



Albuquerque RAIL TRAIL

PART V - PUBLIC ART + CULTURAL PROGRAMMING
MARCH 2022



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INTRODUCTION

Public art is an essential component of the Rail Trail. Art can cultivate a deep connection between the trail, trail users, and the surrounding communities. Public art will transform the Rail Trail into a dynamic, engaging, active, and culturally rich destination in the heart of Albuquerque.

Art will be incorporated along the entire corridor, within specific nodes, applied to existing surfaces, and installed within the public right-of-way. It is the most pivotal component to creating a unique trail identity and experience.

- *Artists will engage the community with 2D, 3D, and interactive art that tells the unique story of the region's history and envisions the future. They will re-imagine and beautify the corridor with authentic New Mexican art. This will create a destination that attracts both locals and visitors alike.*

This section of the Framework Plan includes an introduction to the City's 'Time Travel' program which was charged with imagining public art for the Rail Trail. It will also identify a roadmap for the integration of art along the trail corridor.

HISTORY

Albuquerque's history and the history of the Rail Trail corridor are closely linked to a number of transportation modes that have brought people and goods to the City. The land was first stewarded by Indigenous people, was further developed by the wagon wheel, profoundly influenced by the steel wheel, and ultimately shaped into its modern-day urban form with the invention of the rubber wheel. The rich history of this area and the many stories related to the land that the Rail Trail traverses should be told through artistic expressions along the trail. The focus should be on the following themes:

- *History of the indigenous people of this area*
- *History of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail*
- *History of the adjacent communities and their development over the past decades*

TIME TRAVEL

The “Rail Trail Time Travel” project engaged local artists and community members to explore themes and ideas for future artistic enhancements and public art for the trail corridor. The ‘Time Travel’ program includes three phases.

In the **first phase**, ten artists were selected to start an initial conversation about public art for the Rail Trail. Artists received creative placemaking and placeknowing training through a series of workshops and various site visits guided by New York City Artist Tara Mei Smith. Following this, artists developed interactive “stations”, pop-up style displays, and small-scale installations to engage the public and gather feedback.

The **second phase** will be temporary artwork installations informed by the themes and ideas gathered during the first phase.

The **third phase** will be informed by the first and second phase. It will be the creation of a comprehensive Rail Trail Public Art Plan, which will lead to a call for temporary and permanent public art proposals.

The following themes were identified:

- **Shade + Stars:** *Places that protect from the Sun and showcase the stars.*



Time Travel team and Mayor Tim Keller



Time Travel artist Jen Jen Gomez



Time Travel artist Jai Myer



Time Travel artist Joshua Patterson



Time Travel artist Hong Yan

- **Earth + Form:** *Natural landscape and nature-based forms (rammed earth) for rest areas, viewing, and photo opportunities.*
- **Nature + Plants:** *Plants species, gardens/herbs, wetlands and ponds, and nature-based educational opportunities.*
- **Celebrating Wildlife:** *Wildlife habitat and/or animal, bird, or insect motifs.*
- **Design:** *Native/indigenous motifs.*
- **Being Alone, Together:** *Intimate spaces and objects that can be experienced alone while others are around.*
- **Rest + Play:** *Elements that invite visitors to sit, rest, watch, listen, learn, and to write and create art that allows for playful interaction, or motivates visitor to move/dance and listen to music.*
- **Wholistic Nourishment:** *Food, quiet, peacefulness, light, clean, safe.*
- **Icons + Events:** *Cultural symbols that change (murals/projections), hardscape games, art that can be interacted with, take something (an experience) or leave something behind (like a bad day), outdoor movies, and spaces for hosting cultural events, ie. Chinese New Year.*
- **WiFi + Light:** *Art that indicates where free wifi access is, projection mapping onto unique surfaces that changes.*
- **Prosperity + Flight to the Future:** *Accessibility for all, respect for nature, happiness, balance, and drone racing.*



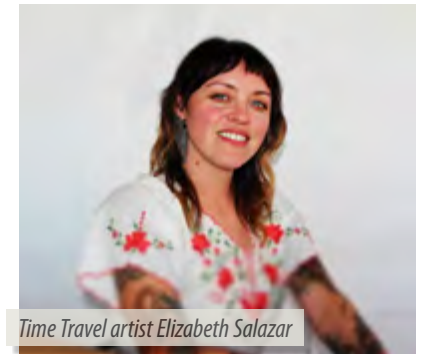
Time Travel artist Andrew Fearnside



Time Travel artist Alex Paramo



Time Travel artist Armani Leon



Time Travel artist Elizabeth Salazar



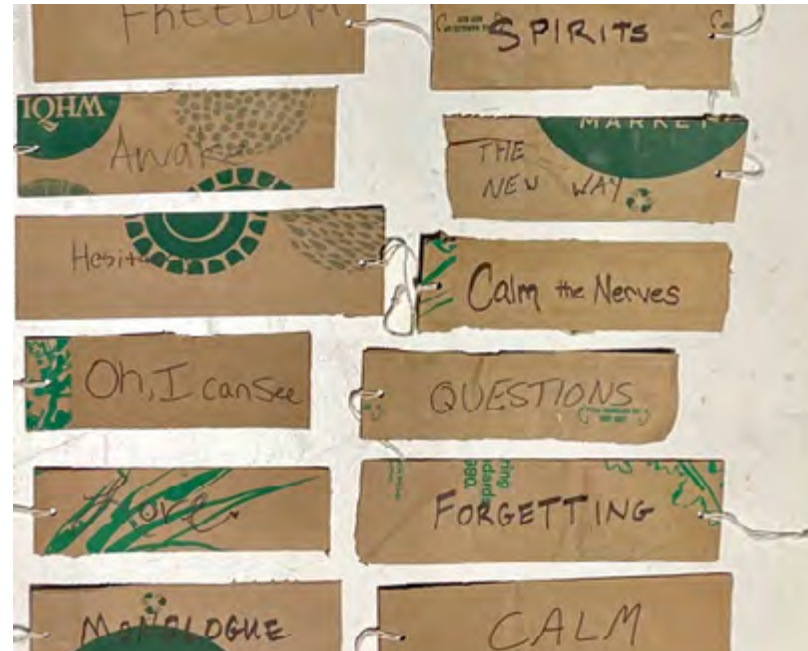
Time Travel artist Susana Garcia Dominguez and family



Artist - Susana Garcia Dominguez

Susana Garcia Dominguez has been part of downtown artist groups since 1997 helping to create artist-centered development from the position of equity and inclusiveness. As a professional facilitator and artist, she and her family team, cultivate engagement through dialogue and visual projection prompts.

"We provided community members with a place to post their ideas and had a facilitated conversation in the form of humble inquiry. Ed Schein defines Humble Inquiry as "the fine art of drawing someone out, of asking questions to which you do not know the answer, of building a relationship based on curiosity and interest in the other person. In this way we situated ourselves in overcoming possible cultural, organizational, and psychological barriers that could have kept us from practicing discursive dialogue. The dialogue and relationship we cultivated then took the tangible form of "text boxes" filled out and shared."



Artist - Andrew Fearnside

Andrew Fearnside is a muralist, illustrator, performer and temporary installation artist. He is also a teaching artist working with youth through movement and comedy. His Time Travel station encouraged participants to listen to their heart.

"I define 'deep listening' as a meditative act: given a living, dynamic understanding of the porous non-boundaries between ourselves and everything around us . . . I believe strongly that when one of us does this, the poetry we hear is of profound importance to the design of the current Rail Trail project."



