first breakout session. Each breakout table of approximately 6-9 people was assigned one of the places outlined above and were given the charge to:

- Develop a vision statement for public art in this place / family of places.
- Brainstorm possible locations and approaches for art in this place / family of places.

Following the first breakout, the consultants made a second presentation on different thematic approaches to public art that may be relevant in Richardson: environment, technology, history, placemaking, identity and temporary.

Participants were then invited to take part in the second breakout session. Each breakout table of approximately 6-9 people was assigned one of the above approaches and were given the charge to:

- Develop a vision statement for this approach to public art.
- Brainstorm possible locations for this approach to art.

Facilitators helped guide the conversation and record the responses for both breakouts.

In addition to the breakout discussions, workshop participants contributed input by filling out an exit questionnaire that allowed participants to elaborate on ideas or concerns they have about public art in Richardson.

This report documents the results of this workshop, including reports from both breakouts and the exit survey. The results of the Imagine Art Here! workshop will be used by the consultants to formulate recommendations in the public art master plan.

## **Breakout Reports**

### **Breakout #1: Art + Place**

Participants broke into six groups to develop a vision and brainstorm ideas for public art in the following places or categories of places in Richardson.

- Parks and Trails
- Civic and Community Facilities
- Neighborhoods
- Galatyn / Eisemann Center Area
- Main Street/ Belt Line / 75 Area
- New Development Areas  
(Telecom Corridor / Bush Turnpike)

What follows are the recorded notes from each breakout.

### **Parks and Trails**

#### ***Vision***

Public Art for Parks and Trails engages people, encourages participation, celebrates nature and creates identity with fun, functional and multi-sensory amenities.

#### ***Keywords***

- Nature
- Amenity
- Fun
- Interactive / Participatory
- Attraction
- Encouraging
- Celebratory
- Identity / Marker
- “Richardsonesque”
- Functional
- Welcoming
- Multi - Sensory

#### ***Draft Vision***

To create interactive works that celebrate nature and engage our community in the parks and trails throughout Richardson.

### **Community Facilities**

#### ***Vision***

Public art in community facilities should...

- Display vibrancy of the contributions, cultures and accomplishments of the city – celebrate our civic pride
- Be illustrative of the high-tech origins of the City

- Be whimsical but at the same time cerebral
- Be reflective of the cultural diversity of the community
- Move viewers to action and reaction: stop & think
- Inspire ideas / connections between art and nature
- Encourage / promote sustainability
- Plan public art into new construction budgets

## **Neighborhoods**

### ***Vision***

Public Art in Richardson Neighborhoods will inspire, enhance pride, and enrich our community through opportunity for individual artistic expression leading to a welcoming neighborhood!

### ***Vision Draft***

- pride in community & value of life
- value of life
- inspiration of community
- identity of neighborhood
- sense of community
- enriching the community
- sense of peace
- welcoming
- opportunity for individual artistic expression

## **Galatyn / Eisemann Center Area**

### ***Vision***

Public Art in Galatyn Urban Center will encourage gatherings and reflect the juncture of art and industry. It has the opportunity to reveal our history and anticipate our future.

### ***Goals***

- Reflect the activities / events in this area
- Bring people to the area

### ***Ideas***

- Entryway markers to designate the district
- Opportunities for parking garage exteriors
- Delineate the district by iconic images
- Possibly hang art work from the Eisemann ceiling
- Use fun street signs to depict artists offerings “Toppers”
- Private galleries in vacant retail area (Sol Irlandes)

## **Main Street / Belt Line / 75 Area**

### ***Vision***

Public art should create a destination that is a confluence of cultures, of history and a future of gathering around the arts

### ***Objectives***

- create a destination
- cluster gathering around the arts

### ***Vision Draft***

- Past, present, future balance history and modern
- A collaboration of all the cultures, where cultures meet
- Confluence: cultures; history/future; gathering/arts

### **New Development Areas**

#### ***Vision***

Public Art in New Development Areas will...

