

Village of Algonquin ***Public Art Master Plan***

Introduction

The Village of Algonquin has undergone a significant transformation over the past 30 years. Not long ago Algonquin was a quiet tourist town with a small commercial area downtown. In the mid 1970's people "found" Algonquin and we have evolved into a thriving suburban community with a population approaching 30,000 residents. The creation of a comprehensive Public Art Master Plan is based on an understanding of the historical and cultural influences that exist in the Village of Algonquin, as well as knowledge of its natural and built environments. From the first known inhabitants to its incorporation as a Village, the area that is now Algonquin shares much history. In its current era of growth since the 1970's, Algonquin has become the hub of commerce in Northern Kane and Southern McHenry Counties. Over time, Algonquin's image has been affiliated with traffic, residential growth and significant retail development. The creation of a Public Art Master Plan is based on the belief that public art enhances and defines a Village's image. Art makes public spaces more welcoming, and it creates a deeper interaction with our environment—the places where we live, work, shop and play.

While the Village has emphasized economic development, the Village and its citizens also value active neighborhoods, the remaining open spaces, and the Village's surrounding natural beauty. This is evidenced by the enhancement of vintage structures in the Old Town District, the protection of the wooded bluffs west of downtown, and the restoration of Woods Creek and its adjacent wetlands.

Taking into consideration the physical layout of the Village, as well as the above factors, the Public Art Master Plan offers a cohesive way of thinking about the Village and public art. They are starting points for evaluating and prioritizing existing and potential sites for the display of art.

Ideally, a public art program should:

- Provide a sense of identity for the Village
- Encompass a variety of art forms with varying scale, media, and styles
- Harmonize with the buildings, streetscapes and open spaces of the Village
- Include artistic themes that are traditional, historic and/or contemporary

This Public Art Master Plan has been designed to foster the creation of flexible policies that provide opportunities for artful public spaces. The placement of art in public places is to enrich, stimulate and enhance the aesthetic experience. Public art should be designed to complement the visual experience that is the cornerstone of Algonquin's identity. In addition, the placement of public art throughout Algonquin will contribute to the Village's economic draw and be an on-going educational tool for the community. By virtue of the effort, the community should become a richer place for residents and visitors, and Algonquin's image in the region is more unique.



Direction

On June 8, 2004 the Algonquin Village Board Committee of the Whole directed Village staff to create a public art master plan. The Committee asked that the plan include:

- 1.) The identification of areas throughout the Village that would be appropriate for the display of public art;
- 2.) Investigate and create various funding sources including developer donations, grants and private donations.
- 3.) Consideration of the creation of an Algonquin Public Arts Commission that would identify contributing artists and evaluate the appropriateness of individual pieces of art.

Project Need

Public art creates memorable images that enhance civic pride and helps to define the Village's image to the outside world. The experience of public art makes a space seem more welcoming; it creates a deeper interaction with the places we visit and in which we work and live. It helps us remember the past, honor an ideal, and express our values and concerns to future generations. Public art engages us by creating a dialogue between the artist and the community. It makes our Village more livable and more visually stimulating.

Goals

The goals of the Algonquin Public Art Master Plan are numerous and varied. Generally, the goals can be categorized to suggest that the art master plan will enhance the community's **sense of place**; help **celebrate art**, local, regional, national and international artists and their works; improve Algonquin's **property values**; provide additional **educational opportunities**; and provide a **planning framework** to identify, place and fund, in an orderly manner, art throughout the community.



The Barrington Area Library Sculpture Garden, pictured here, is an important display in the community.

Goal #1 - Sense of Place

- A. Enhance the Village of Algonquin's sense of place in the region by providing unique artwork throughout the community in a manner unlike any other place in the area.



- B. Celebrate Algonquin’s cultural spirit and identity of the community through the creation of art in public places.
- C. Enhance the appearance and livability of public spaces, through the placement of site-specific art projects that respond to the natural and built landscape.
- D. Provide opportunities to develop a sense of pride and ownership for our neighborhoods enabling residents to encounter and enjoy the arts in our daily lives.
- E. Allow us to share with visitors to Algonquin what is important to residents of the community.
- F. Strengthen community identity, spirit and collective cultural experience through the placement of public art throughout the Village.

Goal #2 - Celebrate Art and Artists

- A. Allow local, regional, national and international artists to share their creations with the community.
- B. Increase public understanding of the role of art and artists in the community.
- C. Create a more civilized and livable community by linking arts and everyday life.

Goal #3 - Improve property values

- A. Generate a positive image that attracts visitors and potential investors, including new home buyers, business owners, and developers.
- B. Encouraging public art displays fosters upscale development and reinforces the Village’s long-standing position that quality development promotes the construction of more quality development.
- C. Create a public art collection primarily with temporary artwork loans, developer donations, and gifts. Aside from in-kind staff support, avoid using general fund revenues as a significant funding source, which will result in enhanced property values with little to no tax payer expenditures.