Artist - Jai Myer

Jai Myer is a graphic designer with a passion for environmental design. They have a passion for communicating messages through compositional shapes and designs, creating dreamy, mysterious portals to “home”.

My goal for this project was to map out and discover what’s on people’s minds here in Albuquerque, more specifically, who or where they would call given the opportunity. A phone booth was set up to be interacted with by passersby. Nostalgic and familiar for some, and an interesting prop come-to-life for others.

Many chose to interact with it through talking on the phone, others, it was a fun photo opportunity. If spoken into the phone, the audio was recorded and transcribed. The transcribed messages were then placed into an interactive mind map, where you could see it evolve, grow, and find connections in real-time. They can see how their words are interacting with other messages, creating a fabric displaying the most common sentiments and pathways, projected onto a wall.”



Artist - Elizabeth Salazar

Elizabeth Salazar is a UNM College of Fine Arts graduate with coursework in painting, printmaking, and metal casting. She has participated in numerous arts based special events including arts festivals and senior arts programs.



“I used the overall theme of water as an avenue and analogy as water flowing is something that is continuous. I wrote out a series of three prompts to shift the participant into a reflected state of past, present, and future. They (community participants) would then write out their thoughts onto a strip of mylar and I would attach them on the mesh that was suspended above our heads. This created a stream of ideas and thought that flowed with the wind.”



Artist - Antonio Armani Leon

Antonio Armani Leon is a recent graduate of the Rhode Island School of design where he earned a degree in apparel design. His garment designs reflect his traditional aesthetics while challenging the gender binary.

“What I learned from the audience was the appreciation to be in another world even if for a moment.

Some people only wanted to be in it for a minute, as it was such a sensorial experience, while others didn't want to leave. People understood the piece, and what it was meant for, knew what it was supposed to do, take them out of this world and into another.”



Artist - Joshua Patterson

Joshua Patterson is a sculpture and mural artist. His recent sculptures include neon as a dynamic yet whimsical element that complements local iconographic symbols such as cactus.

“The experience has been great. From people asking questions to engaging with the project. Seeing people become thrilled after hearing what our city is preparing for all of us to enjoy. Being able to hear people's stories and ways they can relate with what we are planning. That made it known that we are ready for something like this here in Albuquerque. You can see the chain reaction that's going around of people becoming more aware of the project and what we're planning. They're looking for ways to get involved!”



Artist - Hong Yan

Hong Yan is a parent and community builder with professional experience in civic planning in Beijing. She teaches young children watercolor and arts and crafts, including how to build functional, rammed earth structures.

"Many people are working on the preservation of historic building. They guard the things left by ancestors, so the traditional material should be pass on to our descendants, too."

Artist - Alex Paramo

Alex Paramo is an author, poet, playwright, multimedia artist, and book publisher. His passion is collaboration with other creatives and promoting his daughter's poetry and spoken word performances.

"There are many large structures that would be ideal for projecting audio-visually. The audience was also very supportive of the use of Native American input and voices in the creation and execution of this installation. Members of the public expressed, often in emotional terms, their gratitude for this project and the care we took to not only include, but have as the dominant source, Native American voices as represented by an elder, contemporary, and youth. The idea of the future being represented by a young Native American female was also greatly appreciated."



Artist - James Black

James Black is a musician, graphic artist, entrepreneur, and community builder. He has created temporary public art specifically to improve the environment around his business in collaboration with a charter high school, while providing leadership and inspiration for events and development in Albuquerque's Downtown.

"Some jewels that stand out from the feedback received from public interaction include: Albuquerque's downtown community wants to honor the history

and people that have come before and look forward to an illuminated and beautified Rail Trail for the residents of future generations to enjoy. The community seeks to highlight the accomplishments, history, and have a safe space for women in our community in the future. Downtown residents want a vibrant visual art and performance areas that double as healthy destinations to run, bike, play, and rest. Shaded areas for relief from the hot sun during the day, and light from projected imagery, neon light, and illuminated murals and installations at night."



Artist - Jennifer (JenJen)

Jennifer Gomez Schoenholzer has had a 20-year career in juvenile corrections where she worked with various art media as educational and restorative practices for youth. Her Cherokee ancestral roots influence her creative approach to both the art of curandismo and painting of sacred figures.

"I presented curandismo and the use of herbs and native plants to New Mexico. I wanted to educate our citizens and the tourists about the medicinal and traditional uses and customs of the plants. The majority of the visitors to my art installation were in agreement – we should incorporate native plants and their names and uses."

ROADMAP FOR RAIL TRAIL ART

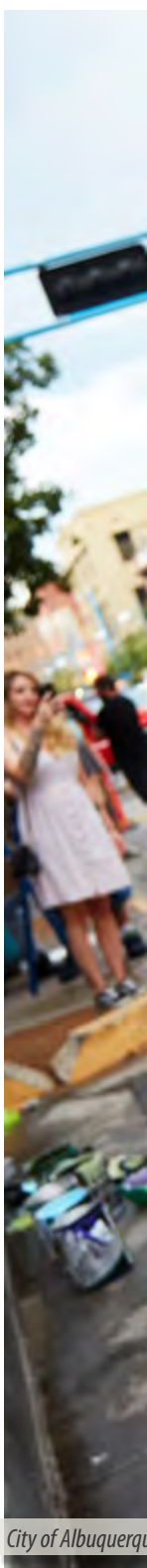
The Roadmap section identifies types of art that can be integrated along the Rail Trail corridor, along with locations. The section is meant to offer inspiration and is not meant to limit the creative expression of artists, nor to limit where art can be placed. The proposed locations are a starting point but will not preclude the utilization of other locations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles are a framework for artists to inform their work. These principals will ensure a cohesive trail experience but will not limit the aesthetics or creative expression of artists.

- **Diversity and Inclusion** - Foster diversity and inclusion through art that is representative of the local community's cultures histories and vision of the future
- **Site Specific** - Art should be inspired by the rich history, culture, and architecture of the surrounding areas
- **Inspiring** - Artwork installed along the trail should positively inspire trail users, create a rich experience, and value the knowledge and contributions of diverse stakeholders. It should also acknowledge the unique ability of the arts, culture, and creativity to bridge people and communities in Albuquerque

- **Interactive** - Artwork can be interactive and create a multi-sensory experience that responds to different times, seasons, light, and weather conditions
- **Multifunctional** - Artwork should be multifunctional. This could be achieved by artwork that visually serves its purpose while physically serving as a play structure, seating, or orientation map, to name a few
- **Authentic** - Public Artwork should be authentic and not include cultural appropriation, which is the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, and aesthetics of one person or society by members by another. Artists should be commissioned through processes that meet the Public Art Program and Albuquerque Arts Board's goals to fund and commission public art that results from collaboration, community, innovation, social impact, stewardship, equity, diversity, access, and inclusion, but also allow for organically inspired pop-up installations
- **Sustainable** - Artwork should respond to the environmental and climatic conditions of New Mexico and utilize reclaimed or innovative materials to the maximum extent feasible and be placed and made to last





