

SHELBYVILLE PLAN FOR PUBLIC ART

THE CITY OF SHELBYVILLE, IN



Prepared for The City of Shelbyville,
in partnership with the Blue River
Community Foundation

JANUARY 2018





**City of Shelbyville
Plan for Public Art
In partnership with the
Blue River Community Foundation
January 2018**

Executive Summary

The Shelbyville community has long supported and invested in the arts, coordinating efforts across sectors. Successes include the restoration of the historic Strand Theatre into a live performance venue; a community theater organization; restoration of the historic Balser Statue celebrating a famous novel set in Shelby County; public art by local artists in the civic buildings; a downtown mural, and more. Art in our public places has been listed as a priority in our City’s Comprehensive Plan, the Youth Action Plan, and Parks Department Master Plan, all created with significant public input. The Blue River Community Foundation allocates more than 20% of its unrestricted grantmaking to the arts, with a specially appointed Arts Advisory Committee with various areas of expertise. Meaningful partnerships between local government, the non-profit sector, schools and businesses have resulted in a community-wide appreciation for the arts and desire to be more forward-thinking. The result is this Plan for Public Art, which for the first time brings these efforts to integrate public art as a placemaking strategy together into a single document.



Vision and Goals

Public art in strategic locations contributes to a livable community, civic engagement, and unique sense of place.

Goal 1. Include public art in community development initiatives.

Improvements in infrastructure and investments in our parks system create an opportunity to integrate public art that creates a greater sense of place and unique identity. Priority will be given to projects with the greatest placemaking impact, including highly visible gateway projects, those with a strong pedestrian connection, where people gather, or those that create a point of interest in our current public spaces with other cultural or historic significance. The City’s Comprehensive Plan and the Youth Action Plan include integrating arts and culture, and specifically public art, into the City’s community development work to create a sense of identity and foster community pride:

Initiative: Placemaking through Public Art, *Shelbyville Youth Action Plan:*

“Placemaking invites people to reinvent public spaces to display the heart of their city.

Placemaking is a collaborative effort of a community to establish city pride, and connect with one another. Public art is an especially simple and effective form of placemaking that brings life to otherwise lifeless public spaces.”

Chapter 1, General Goals, *City of Shelbyville Comprehensive Plan:* “To protect and improve the quality of life for the residents of Shelbyville. Quality of life is made up of fourteen elements which include: ...arts and culture...”

Chapter 6, Image and Identity, *City of Shelbyville Comprehensive Plan:* “Objective 2: Capitalize on Shelbyville’s history, heritage, and character. 2.1: Build upon local assets and the cultural heritage of Shelbyville.

Chapter 6, Image and Identity, *City of Shelbyville*

Comprehensive Plan: “Objective 3.2: Create and beautify gateways along primary roads to create a positive first impression to motorists. Objective 3.4: Use landmarks and strong focal elements to leave a lasting positive impression on residents and visitors.

Chapter 6, Image and Identity, *City of Shelbyville Comprehensive Plan:* “The formalization of an Arts District could potentially assist the community in its efforts to secure grant funding in order to expand the quality of life initiatives that are being pursued by existing venues and others yet to be created.”



Additionally the 2017 Parks Master Plan (approval pending) includes public art in the City’s parks, which was identified as a high priority by the public during the input sessions.

“Public Art in the City of Shelbyville’s parks contribute to the *Parks Make Life Better* mission of the Parks Department by developing community engagement and pride; creating points of interest that encourage use of the trails; and providing a partnership with local artists and art groups.”

Specific projects for our City’s gateways, along the Big Blue River Trail, in our Historic Downtown Commercial District and other locations are described in more detail in the following section and summarized Appendix A. As projects are completed, adapted, or new priorities are identified, the table in Appendix A will be amended, and the amendment date noted.

Goal 2. Creative placemaking will build a more livable community.

Public Art will create strong, meaningful connections between people and places that are important for community and civic life. In particular, this includes meaningful and deliberate placement that considers natural features, enriches civic identity and engagement, and enhances cultural significance and revitalization activities. Public art will be accessible to all, regardless of mobility, consistent with all new development or infrastructure improvements. To achieve these livability and civic engagement objectives, requests for proposals will contain an in depth description of the site, including history and significant natural features, if applicable, and what the art will serve to accomplish, for example, as an anchor for an area, create foot traffic, encourage healthy activity, beautify an area, or connect people to natural or historic features. An example request for proposal is included in Appendix B.