Goal #4 – Educational Opportunities

- A. Public art will provide Algonquin with an opportunity to continue interpreting its long and interesting community history.
- B. Allow the artist and Village to “tell their story” to visitors in an imaginative and aesthetically pleasing way.



- C. Promote interest in art appreciation and understanding of various art forms.
- D. Encourage community participation in ways that respect the diversity and interests of our neighborhoods.



- E. Create a comprehensive inventory of existing public art to stimulate and promote self-guided art tours.
- F. Provide opportunities for local schools to become a part of the community based art initiative which encourages students to work with professional artists to create art for their community.

Goal #5 - Planning Framework

- A. Provide an impetus and flexible framework for incorporating public art into new or existing capital improvement projects including parks, plazas, trails and open spaces.
- B. Establish guidelines for accepting gifts/bequests of public art and for de-accessioning public art works.
- C. Identify and develop stable funding mechanisms to ensure that resources are available to create, preserve and inventory public art works.
- D. Define the roles and foster a cooperative environment between residents, business owners, artists, developers, Village staff, the proposed Algonquin Public Arts Commission and the Village Board in developing and implementing public art initiatives.
- E. Incorporate the ideas and work of various artists and artistic disciplines in the public realm that helps advance capital project goals and other municipal objectives, such as economic development and tourism.
- F. Provide an easy-to-access public record of the potential sites/areas for future public art projects in the community.
- G. Establish clear criteria for prioritizing public art opportunities for the greatest potential impact.
- H. Create guidelines for the allocation of public art budgets appropriate to the scale and significance of the selected site.



- I. Generate a reference tool for artists, planners, the Algonquin Public Arts Commission and Village Board to be used in establishing art selection, placement and rotation policies.

Types of Public Art

What constitutes art has been discussed and debated for centuries. For the purposes of this plan public “works of art” shall mean all forms of visual art originally created by an artist or under the artist’s direction, whether contemporary or traditional in style. Works of public art to be placed in the community may include:

- Sculpture and Kinetic Art: free-standing, wall supported or suspended; in any appropriate material or combination of materials.
- Murals and Paintings: in any appropriate material or variety of materials, with or without collage, displayed both indoors and outdoors.
- Drawings: in any appropriate material or variety of materials including holographic images or any combination of forms, with or without collage, displayed indoors.
- Mosaics: including tiled composites on walkway, street furniture and wall surfaces.
- Multiples: artist’s prints including photography, displayed indoors.
- Water features: including fountains, waterfalls and decorative pools.
- Earthworks: environmental works in appropriate outdoor sites.
- Fiber Works: in any appropriate material or variety of materials, with or without collage, displayed indoors.
- Glass: including ceramics, but not limited to lighted glass including neon and plastic.
- Functional Art: including decorative furnishings or fixtures, but not limited to gates, railings, streetlights or seating, if created or decorated by artists as unique elements.



The creator of the work of art should be a practitioner in the visual arts who is recognized as a professional of serious intent. The goal for inclusion of the work of professional artists, however, should not preclude special situations in which competitions are held, or in which public artworks created as part of an educational process, including students or youth working with practicing artist/teachers.



Public Art Display Locations

As noted above, a goal of the Algonquin Public Art Master Plan is to display art in many locations throughout the Village. Every public access site in the Village however, is not an appropriate place for an art display, with this in mind, the following criterion have been developed to identify appropriate display locations.

Location Criteria

This plan identifies a number of public and private locations where public art could be displayed. These sites were selected based on the following criteria:

- Visibility and public access
- Public safety
- Interior and/or exterior traffic patterns
- Relationship of art to the site's existing or future architectural or natural features
- Function and uses of the facility or site
- Future development plans for the area which may affect the public art project
- Relationship of the proposed work to existing works of art or design elements within the site's vicinity
- Social or cultural context of the proposed artwork relative to the site and its surrounding environment

When a public art display is considered for a particular site, it is also important to consider whether or not public art in such a location has the potential to:

- Express the values, diversity and character of the neighborhood
- Illustrate the cultural or built heritage or other unique qualities inherent to the site (i.e. existing/lost landmarks)
- Recognize the unique natural settings of shoreline, bluffs, prairie and wetland present in Algonquin
- Reinforce spatial networks that link one neighborhood to another
- Enrich the visitor's experience of the place
- Enhance the daily routine of the commuter or pedestrian
- Inspire new ways of looking at the community
- Provide evidence of the developer's commitment to and investment in the community
- Reveal some aspect of the social, historical, physical or commercial context of the site
- Add to the attractiveness, and therefore, inherent value of the site

With the above listed location criterion in mind, the plan includes three categories for the display of public art:

1. Outdoor Art Display Locations On Publicly Owned Property
2. Outdoor Art Display Locations On Privately Owned Property
3. Indoor Art Display Locations In Public Buildings



Outdoor Art Display Locations On Publicly Owned Property

There are a number of excellent opportunities for art to be displayed on publicly owned properties. These areas include public parks, trail corridors, schools, plazas, rights-of-way, and open spaces.