City of Albuquerque Downtown Art Walk artists in action



City of Albuquerque Downtown Art Walk art

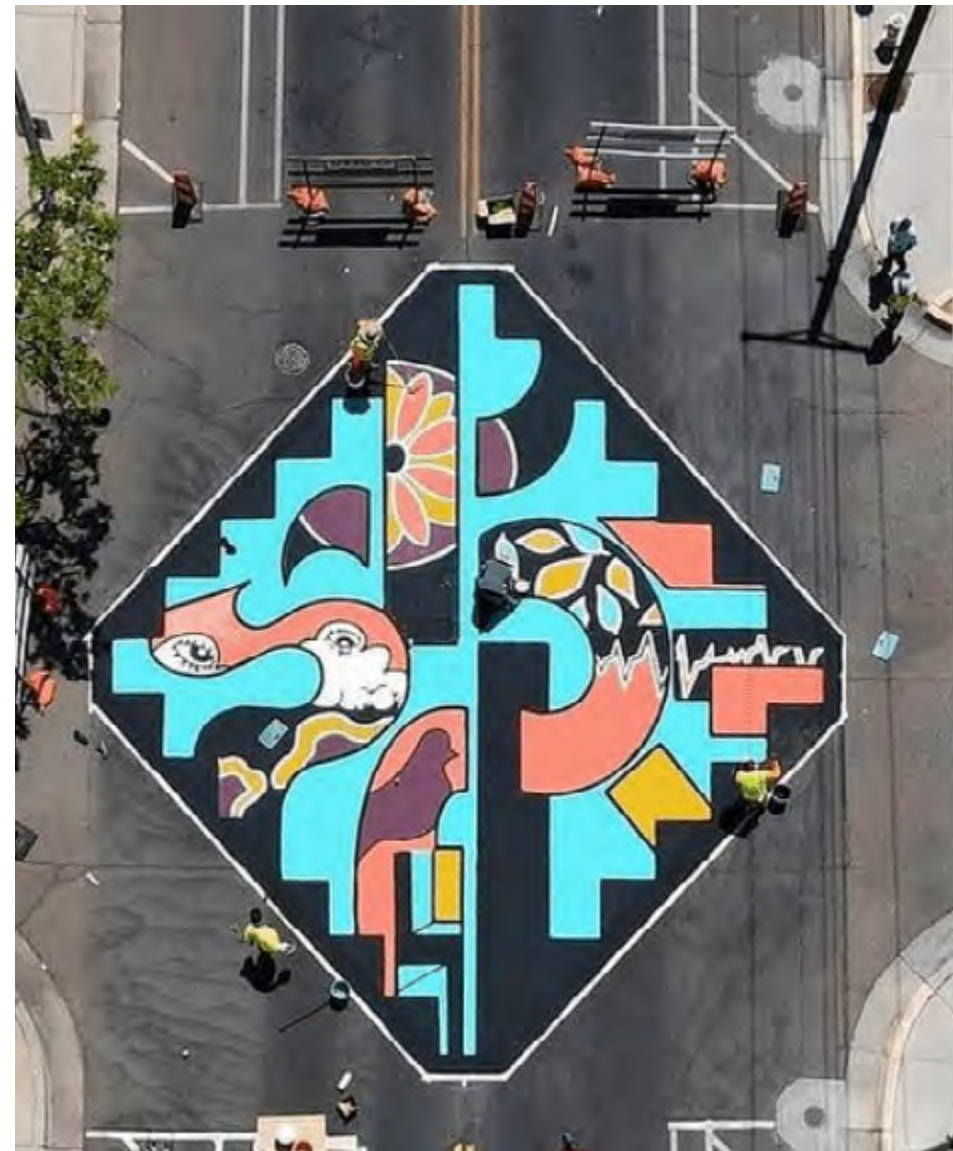


City of Albuquerque Downtown Art Walk

HOW ART INSPIRES PLACEMAKING

Placemaking, now more usefully known as placeknowing or placekeeping, involves processes to infuse spaces that are already unique and meaningful with artist-centered activities that are authentic expressions of a community, for the community. Placemaking means the creation of public spaces that focus and strengthen the connections between people and their environment. Placeknowing is about seeing a place through the lens of those who already inhabit an area.

Placemaking tools often vary; they can be signage, landscape, site design, material selection, programming, furnishings, and art amongst others. What makes placemaking unique is the focus on people and their needs, aspirations, desires, and visions. It relies strongly on community participation. Art is a key placemaking tool.



'Sunset mix' mural in Barelas at the intersection of 4th and Hazeldine



Albuquerque Civic Plaza giant chair engaging visitors



District mural in Downtown Albuquerque



'Greetings from Albuquerque mural in Nob Hill



Transformer installation in Downtown Albuquerque on Lomas



Sticker wall in Downtown Albuquerque at 505 Central





Mural and art bike installation in Nob Hill



NM United Signage at the Civic Plaza

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

The following section identifies vertical, horizontal, free standing, and programming opportunities for public art installations. Specific types of art will be established by the artist and community during the design phase.

-  *Vertical surfaces*
-  *Free standing*
-  *Horizontal surfaces*
-  *Programming*
-  *Infrastructure*



VERTICAL SURFACES

The trail corridor offers several vertical surfaces including existing building walls, underpasses, and periphery walls and fences. Vertical surfaces can be manipulated to accommodate a variety of art installations.

Art applied to vertical surfaces is a cost-effective approach with big impact. Artists should consider how their art will be experienced from the trail and how their work fits with the overall trail identity.



'Honey of the Heart' mural by Mark Horst



Existing Buildings Walls

- ①②③ Existing building walls are a great canvas for art. Walls range in type from simple one-story brick walls to massive cinderblock building facades and parking garage walls. They offer an opportunity for oversized artwork with different types of media, ranging from paint, to projections, to living walls.

Underpasses

- ④⑤⑥⑦⑧ Underpasses are generally spaces that are -underutilized and often feel unsafe. Art can elevate those spaces and make them more inviting. The walls and columns of an underpass provide a great canvas for artists and can be used for murals and other art or light applications.

Walls + Fences

- ⑨⑩⑪⑫ Walls and fences are another option to integrate art along the trail. Art installations can be temporary and beautify existing fencing.

2d art



Dot mural wall on Mateo Street in Los Angeles



"Greetings from Albuquerque" mural in Nob Hill, Albuquerque



Building wall mural along Rail Trail in Charlotte



Underpass mural along Rail Trail in Charlotte



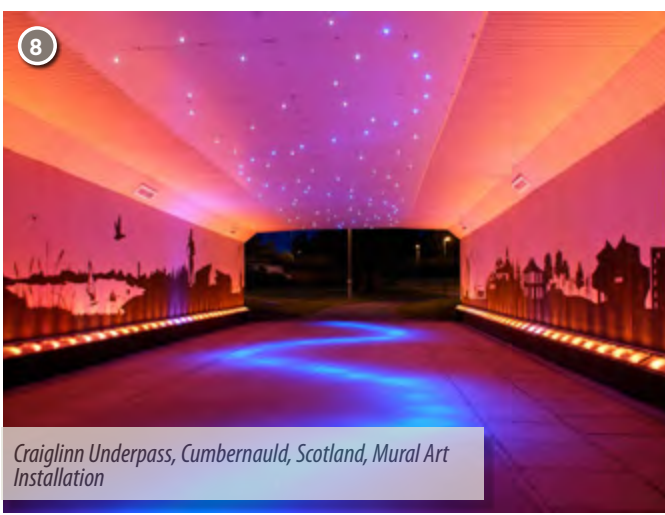
Art installation on Yerxa Road Underpass Cambridge, Massachusetts