- celebrate & honor strong branding
- create artistic statements that evoke the present and future of the City
- provide an identifiable place
- give a fun or emotional backdrop
- draw people to the area
- make people excited to return
- create a “vibe/presence” that visitors will remember
- create an “IDENTITY”
- bring industry and the arts together, enhancing the lives of all who live here – quality of life
- build pride in the community

#### ***Ideas***

- Light the water tower at Central Expressway at Main Street and at Campbell.
- Partner with Fossil (Central Expressway and Spring Valley) on an entryway marker into Richardson.
- Campbell Road on the west is another important gateway, especially for cyclists.
- Like works that are technology-based and changing, all along Central Expressway.
- Like works like Ned Kahn – ever-changing, reflects community, everyone sees something different, invites individual contemplation, encourages you to sit and stay
- Use theme of “wildflower” to bridge nature and technology.

## **Breakout #2 – Art + Ideas**

Participants broke into six groups to develop a vision and brainstorm ideas for public art in Richardson related to the following approaches.

- Environment
- Technology
- History
- Time
- Identity
- Placemaking

What follows are the recorded notes from each breakout.

### **Environment**

#### ***Vision***

Public Art & Environment in Richardson will...

- harness natural resources in an artistic expression
- encourage environmental protection
- connect citizens and Richardson's natural beauty
- reflect topography
- appreciate green spaces, light, sound, water & wind
- participate in nature
- be rejuvenating

### **Technology**

#### ***Vision***

Art and Technology in Richardson will...

- Be interactive
- Appeal to youth
- Incorporate sight and sound aspects tactile / multi-sensory
- Be unique
- Be captivating
- Be unforgettable
- Be where art meets innovation
- Never stay put or be static/ mobile
- Reactive to the latest trends / adapt
- Highly accessible
- Intellectual and whimsical
- Be sustainable
- Be our identity
- Be exciting
- Night Parks

#### ***Ideas***

- Visually arresting, high-tech art in unexpected places
- Develop apps to find art, interact with art

- Biennial high-tech art festival / connect to industry
- Re-brand telecom corridor as innovation corridor
- DART is an ideal location
- Civic complex is important location
- UTD is an important location
- Audience: 1) people who live and work in Richardson, 2) people visiting, 3) people passing through

## History

### *Vision*

Public Art & History will celebrate and define identity through:

- Honoring tech – past and present
- Recognize commitment to education and culture
- Honoring contribution old timers and newcomers- incorporating all cultures

### *Ideas*

- Telling our history to the world in art, perhaps w/a museum of history of Richardson coupled w/art gallery – museum as well as a giant bandshell (in Breckinridge Park?) for outdoor performances and non-profit use.
- Some kind of art that remembers the Indians, the train, interurban and Miss Belle’s house, windmills, and pigs of own farms.
- Interactive water feature in Prairie Creek Park.

## Placemaking

### *Vision*

Placemaking art will:

- Be iconic and represent Richardson’s history
- Reflect Richardson’s many cultures that come together (Downtown Richardson)
- Provide opportunities for families to enjoy
- Reflect the identity of the community and natural beauty of the area
- Citywide icon (i.e. bike racks, lamp posts) making a functional item artistic

### *Ideas*

- Breckenridge Park – Play elements w/nature theme
- Neighborhood Parks – building on unique elements of the neighborhood
- Central Trail
- Cottonwood Park – Permanent art/ entry way/ pavilion
- Bike racks
- Keep art in mind for city projects
- Arapaho, near City Hall Library is an opportunity
- Like the natural map idea
- Home of Collins/TI – tying together the past and the present

## **Identity**

### ***Vision***

To create culturally cohesive works that embody iconic qualities of distinction, continuity, unity, and historical narrative that are scalable to varied environments.

### ***Keywords***

- Iconic
- Distinctive
- Repeatable
- Story Telling
- Continuity Around Town
- “Green”
- Scalable
- Relatable
- Unity
- City...Neighborhoods...Location

## **Temporary**

### ***Vision***

Temporary Art will...

- Appeal to Richardson’s spirit of innovation
- Maintain people’s interest and drive further interest in public art
- Create opportunities and experiences for long-term civic memory
- Attract people to Richardson

> Temporary public art in Richardson will encourage diverse, interactive participation by enhancing living and Richardson and bringing people to Richardson.

> Temporary public art in Richardson will be an easy, low-cost way to create and establish an art community and identity

> Temporary art should be placed in many different locations in the city and not necessarily in the same locations. Creates a reason for people to come into Richardson to eat, shop, etc. who otherwise would not come in.