The art master plan has identified the following 25 outdoor locations on public property:

Site Number	Location	Owner
1	Kelliher Park – Square Barn Road	Village of Algonquin
2	Future Park - Huntley Road, West of Square Barn Road	Future VOA Park
3	Spella Park - South End of Fairway View Drive	Village of Algonquin
4	Spella Park - West of County Line Road	Village of Algonquin
5	Algonquin Area Library – West of Harnish Drive	VOA/Library District
6	Woods Creek Trail – North of Bunker Hill Drive	Village of Algonquin
7	Stonegate/Huntington Drive North Open Space	Village of Algonquin
8	Village Hall – Stonegate Drive	Village of Algonquin
9	Willoughby Farms Park – Wynnfield Drive	Village of Algonquin
10	Broadsmore Park – Broadsmore Drive	Village of Algonquin
11	Gaslight Park – Terrace Drive	Village of Algonquin
12	Public Works Office – Meyer Drive	Village of Algonquin
13	Hill Climb Park – Huntington Drive	Village of Algonquin
14	Triangle Park – Main Street/La Fox River Drive	Village of Algonquin
15	Historic Village Hall Plaza – Main Street	Village of Algonquin
16	Cornish Park – South Harrison Street/Fox River	Village of Algonquin
17	Riverfront Park – North Harrison Street/Fox River	Village of Algonquin
18	Presidential Park – Highland Avenue	Village of Algonquin
19	Holder Park – Timberwood Lane	Village of Algonquin
20	Snapper Field – Longwood Drive	Village of Algonquin
21	Algonquin Lakes Park – Trail South of Route 62	Village of Algonquin
22	Algonquin Lakes Park – Adjacent To Playground	Village of Algonquin
23	Future Park - Klasen Road East Of Route 31	Future VOA Park
24	East Side Library – Eastgate Drive	Algon. Area Lib. Dist.
25	Tunbridge Park – Stonegate Road	Village of Algonquin

The above list constitutes the initial compilation of outdoor public art display locations. The locations above, if implemented, would yield a number of very visible public art displays located throughout the Village, including many of its entry corridors and high profile intersections. All of the above locations are shown on Map 1. Additional outdoor public art display locations may be added in the future.



(Insert Map 1)



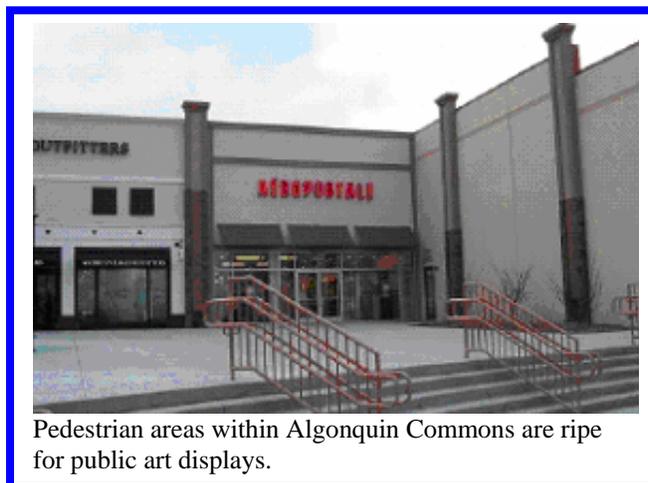
Outdoor Art Display Locations On Private Property

There are a number of excellent opportunities for art to be displayed on private properties. These areas include shopping centers, plazas and pedestrian areas. Research suggests that private corporations have been among the most frequent commissioners of public art in the United States. Private corporations have always known that commissioning public art makes good business sense. Public art often becomes a landmark in itself, creating high corporate visibility and a positive community image. Enhancement of the building and surrounding grounds increases the attractiveness of the property and can attract potential quality investors and tenants.