Corten fence panel



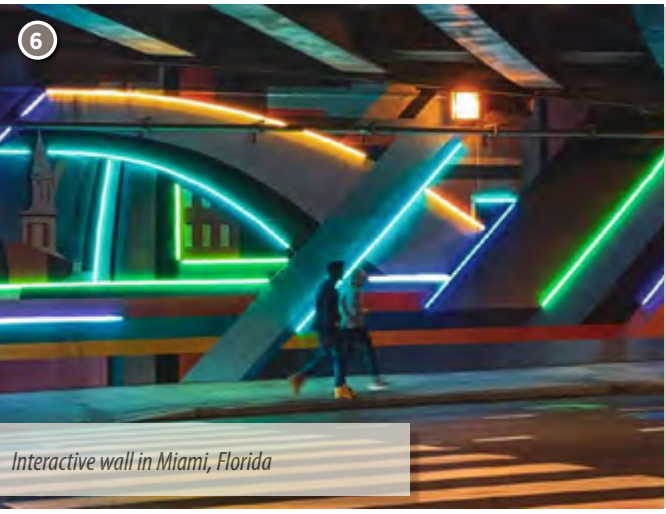
South Main Street underpass Edinburg, Indiana



Craiglinn Underpass, Cumbernauld, Scotland, Mural Art Installation



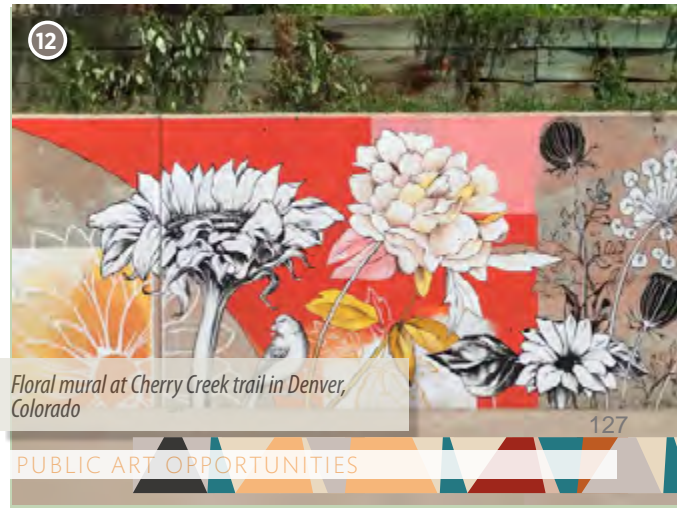
Decorative fence with cut-out metal panels



Interactive wall in Miami, Florida



Art fence using discarded plastic cups, Adelaide, Australia



Floral mural at Cherry Creek trail in Denver, Colorado

Low Tech + High Tech Interactive

Art can also be interactive and can be either low or high tech. Examples around the country and the world engage the viewer in new ways. New, high-tech examples have emerged with art being projected on surfaces or through the application of virtual reality. Examples of high tech include the following:

- ① *Art projected onto building walls as part of an art application called 'projection mapping'. For this type of art, the surface is mapped to integrate the structures form into the projected art.*
- ② *Art can be projected onto building walls which offers flexibility and can be a temporary installation.*
- ③ *Virtual reality (VR) murals integrate artwork in a way that can be experienced through a smart phone. In virtual reality, the artwork can take on a new life and expand its artistic expression.*
- ④⑤⑥⑦ *Interactive walls provide a new way of user interaction. Walls are user activated and respond to spectators' movements.*
- ⑧⑪ *Examples of low-tech include the following:*
- ⑨⑩ *Walls made from cubes and pixels allow spectators to create their own artwork by flipping moveable elements.*
- ⑪ *This low-tech mural integrates the spectator into the artwork by allocating a space that the spectator occupies. These murals have become popular 'Instagram' moments.*

INTERACTIVE

1

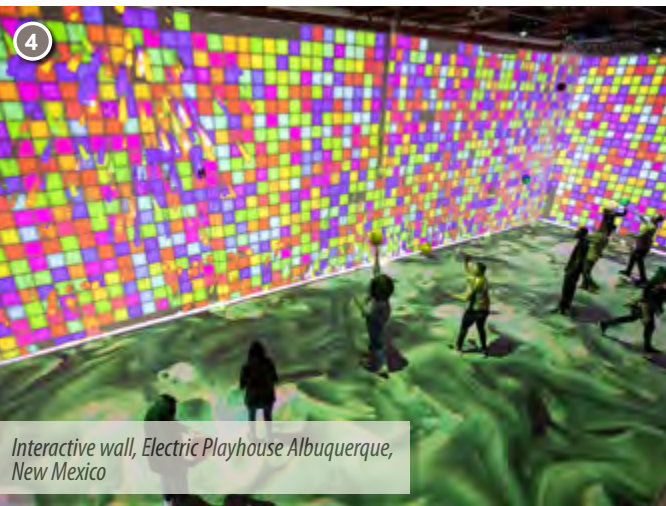
Art projected onto building walls in Copenhagen, Denmark

2

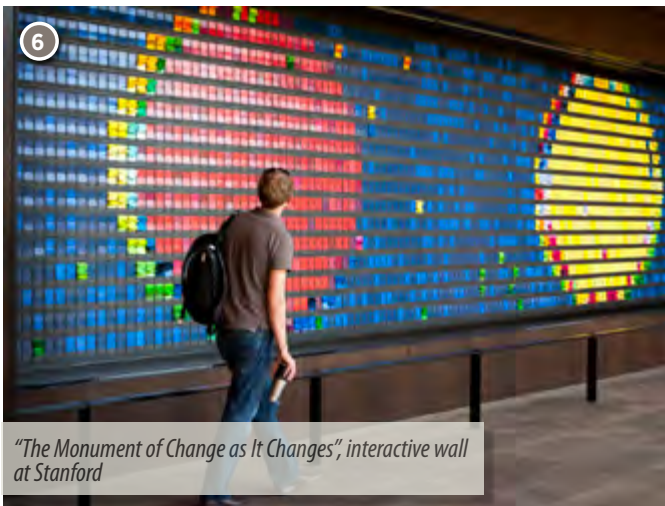
Video art projection onto building walls in Hamburg, Germany

3

Virtual reality Mural



Interactive wall, Electric Playhouse Albuquerque, New Mexico



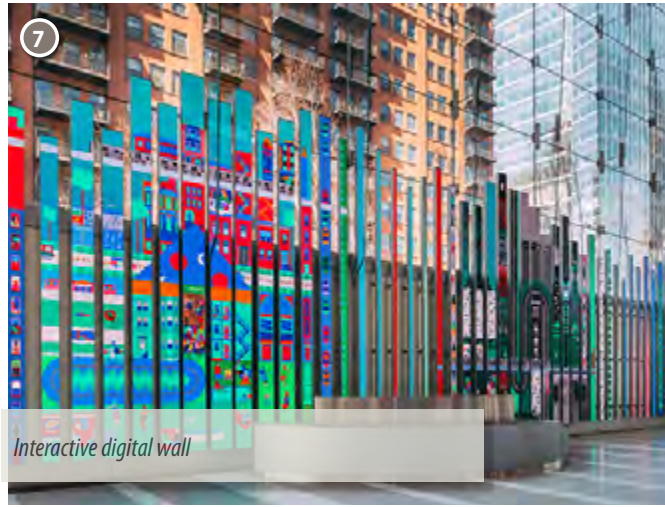
"The Monument of Change as It Changes", interactive wall at Stanford