## Exit Questionnaire

Participants were invited to fill out a questionnaire at the end of the workshop in order to be certain that everyone had the opportunity to participate as well as share additional thoughts. This form asked five questions:

1. Why do you think it is important for the City of Richardson to support public art?
2. What are you looking forward to most about public art in Richardson?
3. What was the most exciting idea you heard this evening?
4. What image of a public art project from today's presentation will stay with you?
5. Please share any questions, suggestions or concerns you might have about public art in Richardson that weren't addressed at today's workshop.

The responses to these questions are below.

### **1. *Why do you think it is important for the City of Richardson to support public art?***

- It gives us an identity (reason to live, come to Richardson)
- Public art is a tangible means by which residents and visitors are encouraged to identify place with a specific work of art.
- It takes our long history of support and interest in the arts (in City & RISD) and extends it to our outdoor public spaces.
- We are a unique city – want everyone to know.
- Richardson has an active cultural life full of diversity as well as new traditions that the community leaders want to develop and therefore raise the quality of life for everyone.
- All Great cities celebrate the arts.
- City of Richardson needs to develop more walk way for pedestrians so that people can mingle, visit and enjoy the public arts.
- Quality of Life.
- To help Richardson create its own identity and to encourage the community to explore the entire city.
- An Integrated part of an educated and sophisticated community.
- It enriches us personally and the community.
- Without art, we lose our history.
- A sense of community pride and community history.
- It's also important for Richardson to require business developers to include large scale public art in their projects.
- Enrich people's lives every day with art; Make city statement supporting city art.
- Art defines our humanity and feeds our senses.
- Provide access; create identity (shared by the diverse residency).
- Quality of life.
- Because art is important and has lasting effects and impacts our lives.
- To maintain a strong sense of community identity via artistic reference points.
- Says what the City represents and that the community has a stake in the arts.
- All great cities must involve themselves in the arts.
- The people of Richardson deserve great art.
- It is a barometer to the concerns and culture of the community.

- Because Richardson is growing so rapidly and becoming more “urban” so the public art is necessary to keep our community “beautiful”.
- Celebration – Civic & community
- I think it is always important to have art because it shows sense of pride in the community.
- We need a permanent identity to set us apart from being just “North Dallas” and pass through city.
- Provides cultural sensitivity and enjoyment to the community.
- Why not?
- It’s a universal language that will transcend generations.

**2. *What are you looking forward to most about public art in Richardson?***

- Ability to interact with the art
- Being an artist that gets to participate in the creation of Public Art in Richardson.
- Adding some visual interest to our community.
- I love art – visual.
- Continued exploration of ideas and ideas have been pulled together.
- Creating places – “Meet by the ...”
- Any public arts in good.
- Creating arts community with City.
- Interactive works
- Just finally doing it!
- More sculptures – lighting – murals-water fountains – ponds, etc.
- Sense of identity.
- The pride of showing out-of-town guests and visiting family who used to live here the City art.
- I’m looking forward to more outdoor art around Eisemann as setting for outdoor street artists.
- Being with art every day – living in art.
- Seeing interesting works.
- Integrating the creation of art; public art as a means of fostering dialogue, discussions, exchanges about art (forms).
- All of it!
- Being able to participate and possibly contribute as a Richardson artist
- To give the City an identity... a “vibe”.
- Just to see what comes out of everyone’s ideas.
- Seeing it become a reality.
- Including the community and making a statement that is bold.
- Looking forward to seeing how public art will evolve in the future.
- Community participation, neighborhood accessibility, family involvement
- Park and Recreation; Downtown, etc.; Neighborhoods.
- It is something that our city gives to the present and future.
- A true reflection of the thoughts of the citizens.
- Iconic arts and small functional items as art.
- The finished products and the comments!