Goal 3. Support for artists and art as a livelihood

The Shelbyville Public Art Plan includes opportunities for local artists, area youth, and professional artists. In the following section, the partners are identified. In some cases, an artist that specializes in large sculpture may be chosen through a formal RFP process that does not prioritize geography (local artists), but instead selects the piece and the artist based on specific criteria (see example in Appendix B). In other cases, local artists may contribute to public art. An example is the public art along Progress Parkway (see map in Appendix C and photo to the right, for example), that engages adults with intellectual disabilities through Shares, Inc and creates sculpture from their artwork.



Artists of all levels of experience and abilities were involved in the creation of the Downtown Mural through a guided and facilitated process. The value of art to a community is not underestimated, and when possible and appropriate, artists will be paid for their work.

The Plan- Projects, Partners and Timelines

1. Riverwalk Gateway

The features at this highly visible entry into the Historic Downtown District are ideal for a large public sculpture. The sculpture will be placed along the Big Blue River Trail, currently under construction, at the Porter Visitor's Center. The Porter Center building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This site is located where State Road 9 enters the Downtown, and is one of the most highly trafficked corridors in Shelby County. The multi-use trail crosses the road here and continues on west to Sunset Park along the Big Blue River. The request for proposals for the sculpture will ask that the artist design a piece that is appropriate in scale for both the pedestrian use and vehicle traffic. The sculpture should be integrated into the natural features and encourage people to consider its role in the area along with the historic nature of the site, the river, and trail. Several professional artists with a track record of similar projects will be invited to submit a model and proposal, with a stipend of \$1000 for the preparation. A public art selection committee comprised of local funders (BRCF, City), local artists, property owner or adjacent residents, and at least one member providing technical assistance from Indiana Arts Commission or another qualified agency or organization will be created for this purpose and future public art. The winning artist will receive the \$150,000, which will include the creation and installation. Some installation will be completed in-kind by the City of Shelbyville, for example, a concrete pad. The budget is approximately \$150,000, with additional in-kind work donated. The timeline is to select the art in late 2018, with installation in 2019.

2. Downtown Mural & Alley Activation

Mainstreet Shelbyville and Shelby Arts Alliance collaborated together on a project that was facilitated by Big Car to create a downtown mural. The community contributed ideas for the mural that included important historic elements and natural features, and Big Car turned the ideas into a project in which many artists of all abilities were able to participate. The mural significantly improved the appearance of the downtown, with many contributing to the project. The project was funded by BRCF, Mainstreet Shelbyville and the Shelby Arts Alliance.



Leadership Shelby County, a program of the Chamber of Commerce, has identified another highly visible downtown location for a future mural and alley activation project that would revitalize what currently sits as an uninviting public alley into a unique sense of place that celebrates the arts.

3. Progress Parkway Art

Public Art is often a positive contributor to health, as it encourages people to walk by creating points of interest on a pedestrian scale. In addition, individuals with intellectual disabilities are often not afforded opportunities to be as engaged in their community. Healthy Shelby County, Shelby County's health coalition spearheaded a project that takes the artwork of participants at Shares, Inc and creates pedestrian scale sculpture. Shares, Inc is an organization that serves adults with disabilities and provides means for their employment, along with a connected community. The goal is to create more points of interest along that section of trail to encourage nearby residents to walk for health. The artwork will be installed along an existing trail that connects to the new Big Blue River Trail at Blue River Memorial Park. The project was funded in 2017 by BRCF and will be installed in 2018.

4. Downtown Cultural/ Historic Features and Art

Downtown Shelbyville has a Public Square, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, where numerous events occur throughout the year. Development and revitalization goals include creating a more walkable, pedestrian friendly environment, generating foot traffic for local businesses, fostering engagement and appreciation for the historic architecture. Downtown Redevelopment Plans include both the restoration and highlighting of existing, historic public art and the inclusion of new, interactive art designed to engage and attract people, as well as educate. The restoration of the historic Balser Statue, depicted in the photo on page 2 of this Plan was completed in early 2017, and was funded by Shelby County and BRCF. The statue depicts a character in turn of the century novel Bears of Blue River, which was written by local author Charles Major and based in Shelby County, IN during pioneer times. Additionally, the 1923 Joseph Fountain, currently located in the middle of the Public Square will be relocated to a more accessible location and a more appropriate base as part of the Redevelopment Plans. Other possible interactive art and cultural features include depictions of local historical and culturally significant individuals.