Interactive "Happy Wall" in Copenhagen, Denmark



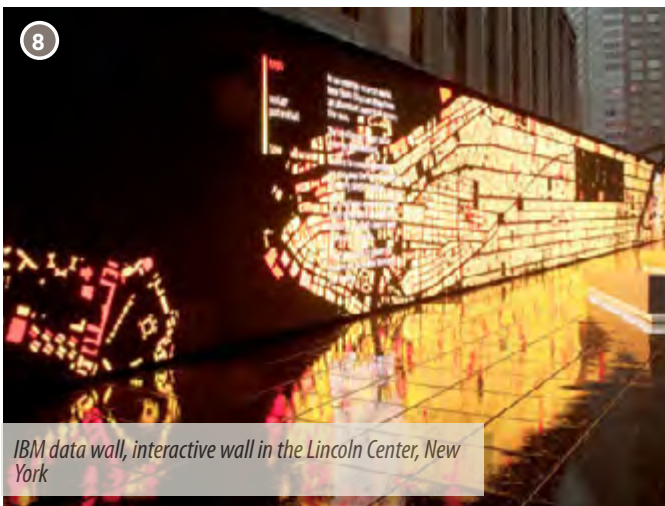
Interactive wall in Miami, Florida



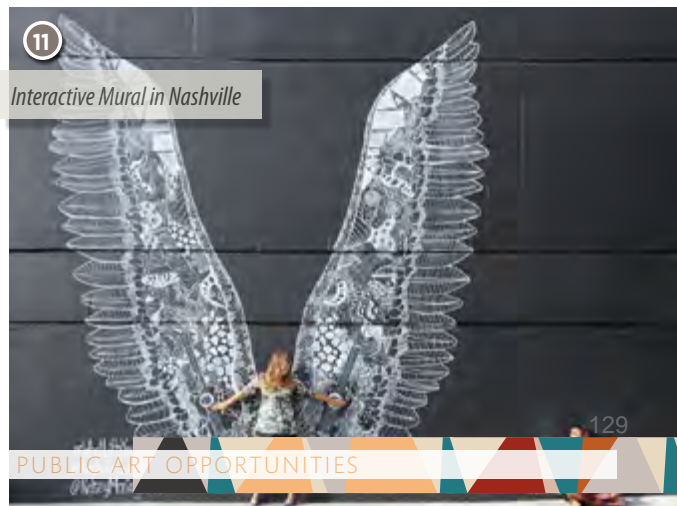
Interactive digital wall



'Song Board' interactive wall in London, England



IBM data wall, interactive wall in the Lincoln Center, New York

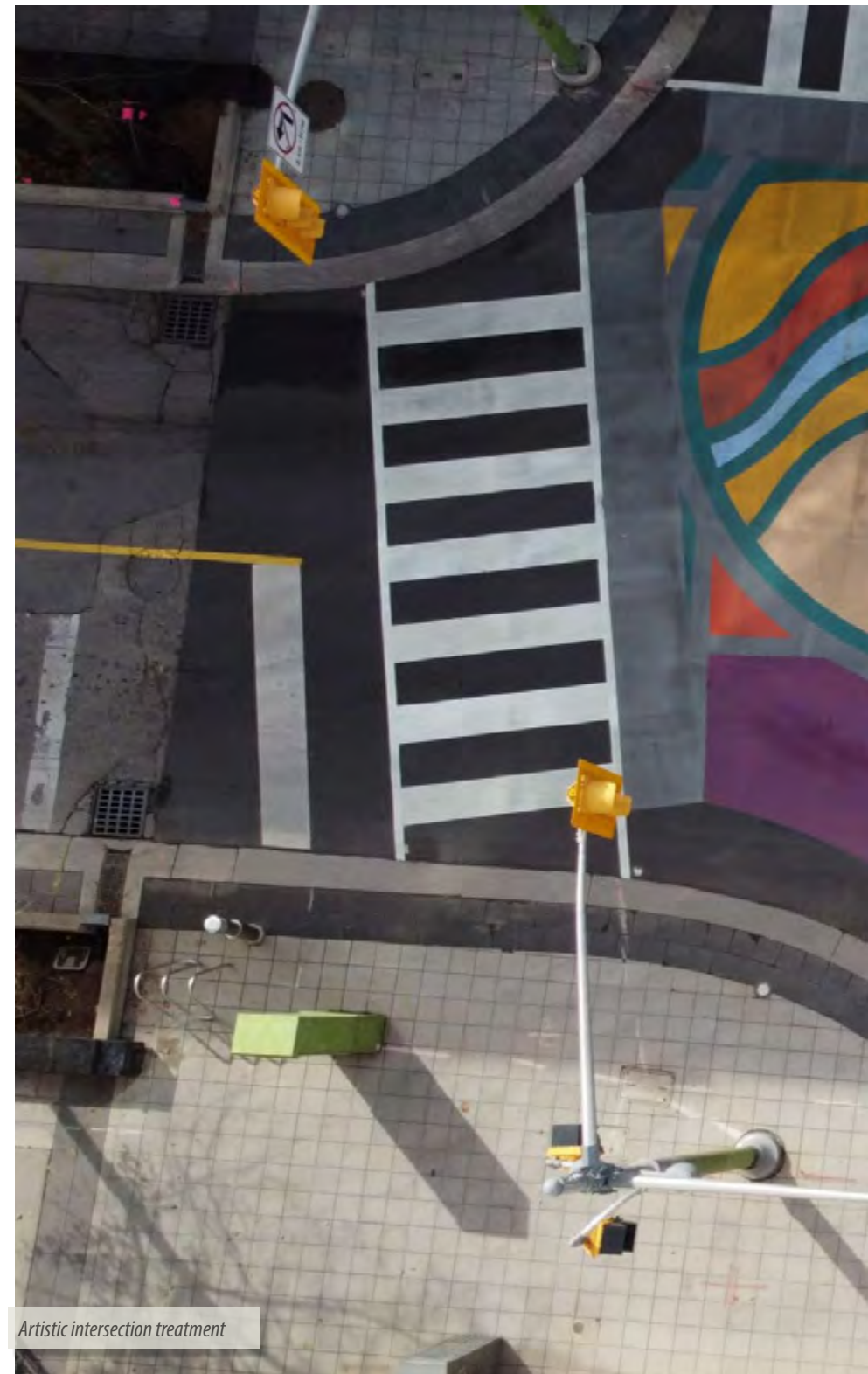


Interactive Mural in Nashville

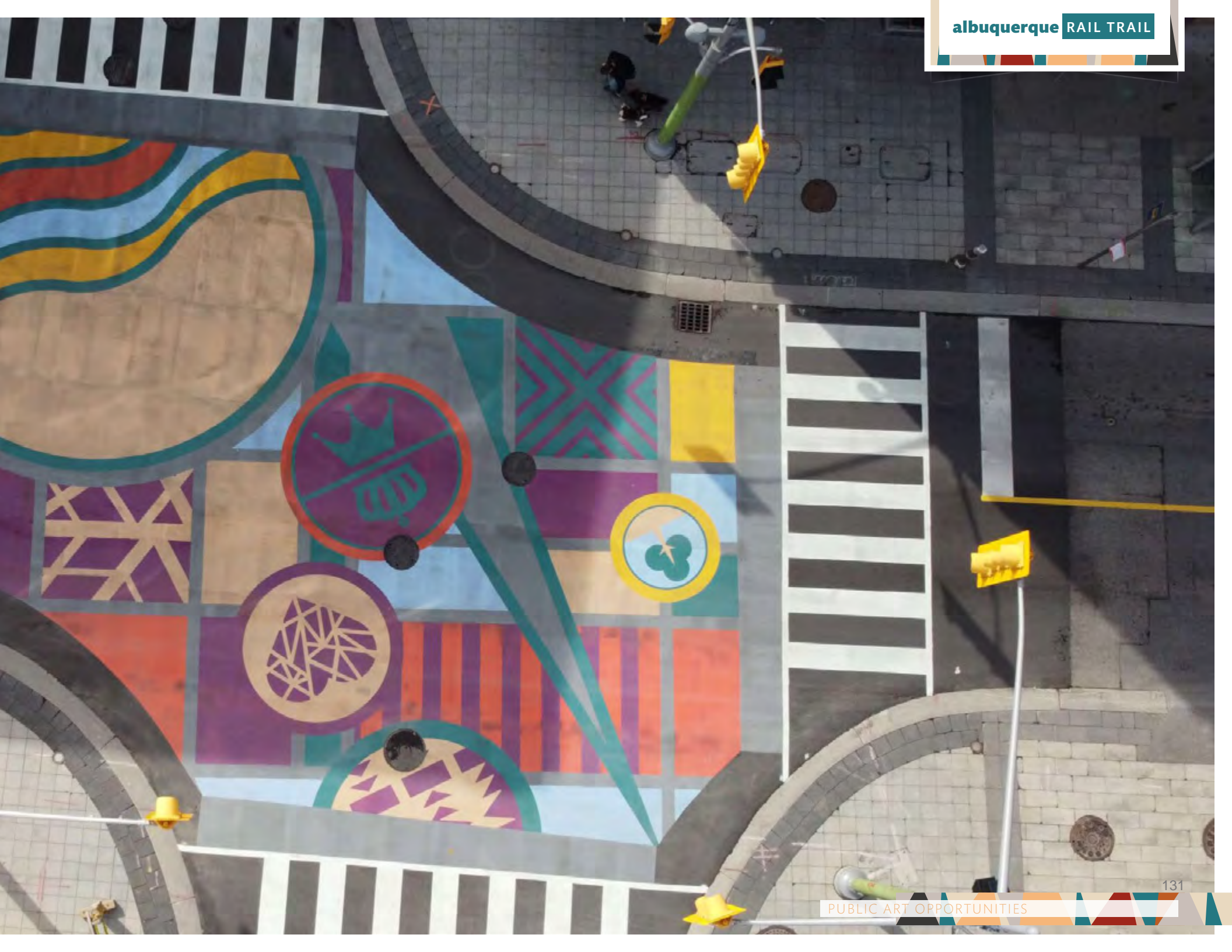


HORIZONTAL SURFACES

The trail corridor offers a number of horizontal surfaces, including streets, trail surfaces, intersections, and overhead surfaces. Horizontal surfaces can be manipulated to accommodate a variety of artwork installations. Art applied to horizontal surfaces also aids wayfinding purposes and can help distinguish different facilities from each other. Artists should consider how their art will be experienced from the trail and how their work fits together with the overall theme and experience of the corridor.



Artistic intersection treatment



Overhead Surfaces + Shade Features

- ①②③④ Artists can use shade structures to create a functional work of art. They can play with light and shadows using the shade and the structure itself as their artistic expression.

Street Paving/Intersection/Trail Crossings Treatment

- ⑤⑥⑦ Trail intersections, street Right-of-Way, and trail crossings can be used as a canvas to integrate art along the trail corridor. Art applied to these surfaces adds visual interest and helps demarcate the trail corridor. Art can delineate the pedestrian/trail corridor from other users. This can be achieved by employing varying surface materials or contrasting colors to the street/intersection surface.
- ⑧⑨⑩ Overhead surfaces such as underpasses can be used to add an artistic touch to the corridor. Underpasses often are perceived as unsafe and uninviting. Adding light and color can make them more inviting and create a greater sense of security.

Trail Surface

- ⑪⑫⑬ The trail surface can be used as a canvas as well. Artists can use varying surface materials or artistic coloring to create their artwork. This technique will help delineate the trail, create a unique identity, and add visual interest.