The art master plan has identified the following 16 outdoor locations on private property:

Site Number	Location	Owner/Developer
1	Square Barn Commercial Center – Square Barn Road	Centerville Properties
2	Prestwicke Plaza - Square Barn Road	Akton Realty
3	Future Commercial Center – Huntley Road	Par Development
4	River Pointe Shopping Center – Randall/Alg. Road	Craig/Steven Dev. Corp.
5	Woods creek Shopping Center – Randall/Sherman Dr.	Rubloff/Oakridge
6	Wal-Mart Plaza – Randall/County Line Road	Wal-Mart
7	Algonquin Commons – Randall Rd./Commons Drive	Anderson Real Estate
8	Algonquin Corporate Campus – Randall/Broadmore	L&H Farms
9	Algonquin Galleria – Randall Rd./Market Drive	Lundstrom/Mid-America
10	Briarwood Center – Randall Road/County Line	O&S Development
11	Lifetime Fitness – Stonegate Road	Lifetime Fitness Corp.
12	Southwest Corner Hanson/Algonquin Road	Future Commercial
13	Eastgate Retirement/Retail Center	Lexington
14	Southeast Corner Sandbloom/Algonquin Road	Future Commercial
15	Southwest Corner Route 25/Algonquin Road	Future Commercial
16	Stengal Property – Huntington Drive/Main Street	Future Redevelopment

All of the above locations are shown on Map 2. In addition, as other properties are annexed into the Village, and as the Village Board considers future planned developments, additional private public art display sites will emerge.



Pedestrian areas within Algonquin Commons are ripe for public art displays.

Indoor Public Art Display Locations

There are certain art forms and individual pieces, such as most wall hangings, that would not be appropriate for display out of doors. Such artworks are nonetheless important items that should be displayed for the public to enjoy. With this in mind, the plan includes a number of public buildings that would be appropriate locations for the display of public art.



(Insert Map 2)



The art master plan has identified the following 12 indoor locations:

Site Number	Location	Owner/Developer
1	CUSD 158 Administration Building – Academic Dr.	CUSD 158
2	Algonquin Area Library – West of Harnish Drive	Algonquin Area Lib. Dist.
3	Fire Station – Harnish Drive	Alg./LITH Fire Pro. Dist.
4	Village Hall – Stonegate Drive	Village of Algonquin
5	Neubert Elementary School – Huntington Drive	CUSD 300
6	Westfield Community School – Sleepy Hollow Road	CUSD 300
7	Public Works Office – Meyer Drive	Village of Algonquin
8	Historic Village Hall – Main Street	Village of Algonquin
9	Algonquin Middle School – Longwood Drive	CUSD 300
10	Eastview Elementary School – Longwood Drive	CUSD 300
11	Algonquin Lakes Elementary School – Compton Dr.	CUSD 300
12	East Side Library – Eastview Drive	Algonquin Area Lib. Dist.

All of the above locations are shown on Map 3. In addition, as other public buildings are constructed additional indoor public art sites will become available.

Considerations and Points of Emphasis For Certain Display Areas

The art display locations listed above can generally be grouped as follows:

- Public park sites
- Open space and trail areas
- Old Town District
- Commercial areas
- Roadway corridors
- Institutions (village hall, schools, fire station, library)

When an individual piece of artwork is selected by the Algonquin Public Arts Commission and Village Board for display, it need not be relegated to one specific display location; however, certain display locations clearly are more appropriate locations for certain pieces of art. The display area groupings should have some guidelines for the appropriate public art responses. The artworks shall be commensurate with the scale of the development in terms of visibility, compatibility with the architecture and landscape, and impact on the surrounding environment.

Public Park Sites – As Algonquin continues to mature and develop, its parks, trails, and recreational areas are important gathering places for the community. Typically, Village park sites are relatively spacious areas where larger pieces of artwork can be displayed. Artwork that represents children playing, leisure activities, recreation and active sports are encouraged but not required. In a park geared toward family activities, such as Town Park, artwork can be humorous, interactive, or restful. “Fragile” pieces of artwork should not be placed in park sites, particularly areas with active playground equipment. All works displayed in public parks must be durable, safe, and require little maintenance.



(Insert Map 3)



Open Space and Trail Areas – Algonquin’s trail system is expanding each year. More and more residents are discovering these trails. The placement of public art along these corridors will provide visual interest, interpretive opportunities and even surprise. Most of our trails are along natural areas including wetlands, streams, restored prairies and woodlands. Artworks with themes regarding wildlife, plants, exercise and earth forms are encouraged.



Open spaces adjacent to major roadways and entry corridors such as East Algonquin Road need public art enhancements to “brighten” the roadway for our commuters.