5. Japanese Garden

Shelby County is home to fourteen Japanese Companies, which contribute to the cultural diversity in the community. A thriving sister city relationship and International Relations Committee exist to foster engagement with the local Japanese community. In 2017, the City of Shelbyville received funding from the State of Indiana Place Based Investment Fund and BRCF, along with industrial contributions through the Shelby County Development Corporation for the Japanese Garden, which will be located in part the former Major Hospital site, demolished in 2017. The full landscape plan is located in Appendix D.



6. Blue River Trail Art

The Riverwalk Gateway sculpture (Number 1, above) will also be located on the Big Blue River Trail, but it will be a large scaled, very visible gateway piece of art commissioned by a local selection committee with a competitive screening and selection process. Other opportunities to place art along the trail, particularly within Blue River Memorial Park, exist that may engage local artists and/or youth. The goals for this artwork are to engage and support local artists, encourage healthy pedestrian activity, community engagement and conversation around this artwork. It is likely that a professional facilitator that is experienced in community art projects will be engaged to manage the project for flow and consistency, and quality, such as the Big Car organization that managed the Downtown Mural project.

7. City Gateways

Aesthetic improvement of the City's gateways is a high priority and identified in the Comprehensive Plan (see Vision and Goals, above). Features at an appropriate (large) scale that create an identity and beautify Shelbyville's gateways will be architect-designed and included in a comprehensive beautification strategy, which may also include landscaping. The gateway locations are identified on the map in Appendix C. Goals at the S.R. 9 northern city gateway include a welcoming environment and blight elimination. At the eastern gateway at S.R. 44, thousands of visitors come to Blue River Memorial Park for regional softball tournaments and cross country meets. The track is Franklin College's home course. The goal for this gateway feature would be to create interest that is visible from Interstate 74.

8. Interactive Musical Instruments

Plans for the grouping of five interactive musical instruments and grouped seating were included in the Parks Department Master Plan. In 2017, BRCF received a State of Indiana Quick Impact Placed-Based Investment Fund Grant for \$5000, committed \$12,000 in BRCF grant funds, and the City contributed over \$10,000 to install the interactive musical instruments. Design for full accessibility regardless of mobility created a fully interactive recreational, unique feature that attracts people of all ages, stages and abilities. This location is host to Arts in the Park, Music in the Park and various other events and festivals. The instruments were installed in the summer of 2017.



Funding Opportunities

Grant opportunities for funding public art exist at the federal, state and local level. Grant programs frequently change, new are added, and this list is not comprehensive.

Federal Government Grant Opportunities

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town Grant – this grant may fund public art, design, arts engagement and cultural planning. A partnership between local government and an arts non-profit organization is required.

Indiana State Government Grant Opportunities

Several State agencies offer grant programs that may fund arts and culture projects. The Indiana Arts Commission offers technical assistance and can serve as a valuable resource. The Indiana Office of Tourism partners with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to offer the Place-Based Investment Fund Grant, and the Quick Impact Place Based Grant. The Office of Community and Rural Affairs also offers grant programs which frequently change, including funding for Historic Preservation and the Mainstreet Revitalization Program, which may include art.

Community Level Funding Opportunities

The Blue River Community Foundation, which serves Shelby County, allocates at approximately 20% of unrestricted grantmaking to arts projects. Donor-advised funds and corporate gifts may be an additional resource. City and County Racino Grants, with the application process administered by BRCF may also be funding resource if the recipient is a non-profit organization. The Shelby County

Public Library maintains a membership through BRCF and trained staff in Foundation Center, which is a searchable database of private foundations that may identify arts funding opportunities through private foundations. The Lilly Endowment and Kresge Foundation have histories of funding public art.

Summary and Implementation

Local leaders recognize the value of including art in community development to foster civic pride, beautify targeted areas, create a positive brand for Shelby County, and engage residents and visitors. The projects listed in this plan represent broad community engagement from elected officials, the non-profit community, donors, youth, the disabled community, and businesses. As opportunities arise, these are priority projects that will be pursued, if not already funded and underway. Because so many partners have contributed to the content in this plan, there is significant public momentum and a breadth of funding opportunities to implement these projects in the next five years.