Artistic shade structure



Artistic shade structure



Pavilion Melbourne Shade Structure, Queen Victoria Garden



Artistic shade structure



Colorful, floral intersection /crosswalk treatment



Artistic lights applied to the underpass of Wabash, Chicago Loop



Artistic trail surface application, Charlotte Rail Trail



Crosswalk treatment



Interactive underpasses treatment, San Jose



Artistic trail surface application, Charlotte Rail Trail



Branded crosswalk treatment in Flagstaff



Underpass Art Park in NoMa, DC



Trail surface



INFRASTRUCTURE & FREE STANDING

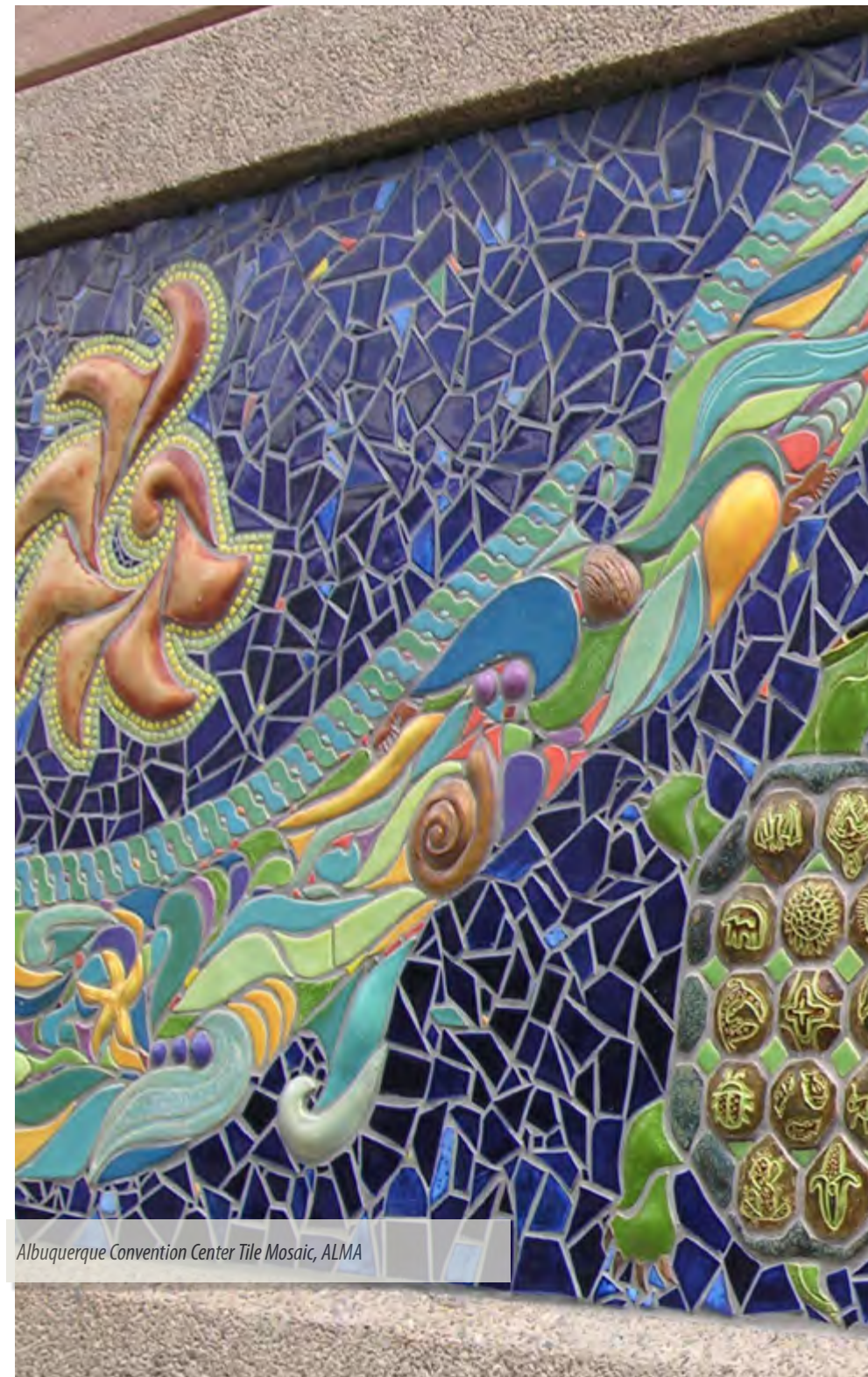


The trail corridor offers a number of opportunities to install free standing art, as well as opportunities to apply art to infrastructure pieces.

Temporary art can be installed in underutilized and vacant parcels until these areas are developed or re-purposed for better uses.

Big statement art pieces could be placed at gateways, potentially at Lomas and the Rail Yards, to mark the beginning of the trail and create a destination. These iconic art pieces could become destinations and serve as a backdrop for social media content. Artwork installations can be placed at existing and new public spaces, or trail focal points, to create visual interest and draw in trail users.

Art applied to horizontal surfaces also aids wayfinding purposes and can help distinguish different facilities from each other. Artists should consider how their art will be experienced from the trail and how their work fits together with the overall theme and experience of the corridor.



Albuquerque Convention Center Tile Mosaic, ALMA



Temporary Art Installation

The project corridor includes a number of underutilized and vacant parcels. While these are undeveloped, they are great locations for temporary art installations.

- ① ② ③ *Temporary art is a fairly inexpensive tool to create a sense of place, enhance visual quality, and start creating an identity for the corridor. The temporary art installations can also be interactive as seen in the example of the 'Before I Die' wall.*

Permanent Art Installation

The goal is to have a number of permanent art installations located throughout the trail corridor. Art should be located in areas where they can become destinations and draw people in.

- ④ *A series of art installations with a similar theme or look and feel can tie the trail visually together and create a unique identity.*
- ⑤ ⑥ *Permanent art installations that create destinations.*

Infrastructure/Utility

- ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ *Infrastructure and utility structures generally are unsightly and serve a single purpose. They can be utilized and beautified for artwork.*

Gateway Features

- ⑩ ⑪ ⑫ *Artwork can function as a gateway feature, demarcating major access points. Art could be multifunctional, while visually they would appear to be artwork, they could also function as an overlook or play structure.*



Temporary art installation on the Main Street in Price, AZ



Before I Die interactive wall installation



Temporary art installation in Montreal, Canada



4

"Air Sea Land" public art installations in Boston



7

Utility box design



10

"I See What You Mean" by Lawrence Argent, art installation/gateway feature



5

PRISMATICA art installation in Scottsdale



8

Utility box design



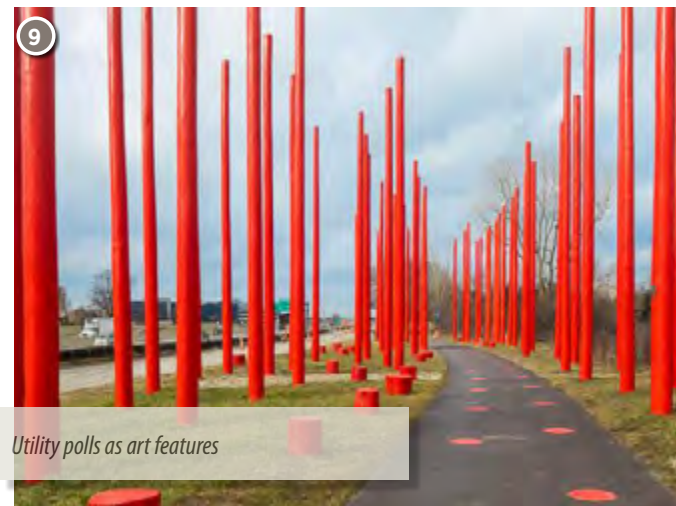
11

Crown Fountain in Millennium Park featuring faces in Chicago



6

LOVE art installation in Philadelphia



9

Utility polls as art features



12

Artistic Overlook



PROGRAMMING

Downtown Albuquerque has become a mecca for art lovers. Every first Friday, Downtown hosts the Artwalk and attracts thousands of visitors from near and far. Events, functions, and performances should be planned for in the overall design of the trail. Spaces along the trail should be designed and ‘programmed’ to be suitable for events. Shade structures, seating, and potentially stages can be integrated to serve future events. Successful trails have added programming to their trail framework to ensure that the trail is continuously used, attract additional visitors, and open the trail to a wide range of users.

- ①②③ *The Bloomingdale Trail (606) includes programming with block parties that offer activities for all ages and groups.*
- ④ *The Indianapolis Cultural Trail offers bike tours. During the tour, participants will learn about the history of the Cultural Trail, the 7 public art projects along the Trail, and the historic neighborhoods and cultural districts.*
- ⑤⑥⑦⑧ *Underutilized space and negative spaces can be activated and utilized for a number of different event types, for outdoor play, exercise classes, and more.*
- ⑨⑩⑪⑫ *Annual events can be another attraction that draws people in periodically. Events have become popular attractions along other trails like the Charlotte Rail Trail.*



During the 606 block party, activities included programming for kids.



As part of the 606 block party the different groups involved in trail activities celebrated together.



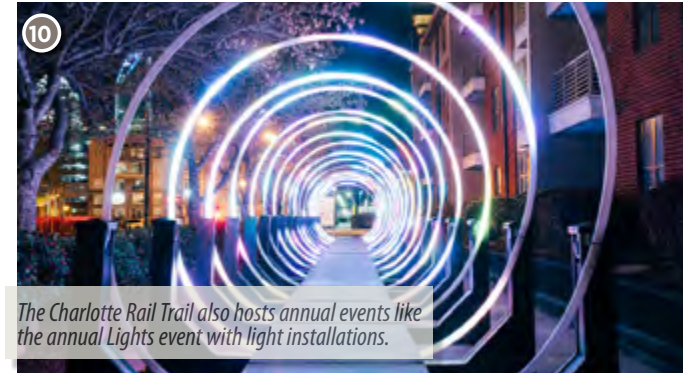
During the 606 block party cultural events were hosted to celebrate the local culture.



4
Bike tours organized along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail.



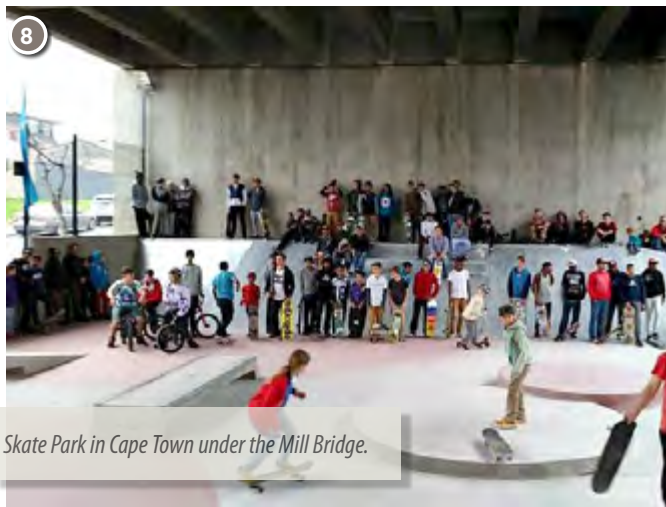
7
Cultural event under the High Line in New York City.