Old Town District – In 2000, the Village of Algonquin adopted a plan to revitalize its downtown. Since that time, the Old Town District has undergone significant positive change. The incorporation of public art will facilitate the on-going revitalization process. Public artworks can enrich people’s experiences by providing a historical context to the district. Our historic downtown area encourages pedestrian traffic and includes both public and private development. When new or renovated projects are proposed that would provide opportunities for enhanced pedestrian linkages and amenities, public art should be incorporated into the design. The parks and open spaces in the Old Town District provide the opportunity for a variety of public art projects that would enhance and enrich the public’s experience of the downtown. Artist-designed elements on the pedestrian level could include benches, planters, or street lights that create individuality for a particular street or block. Small-scale works integrated into building fronts or alleyways can provide visual surprises, humor, and/or historical references to the area. The district allows for a variety of art responses including murals, ceramic tile, and freestanding abstract or representational works. The artwork in this area should be of a human scale, rather than monumental, and should, wherever possible and appropriate, celebrate and interpret Algonquin’s rich history.

Commercial Areas – Most of the identified private outdoor display areas are within large shopping centers such as Algonquin Commons and the Algonquin Galleria. These larger-scale projects include large pedestrian areas and plazas that create opportunities for highly visible and accessible art statements. The incorporation of prominent public art elements such as fountains, large-scale sculpture; or landscape elements (i.e. pergolas) within plaza areas, building exteriors, or streetscapes; should be part of the planned development review and approval process. These sites may also be the most appropriate locations in the Village for contemporary or even abstract works of art.



Roadway Corridors - As a crossroads and major commercial hub of McHenry and Kane Counties, Algonquin has a network of roadways that increasingly has become the defining experience of residents and visitors. Roadway rights-of-way and green space setback locations could be appropriate places for public art displays. If said sites are selected, great care should be taken to ensure that the art does not impair vehicular sight lines. Artwork displays along these major thoroughfares will provide visual opportunities to enhance the traveler's journey. Murals or tile elements can enliven blank retaining walls; painted metal images can replace barriers on pedestrian bridges and overpasses. As streets are widened, or sidewalks and streetscapes improved, artist-designed elements can also be included. Many of these major thoroughfares are also "gateways" to our Village. These entrances to Algonquin present an opportunity to define and announce the character of the community while celebrating connections between the Village, surrounding communities, and the natural setting. These areas should be considered as one, ongoing cohesive project. A design team consisting of artists, landscape architects, and community members should be chosen to create an overall concept and plan for the six major entrances to the community. For example, the team might research historical symbols that could be reproduced in different media and in a scale appropriate to the various locations.

Institutions – Most of the indoor public art display locations recommended within this plan are public institutions including municipal administrative offices, schools, fire stations, and libraries. These buildings are the most appropriate locations for art works that cannot handle weather; are fragile; need illumination or power sources. Small pieces, which can only be appreciated on an intimate human scale, are also only appropriate at indoor locations. Thematic art works that are representative of the activity within the institution should receive a locational preference.



The outside reading area at the library would be enhanced with public art displays.

Criteria For The Selection Of Artwork

Criteria to be used in the selection of public artwork, whether by public offering, commission, purchase or gift, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- **Context:** Works of art must be compatible in scale, materials, form and content with their surrounding. Consideration shall be given to the architectural, historical, geographical, and social/cultural context of the site.
- **Artistic Quality:** Works of art must be unique and shall include excellence in craftsmanship, originality in conception, and integrity of materials.

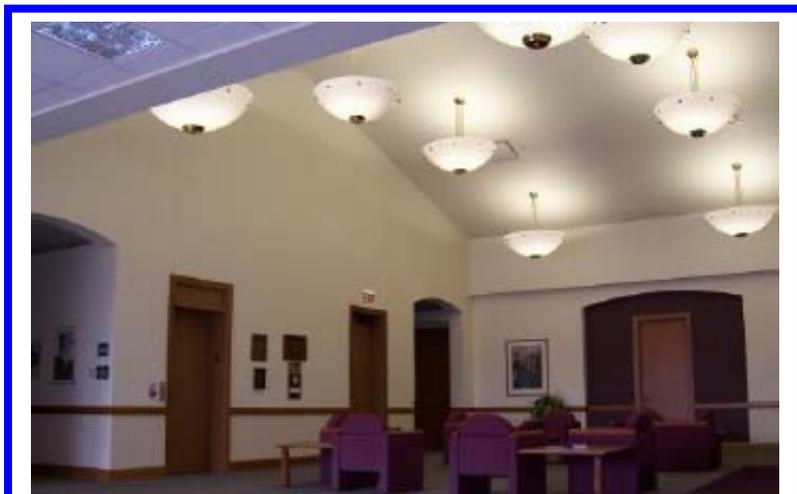


- **Media:** All forms of media may be considered. Works may be portable, permanently affixed, or incorporated in the design and/or function of a public space. Temporary exhibits or installations may also be considered for extended periods of time.
- **Permanence:** All artwork, whether permanent or temporary shall exhibit structural and surface soundness, and be resistant to theft, vandalism, unintentional weathering, and excessive maintenance or repair costs.
- **Public Safety:** All works of art shall be evaluated to ensure their compliance with public safety requirements.
- **Visibility:** Public art will only be placed on private property if it has a high degree of public visibility and accessibility.