Appendix A. The Plan- Projects, Partners and Timelines

Project	Status/funding	Partners/Artists
Riverwalk Gateway	2018, funds committed from Blue River Community Foundation and City of Shelbyville; pursuing grant funds	BRCF, City of Shelbyville, Shelby County Tourism. Arts Selection Committee will select an artist from an RFP process for artists with a track record of large public sculpture
Downtown Murals & Alley Activation Project	One Completed, another in planning phases	Mainstreet Shelbyville, BRCF, Shelby Arts Alliance, Big Car. Leadership Shelby County
Progress Parkway Art	Funded, Spring 2018 completion	Shares, Inc.; Healthy Shelby County, BRCF, Shelbyville Parks Dept. Designed by Shares, Inc. participants
Downtown Cultural/Historic Art	First phase early 2018, funded. Bronze Balser Statue restoration complete	City of Shelbyville, Mainstreet Shelbyville, Leadership Shelby County
Japanese Garden	Funded by City of Shelbyville, BRCF, Shelby County Development Corp (SCDC) and State of Indiana PBIF Grant	City, BRCF, International Relations Committee, SCDC
Blue River Trail Art	2019	City, BRCF, local artists.
City Gateways	Planning in progress	A consistent look for City Gateways will be designed by the architect, with input from the public. Shelby County Tourism, SCDC, BRCF
Interactive Musical Park Instruments	Installed Summer 2017, funding by BRCF, City of Shelbyville, State QUIP Grant	Parks Dept, BRCF

Sculpture Request for Proposal

Shelbyville, Indiana
October 15, 2017

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Sculpture Selection Committee
3. Project Goals and Considerations
4. Budget
5. Eligibility
6. Timeline
7. Application Process
8. Selection Process
9. Design Notes
10. Selection Criteria
11. Images

For additional information, please contact Amy Haacker at the Blue River Community Foundation at ahaacker@blueriverfoundation.com or (317) 392-7955 and Bryant Niehoff, City Planner for the City of Shelbyville at bniehoff@cityofshelbyvillein.com or (317) 398-6624.

1. Executive Summary

The Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers flow through Shelby County, shaping the development and communities that grew nearby. Although no longer a driver for commerce or transportation, the rivers are a recreational asset upon which the City has just begun to capitalize. A newly established Riverfront Development District has catalyzed new investment in the Historic Downtown, and the recently completed Big Blue River Trail, connecting three city parks, neighborhoods, and the downtown commercial district is already a popular amenity.

State Road 9 crosses the Big Blue River at the entry-way of the downtown, at the Porter Visitors Center, a unique and eye catching building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is one of the most highly trafficked routes in Shelby County. The pedestrian trail will cross at this location, which is ideal for a large-scale public art sculpture.

The Riverwalk Gateway sculpture will be a visual anchor that brings together the themes of the river, downtown entrance, and the historic Porter Center site. Invited artists are encouraged to consider these themes in the design of the art and consider the scale that will be meaningful to both pedestrians utilizing the trail and Visitors Center, and vehicular traffic. The Riverfront Sculpture will set the tone for future public art and should strengthen the positive reputation and brand of Shelby County.

2. Riverwalk Gateway Sculpture Selection Committee

- a. The Riverwalk Gateway Sculpture Selection Committee consists of representatives of the following groups or organizations:
 - i. Blue River Community Foundation
 - ii. City of Shelbyville Planning Department
 - iii. City of Shelbyville Mayor
 - iv. City of Shelbyville Parks Department
 - v. Shelby Arts Alliance
 - vi. Shelby County Tourism
 - vii. Mainstreet Shelbyville
 - viii. Nearby business owner(s)
 - ix. Arts Related professional who can provide technical assistance, including curators, art historians, architects, designers, writers and critics, and/or arts administrators.
- b. Together, these volunteers will review and thoughtfully consider the best sculpture design to meet the design intent of the specific project based on the goals and criteria outlined in this RFP.