**3. *What was the most exciting idea you heard this evening?***

- Art that exists on the trail bike racks that look like art (multipurpose amenities).
- Creating public art that connects people; Enhancing bike trails, connections between the east/west opposite sides of H-75, etc.
- Using solar power to add light to art.
- Richardson will actually fund and facilitate art around the city!
- An agreement among participants for a feature creating identity telling our story while becoming self-sustaining.
- My fave is still the sparkle dog! :)
- Too many.
- Temporary art.
- So many options!
- Uniqueness and people working together; lighting under expressway overpass.
- Lighting the underpasses.
- That there is a movement for Richardson public art.
- The photos of other public art projects were most interesting.
- Build museum as piece of art... Build large “art history” museum incorporating local history, gallery space for art shows, and entertainment space for nonprofits; Bandshell or inside venues.
- Decorating under overpasses.
- High Tech / Art Festival
- That public art and an arts space may actually become a reality for Richardson!
- Creating “night parks” - Parks for people to gather with lots of night lights and night life.
- That Richardson is considering public art.
- Using billboard spaces for temporary installations.
- I would like to hear a plan to promote the art and artists in this area through the public art displayed
- All was exciting to me!
- Develop natural resources in and artistic, sustaining, educational way.
- Art that improves the neighborhoods.
- That Richardson is Finally doing something about public art.
- Lights under bridges, art on parking garages.
- Incorporating art into the community.

**4. *What image of a public art project from today's presentation will stay with you?***

- Spirit Tree > place where people can leave thoughts but degrades over time.
- I enjoyed it all and had seen most of it before. There's other great public art that could have been shown for inspiration.
- Fixture on Lake or pond that generates soft sounds.
- Create the identity of the City icon accessible and cohesive.
- “Light Bright” idea; Hands on parking structure; \*Also idea of each business park doing something cooperative with bike parks (= City “Icon”).
- Stone turtle and the wooden bridge – wonderful ways to enhance parks!; We need more inter-active features throughout our parks and trails.
- Giant dog and literature signs.
- Artistic benches at bus stops; Unique tree in pond.
- The Cardinal.
- Solar flowers, Austin, TX.
- High tech giant lit sculptures.

- Wall of parking garage with discs that wave in wind.
- Innovative use of art on parking garages.
- The interactive plaza with the squares.
- The projection onto buildings; the wind sculpture.
- Building with changeable art.
- Wind and solar powered kinetic art.
- Physically interactive artwork.
- Artist designed solar collector; interactive mural environmental art; lots of those images!
- Dog; Dog park; Spiral walkway.
- Statue of the dog in the park; Art designs.
- The innovation in lights on library (and Walter Cronkite) and the core sample.
- The environmental art.
- Lighting effects.

**5. Please share any questions, suggestions or concerns you might have about public art in Richardson that weren't addressed at today's workshop?**

- Like idea of having perhaps changing art space for public art to celebrate kids/residents. Like idea of using environment (sun, wind, etc.) to make art interesting and engaging. Important to involve kids (permanent art/temporary art), residents (permanent art/temporary art).
- Create a welcome tree that is the center of an annual celebration to welcome newcomers to Richardson. Newcomer who are individuals, groups, businesses, etc. Perhaps in a large park using a large tree that becomes designated as the "Welcome Tree".
- This is not the end of this is it?
- Weren't addressed: cost – funding.
- Be sure to involve people of vision at the decision making level.
- Would be exciting to have 10-12 interactive works that are defined by a theme. These would be spread throughout the entire city, like a scavenger hunt. Could be promoted that way as well. This would encourage our community to become more engaged and would define Richardson's identity.
- Some representation of the Richardson history Indians around our creeks (spring). The railroad that brought Richardson to be... More public spaces.
- Where is the money coming from? We Sr. citizens cannot afford more taxes. I'd like a place like Dealy - Royal & Hillcrest use to. To see art made and sold.
- Looking at the other groups ideas, I love that the wide range of idea's include many of my own.
- There was no mention of any one centralized museum of art. Richardson sorely needs one! A permanent collection as well as traveling expositions.
- What will it cost? Who and how will this be funded... long term?
- Why not hold "contests" for ideas for specific locations in Richardson either from artists who would like to compete to do the project or just from the general public.
- Where are the funds coming from? Public or private sector? Suggestion: Have better images or better projection conditions. Too many of the images were poor quality and lost impact as a result.
- I would like there to be a focus on "area" artists. Also that the art chosen is more than a decorative statement.
- Great job!
- Challenge business to sponsor public art works on-site?

- How do you select your artist?
- I would love to be able to have a continuing part of this planning, especially since other topics interested me.
- The workshop collectively addressed these considerations. I'd rather go with that than my individual ideas. Very happy with outcome.
- Please have presenters use better photos for examples. Very poor...