Village staff, the Algonquin Public Arts Commission and Village Board shall use the above listed criteria as its basis for determining whether or not an individual piece of artwork is appropriate for public display. Village staff and the Algonquin Public Arts Commission shall be encouraged to provide more detailed, easily understood art selection criteria to all artists interested in offering artwork for display consideration.

Methods To Create The Public Art Collection

There are a number of ways that the public art collection can be developed. These methods include temporary loans of artwork, private development, purchase, and acceptance of gifts.



The Village Hall foyer would be a great location to display artwork indoors.

Temporary Loans - The primary goal of the Algonquin Public Art Master Plan is to publicly display in very visible and accessible locations works of art created by local, regional, national and international artists. With this in mind, the primary means recommended to “build” the public art collection is through the temporary display of

artwork loaned to the Village from local artists. As shown on Maps 1 -3, there are numerous areas – both public and private; and indoor and outdoor; where the Village can reserve space for art displays. The Village can also provide pedestals where needed to properly display and/or anchor the artwork. The Village Community Development Department, in cooperation with the Parks and Forestry Division, Algonquin Public Arts Commission and Village Board will pre-approve these display sites and make it known to area artists that these places are available as



public art display locations. Perspective artists will then be invited to propose an art work for display. This could be an existing piece, or the artist could create a new work. Before any piece is displayed Village staff, the Algonquin Public Arts Commission and the Village Board would all need to determine that the proposed artwork is appropriate for public display, given the artwork selection criteria described above. Instead of approving the artwork “piece-by-piece”, Village staff and the Algonquin Public Arts Commission will be asked to develop an annual plan which identifies the recommended new pieces for the year, as well as the deaccessioning of other pieces. (Deaccessioning is the process of removing existing installations of artwork from the public collection. Reasons for deaccessioning may include where an artwork is damaged beyond repair, there is a change in direction of the collection, or a new piece warrants display in its place.) This will allow the Village Board with the flexibility to rotate and/or change out portions of the public art collection on a regular basis. The extent to which pieces are rotated each year will depend on the total number of pieces being displayed, and the availability of staff time to facilitate the rotation.

Private Development – Another key means of enhancing the public art collection is through private development. The Village Board should strongly consider the passage of an ordinance that requires developers to contribute to the public art program as part of their planned development review and approval process. It will be the responsibility of the Community Development Department to inform private developers of the public art requirement, and to encourage early input on public art opportunities. It is important to recognize that when a public art display is considered for inclusion in a development, the public art components need to be identified early in the process. This would allow a developer to properly budget the expense. It is recommended that private developers be given three options to satisfy the public art requirement.

1. *Provide And Maintain Their Own Artwork* – The developer may identify a clearly visible and accessible public space within their development and erect and maintain a work of art that is consistent with the artwork selection criteria listed above. The scale of the art elements in the private development should be commensurate with the scale of the development and its location. The owner of the project retains responsibility for maintenance and regular upkeep of any public art enhancements. If, for any reason, the required public art in a project is removed, destroyed, or has deteriorated, the owner is responsible for replacement with comparable artwork, which shall be review and approved by Village staff, the Algonquin Public Arts Commission and the Village Board.

2. *Reserve A Display Site And Pay A Fee* - A second option is for the developer to identify a clearly visible and accessible public space within their development and dedicate the space to the Village as a formal reserved public art display location. The developer would also be required to pay a fee in-lieu of installing and maintaining the artwork. The developer would however receive a credit against the fee for providing and reserving the space. The Village would then be responsible for finding an appropriate piece of artwork for the reserved space. The space would likely become a public art display area space that would receive numerous different works over the years.



3. *Pay A Fee* - In private development projects where public art elements would normally be required, but, where Village staff finds that location, siting or scale makes provision of public art enhancements inappropriate or impossible; or staff agrees to the applicant's preference to not integrate a public art element into the project, the equivalent public art funds should be placed into an in-lieu fund maintained by the Village. Such funds will enable art enhancements to be sited adjacent to the development or elsewhere. In order to require developers to contribute to the "Public Art Reserve Fund" as an in-lieu payment, the Village Board would need to pass an ordinance exercising its home rule authority, making the public art contribution a development requirement, and specifically defining the contribution levels and potential credits.

Purchase – The Village Board may at some point in the future decide to purchase one or more pieces of artwork as part of a permanent public art collection. The artwork may be pieces created by local, regional, national and international artists as part of an original artwork loan concept, or the Board may decide to begin purchasing certain works after the Public Art Reserve Fund begins to accumulate a cash reserve.