3. Project Goals and Considerations

- a. Serve a visual anchor and enhancement for the entrance into the downtown, the Big Blue River Trail, and historic Porter Center.
- b. Strengthen the positive reputation and brand of the City of Shelbyville and Shelby County.
- c. Engage the residents of Shelby County in appreciation of public art.
- d. Promote and support the economic development and vitality of the community.
- e. Invited artists are encouraged to consider the nature of the site, which is a convergence of the multi-us trail along the river, the historic site, the entrance into the historic downtown and how the public might interact with the art in a way that integrates these existing features (see attached renderings).

4. Budget

- a. \$150,000 has been donated to fund the project. The selected artist will be awarded \$150,000 in two installments to cover all costs associated with the sculpture, inclusive of, but not limited to, artist design fee, materials, fabrication, lighting integral to the design, transportation, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, insurance, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected

expenses and any other costs related to the sculpture. Liability insurance upon delivery will be provided.

- b. Artists will be asked to provide details surrounding the requirements for installation and group preparation. Basic installation and ground preparation (including a concrete pad, if needed) will be provided in-kind. Signage, and surrounding surface lighting will be funded through the Blue River Community Foundation.
- c. \$1,000 will be paid to each of the artists selected to participate in the selection process and shall cover all costs associated with the creation of the sculpture design and its model, inclusive of, but not limited to, artist design fee, materials, fabrication, shipping, transportation, installation, travel to and from the site, per diem expenses, insurance, project documentation, contingency to cover unexpected expenses and any other costs related to creating the sculpture design and model. \$500 will be provided upon agreement by the artist to create a design and model per the Request for Proposal. The remaining \$500 will be paid upon receipt of the model and completed Request for Proposal by noon on XXXXX.
- d. Artists are welcome to visit Shelbyville and tour the future site of the Riverwalk Gateway sculpture at their own expense. Staff and committee members will be available to provide tours and discuss the RFP.
- e.

5. Eligibility

- a. Five artists will be selected to submit scaled design drawings, concept statements, and a scaled model (1/2" = 1'-0").
- b. Existing sculptures may be submitted for consideration.

6. Timeline

December 1	Artists receive Request for Proposal
February 1	Artist proposal and models due by noon.
February- March	Models on display at Shelbyville City Hall
March 15	Final sculpture selected and artist notified
March 22	Signed artist agreement due and production can begin
TBD in May	Video meeting with artist to view sculpture progress
July 13	First payment of \$75,000 made to the artist
September 2018	Video meeting with artist to view sculpture progress
October 2018	Video meeting with artist to view sculpture progress
November, 2018	Sculpture is delivered by artist to installation site and final artist payment of \$75,000 is made.

7. Application Process

All artists are required to submit the following:

- a. Completed Artist and Sculpture Information Sheet (attached)
- b. At least three sketches or images of the proposed work (JPEG or PDF), showing scale, dimensions and elevations
- c. A physical model of the sculpture, which will be on display at a variety of locations in Shelbyville prior to the final selection. Models shall be constructed at the scale of 1/2"=1'-0".
- d. Line itemized budget
- e. At least two references
- f. **Submissions must be received by Noon EST on February 1, 2018.** Electronic submissions are to be emailed to ahaacker@blueriverfoundation.com and bniehoff@cityofshelbyvillein.com. Late submissions will not be accepted.

8. Selection Process

- a. The Riverwalk Gateway Sculpture Selection Committee will review all complete submissions and models based on the criteria defined herein.
- b. One artist will be selected to produce the proposed sculpture.

9. Design Notes

- a. Regarding materials to be used: Wood and plexiglass are discouraged; Corten steel is acceptable. However, raw steel is not; Art glass is acceptable but must be a minimum of one inch thick.
- b. Artists are encouraged to consider the mass and scale relative to the existing surroundings when designing sculpture.
- c. Sound elements integrated into the design are acceptable if self-producing without electricity.
- d. All public safety standards are required to be met. Documents will be reviewed and stamped by an Indiana-licensed structural engineer prior to commencement of fabrication. Designs that do not meet minimum safety standards will be removed from consideration.
- e. Artists are to ensure their ability to complete the work as proposed on time and on budget.