10
The Charlotte Rail Trail also hosts annual events like the annual Lights event with light installations.



5
Privately owned space located at an underpass at Ink Block in Boston.



8
Skate Park in Cape Town under the Mill Bridge.



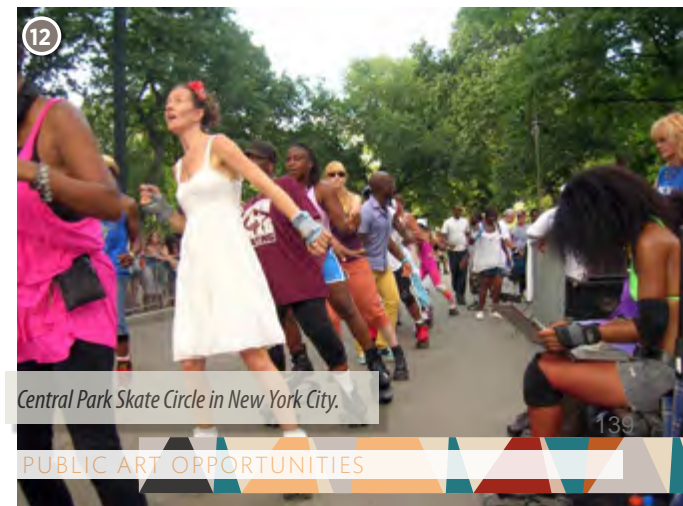
11
The Charlotte Rail Trail hosted events for the community with different activities along the trail.



6
Bentway underpass park in Toronto. Utilized by artists and a basketball court.



9
The Charlotte Rail Trail hosted events for the community creating trail murals.



12
Central Park Skate Circle in New York City.

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY LOCATIONS

Throughout the corridor there are numerous opportunities for public art. At the Rail Yards and along 1st street, ample right-of-way offers many opportunities to install art. Here, freestanding sculptures, art applied to the existing fence, intersection murals, and a gateway feature can be installed. Nodes proposed along 1st Street can be designed in collaboration with artists.

The underpass of Coal and Lead Avenue offer more opportunities for art. Here, light installations, murals, and other creative uses of the underpass space can enhance the experience of this otherwise underutilized area.

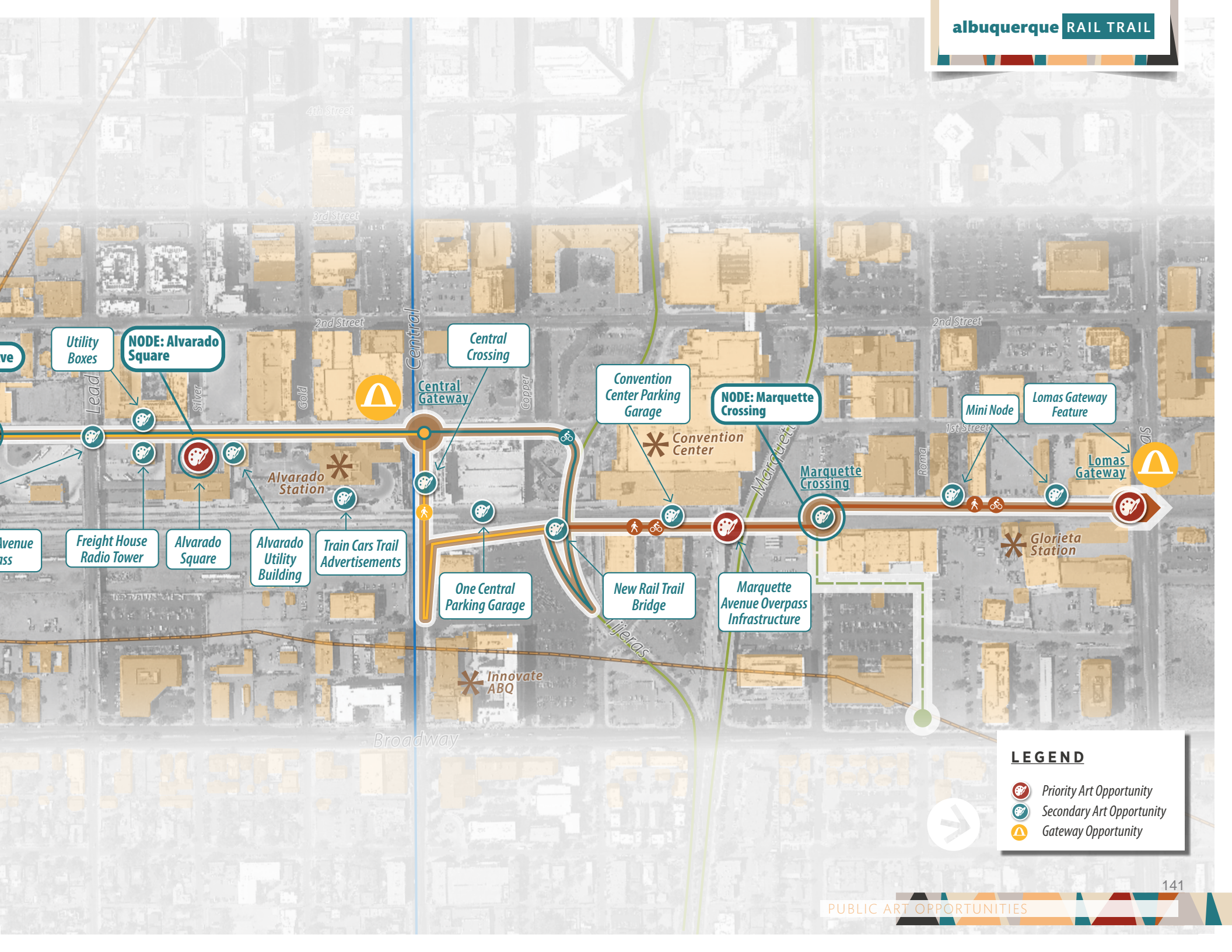
Another great opportunity is the Alvarado Square space. This currently underutilized plaza can be activated by a climbable art structure that doubles as art play equipment. The trail surface can also be used for artistic expressions. Art can be applied to the trail surface and help delineate the cycle track from the pedestrian facility and road. The Central Underpass is another space that can be enhanced with art. Here, an artistic light installation can offer visual interest and at the same time offer a sense of security.

The existing walls along the One Central garage and the Convention Center can also be utilized for art. Large murals can be created that overlook the trail and rail operations. The proposed trail bridge at Tijeras Avenue can be transformed into an artistic statement.

FIGURE 2. Public Art Opportunities



The parcel to the south of the Marquette overpass is identified as an opportunity site and can be utilized to host one or more major art installation. Along the west side of the railroad, between Marquette Avenue and Lomas Boulevard, there are opportunities for nodes that could be designed in collaboration with artists.



LEGEND

- Priority Art Opportunity
- Secondary Art Opportunity
- Gateway Opportunity