Acceptance Of Gifts – The Village Board may also decide to accept gifts of public art. The Board should consider this policy very carefully. Any art accepted as gifts must still be consistent with the artwork selection criteria contained as part of this plan. If gifts are accepted, the Board should carefully consider whether or not it wants to own the artwork perpetually, or be prepared to store, archive, donate or destroy the piece in the future. If residents, property owners or businesses wish to support the program, they should be encouraged to make a monetary contribution to the Public Art Reserve Fund. Such a cash donation would provide the Village Board with much more flexibility to promote and enhance the public art initiative.

Funding Sources

A goal of the Public Art Master Plan is to develop a public art collection primarily with temporary artwork loans and developer donations. Aside from in-kind staff support, the Village Board should be able to avoid using general fund revenues as a significant program funding source after a modest allocation of "seed money" is budgeted to support pedestal construction and signage during the first year of the program. In subsequent years, the project will be funded with developer donations including a fee in-lieu of new art. As noted above, the fee in-lieu of contributions will need to be adopted via ordinance by the Village Board. Said fee should be modest. A simple recommended in-lieu fee structure includes \$25 per residential unit and 2 to 5-cents per square foot for commercial projects, depending on the size of the development. As described above, a private developer could also set aside a public art

Should small commercial projects pay a fee to support the Public Art Program?



The most common commercial development in Algonquin is the traditional in-line neighborhood commercial center. These developments are typically not large enough to provide public art display space. Such projects would still benefit from the customer draw generated from the display of public art adjacent to or near the site. With this in mind, they should pay a fee in-lieu of the creation of their own art display. Under the recommended fee structure of 5-cents per square foot, a 20,000 square foot retail center would be asked to make a one-time \$1,000 contribution to the public art reserve fund. This is a modest, reasonable request that should not be a financial burden.



display site. If Village staff, the Algonquin Public Arts Commission and Village Board concur that the site is acceptable, then they would be given a \$1,000 credit against their required public art contribution.

Several grants are available, including funds from the National Endowment of the Arts. Such organizations offer competitive grants that foster the development of public art initiatives. Village staff should continue to research additional federal, state, local and foundation grants that may help generate additional revenue sources to support the program.

Responsibilities Of Village Departments & Commissions

In order for the Public Art Master Plan to be implemented properly, it requires the coordination and collective effort of many parties. Outlined below are the overall responsibilities of the primary implementing parties including the Village Board, Algonquin Public Arts Commission, and Village staff.

Village Board

- Approves the Public Art Master Plan and approves revisions to procedures and guidelines for its implementation.
- Adopts Public Art ordinance establishing Algonquin Public Arts Commission* and Public Art Reserve Fund.
- Selects the Ad-Hoc Algonquin Public Arts Commission members.
- Supports funding options necessary for the establishment of municipal public art projects and supports allocations for public art elements in new and renovated Village facilities.
- Provides necessary resources and staffing to manage a successful public art program.
- Approves necessary legislation and funding mechanisms for private sector public art requirements.
- Reviews recommendations from Village staff and the Algonquin Public Arts Commission regarding recommended artwork displays and approves the public art program.

*In order to ensure the early success of the art program, the Commission will be considered Ad-Hoc and its role will be specifically and narrowly defined, to complete assigned tasks over a 2 to 3 year period. After this initial time frame, the Village Board could consider a permanent Commission. In addition, the Commission will receive significant guidance and administrative support from Village staff.

Algonquin Public Arts Commission (APAC)

- Functions as an advisory commission to the Village Board. (The commission shall provide primarily expertise and guidance, and will not be expected to be a “hands-on” or a “working” commission.)
- Recommend public art program policies and procedures to Village Board.
- Formulate Public Art Display Plan on an as needed basis with Village staff and submit to Village Board for approval.
- Provide recommendations to Village staff and Village Board regarding municipal art projects, as needed.



- Identify local, regional, national and international artists that are willing to display their work.
- Recommend utilization of monies in the Public Art Reserve Fund to the Village Manager and Village Board.
- Provides status reports on current public art projects to the Village Board.
- Coordinates public art loans and competitions with Village staff.
- Recommends and helps coordinate with Village staff art education and appreciation programs in order to help stimulate community wide interest in the new public art program.
- Members serve as community liaisons, resources, and advocates for the Public Art program.
- Creates specific criteria that helps identify appropriate pieces of art for public display; and establishes standards for its secure placement and display in the community.