10. Selection Criteria

Each sculpture will be evaluated based on the following characteristics:

- a. Quality – artistic and aesthetic
- b. Context – scale, material, form and surroundings, i.e. cultural, architectural
- c. Media – all forms
- d. Durability – vandalism, theft, weather
- e. Sustainability – feasibility and cost to maintain
- f. Diversity – reflective of diverse cultures, styles
- g. Duplication – work needs to be unique

11. Images and attachments

- a. Location site plan
- b. Photos of the site and nearby amenities, including trail features, Porter Center, and Downtown Shelbyville
- c. Historical maps and drawings

12. Artist and Sculpture Information Form

Artist and Sculpture Information Form

If a team of artists is submitting a design, please include requested information for each involved artist. Please type form and attachments.

Artist Contact Information

Name	
Company	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Cell Phone No.	
Email Address	
Website	

Sculpture Design Information (May be submitted as attachment)

Sculpture Name	
Design narrative (250 words or less)	
Sculpture dimensions	
Sculpture material(s), including fasteners	
Sculpture Weight	
Installation plan and foundation requirements	
Maintenance requirements	

Attachment Checklist (Application materials will not be returned.)

	Artist and Sculpture Information Sheet
	Resume (not to exceed three pages)
	At least three sketches or images of the proposed work (JPEG or PDF), showing scale, dimensions and elevations
	Model built to scale of 1/2"=1'-0"
	Line itemized budget including materials, labor, and delivery for model and finished sculpture
	Production time-line
	At least two references

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I have read and understand the submission directions and selection process. I further understand that I will only be awarded associated stipends if my design is selected and I meet all applicable deadlines described above.

Signature and Date: _____

CITY OF SHELBYVILLE - PLAN FOR PUBLIC ART



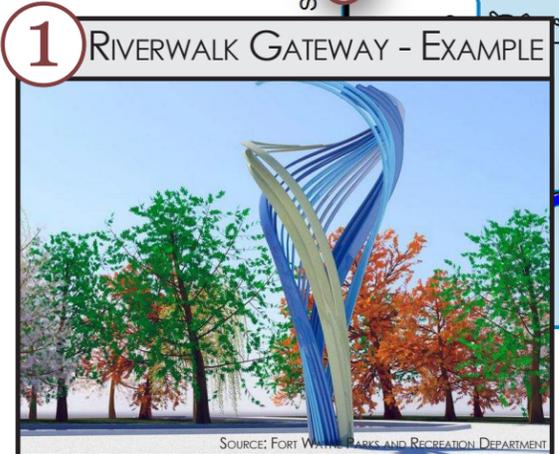
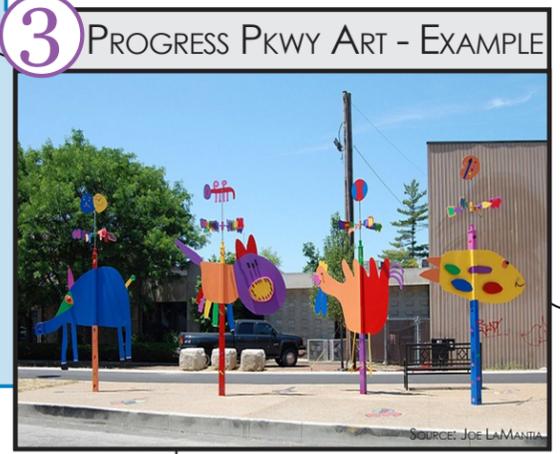
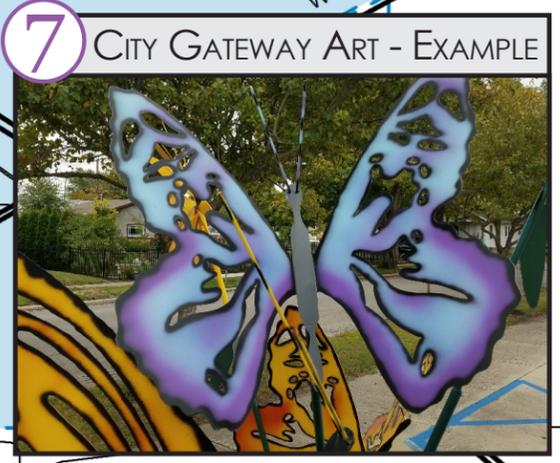
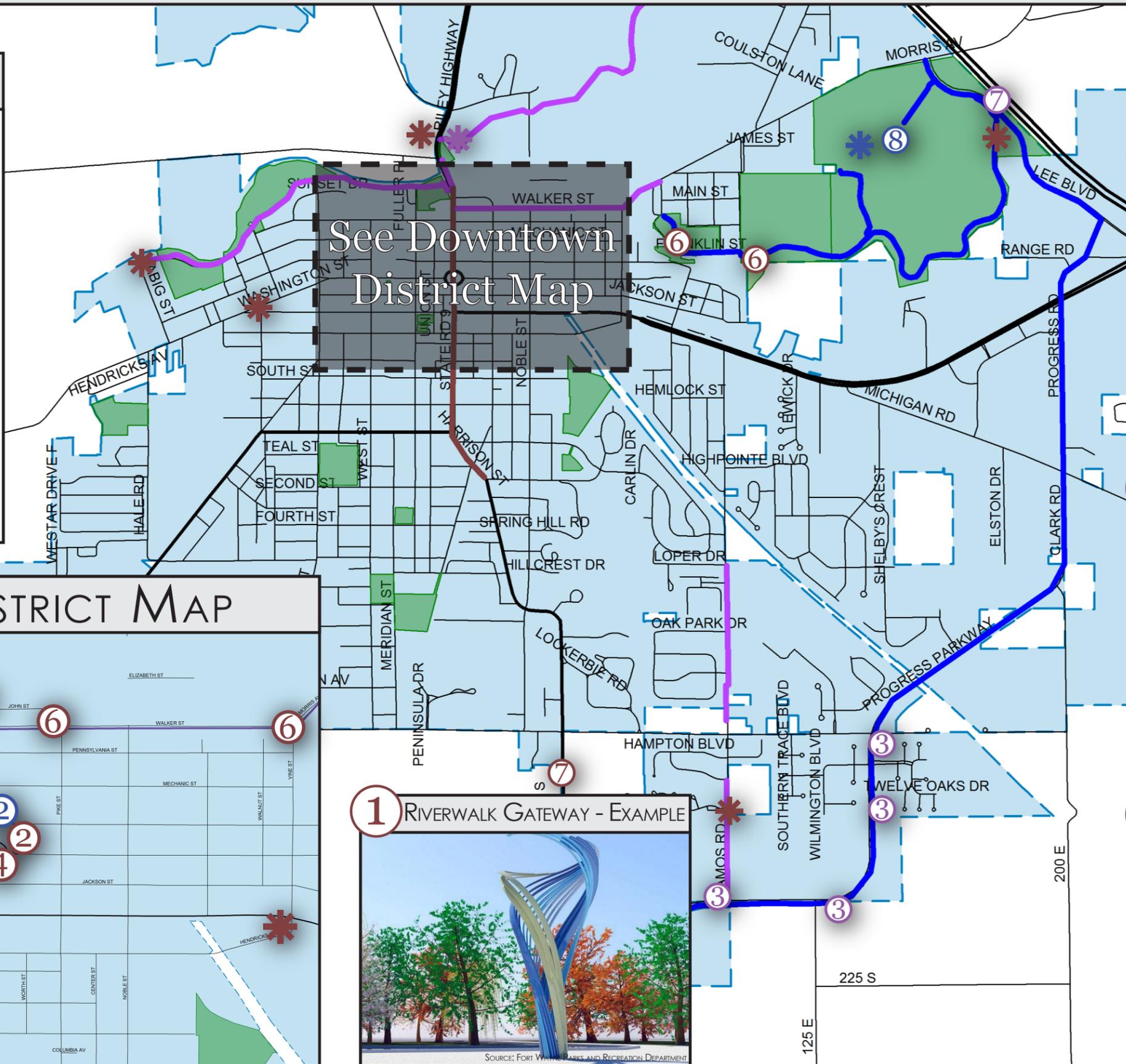
LEGEND

Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

- Existing (Blue line)
- Funded (Purple line)
- Proposed (Brown line)

Public Art Locations

Projects Indicated in Document	General Project Locations
Existing (Blue X)	Existing (Blue star)
Funded (Purple X)	Funded (Purple star)
Proposed (Brown X)	Proposed (Brown star)



LANDSCAPE PLAN AND SECTION

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

JAPANESE GARDEN
CORNER OF WEST AND WASHINGTON
STREETS
SHELBYVILLE, IN