Village Staff

- Manages the overall public art program, including the management of projects.
- Supervises the maintenance of artwork by artists and private developers.
- Coordinates community public art education events with the Algonquin Public Arts Commission.
- The Village Manager shall be responsible for supervising all staff work with respect to the Public Art Program and shall make all final recommendations to the Village Board regarding program policies and expenditures.
- The Assistant Village Manager shall be the lead staff member responsible for implementing the Public Art Master Plan. The Assistant Village Manager shall coordinate all interdepartmental coordination and shall work closely with members of the Community Development Department and Public Works Department to facilitate the safe and appropriate placement of artwork in the community.
- The Community Development Department shall notify development applicants of the Public Art Master Plan goals, and requirements for new developments to satisfy the Public Arts Ordinance of the Village Code.
- The Community Development Department shall be responsible for providing staff support to the Algonquin Public Arts Commission, including the preparation of correspondence, minutes, policy statements etc.
- Village staff shall coordinate and facilitate all public input sessions regarding the public art program.
- Village staff shall be responsible for researching and applying for outside funding for public art projects in public spaces as directed by the Village Manager and Village Board.
- Village staff shall coordinate all public art program publicity efforts and shall erect artwork signage where necessary.
- Review and maintain inventory of the Public Art collection to evaluate and make recommendations for maintenance, rotation and deaccessioning.



Documentation and Publicity

Village staff will be responsible for documenting all of the approved public art sites, as well as the current status of individual artworks on display. It is recommended that the Village use its emerging Geographic Information System (GIS) to record the data. The GIS technology will allow Village staff to compile, translate and analyze a wide range of community input and geographical data, and generate a “master” map that provides a clear picture of those unique places, systems and circumstances that lend themselves to a public art feature. In order to keep the summary of places and projects for public art current, the GIS Public Art Maps (including Maps 1-3 above) will be updated regularly.

Village staff, the Algonquin Public Arts Commission and the Village Board may do a good job identifying appropriate display sites and select fine artworks, but if the location of these displays is not publicized than Algonquin residents and visitors may not fully enjoy them. As the public art display collection grows, and changes over time, on-line and print brochures should be developed to increase resident and visitor awareness of the collection. Such brochures will also lead to self-guided tours. Consideration should also be given to working with the local media to create stories about the collection. In addition, research should be conducted to create links between the Village of Algonquin’s website and other sites frequented by “art lovers”.

Finally, the Village shall provide all weather signs that will be placed adjacent to outdoor art displays. Said signs will note the title of the artwork, its composition and contact information if requested by the artist. Said signs will be designed with interchangeable text that will allow the efficient rotation of artwork over time.



Example of all-weather sign.

Education

The Algonquin Public Arts Commission, when formed, should be encouraged to facilitate the development of “art appreciation” or “understanding art” educational programs. Such programs will help stimulate community wide interest in the new public art program. These educational events could be coordinated with other Village of Algonquin

recreation and leisure programs, or the classes could be conducted independently. In order to ensure participation, such classes should be casual low-cost events that are inviting and comfortable for even the most uninitiated art observer.



Implementation Plan

Implementation of the Public Art Master Plan requires the awareness, cooperation and involvement of Village Departments, Commissions, and the commitment of the developer (or Village) to adequately fund artistic enhancements. This Plan encourages the establishment of procedures that help identify opportunities for public art at the earliest stage of both municipal and private development projects, through early identification of public art opportunities. Outlined below are the necessary first steps to begin implementing the master plan.

1. Village Staff creates and Village Board adopts an ordinance creating the public art reserve fund, private developer contribution requirements, and the establishment of the Ad-Hoc Algonquin Public Arts Commission.
2. Development of specific public art display selection criteria.
3. Development of an art exhibition agreement between the Village of Algonquin and interested artists that will detail display timeframes, procedures, signage, liability and maintenance.
4. Selection of targeted display sites for year one of the program.
5. Solicitation of local artists to submit artwork for public display.
6. Creation of first public art display program by Village Staff and the Algonquin Public Arts Commission for review and approval by the Village Board.
7. Kick-off event with Village staff, Algonquin Public Arts Commission, Village Board, participating artists, local media, and interested residents to celebrate the display of the first public art pieces.
8. Installation of display pedestals (where needed), interpretive signage, and artwork.
9. Prepare and distribute public art program brochures.
10. Work with private developers to meet the public art ordinance requirements (on-going).
11. Conduct annual assessment of public art program and add/remove new artworks as necessary.

Summary

The implementation of a new Public Art Master Plan is an exciting initiative for the Village of Algonquin. Since this is a new program for the community, great care should be taken to ensure the early success of the plan. With this in mind, all parties should move forward with the implementation of the plan in a deliberate, controlled yet positive manner. The ideal end result of the program will be the creation of vibrant, interesting displays of public art throughout the Village that will be enjoyed by many future generations of Algonquin residents and visitors to our fine community.

