

# ERIE

## PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING

**PLAN**  
SPRING 2024

FOR THE TOWN OF ERIE,  
COLORADO



# CONTENTS

<b>01. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> SUMMARY OF PLANNING PROCESS	<b>03</b>
<b>02. WHY PUBLIC ART &amp; PLACEMAKING</b> THE NEXT INVESTMENT IN ERIE'S IDENTITY ERIE AS A DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE WHY PLACEMAKING HOW PUBLIC ART MAKES A PLACE	<b>04</b>
<b>03. VISION FOR THE FUTURE</b> ENGAGEMENT RESULTS CHARACTER AREAS STORIES OF THE COMMUNITY	<b>05</b>
<b>04. AREAS FOR INVESTMENT</b> DOWNTOWN ERIE GATEWAYS & OPEN SPACES TOWN CENTER PARKS & TRAILS	<b>09</b>
<b>05. APPENDIX: IMPLEMENTATION</b> PROPOSED FUNDING ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE PUBLIC ART POLICY	<b>35</b>



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## PLANNING PROCESS

The Erie Public Art and Placemaking Plan provides an outline for Erie to invest in public art and placemaking that propels the community forward while still honoring its past. Thus making Erie a unique place to live or to visit– with a stand-out identity within the plains region.

This plan was created over many months of community engagement, site discovery, and with collaboration from nationally acclaimed public artist, Mark Reigelman. The insights garnered shaped the vision and objectives for public art and placemaking in Erie to maximize its benefits on the community, tourism, public spaces, and beyond.

In engagement sessions, respondents noted themes of the plains lifestyle, family-centered narratives, diverse stories, and the town's legacy, as a place deeply rooted in heritage and history. Survey results also informed the possible aesthetic qualities of future art installations by indicating their preferred materials and general design characteristics.

This planning process took into account all of the engagement, research, site visits, and the team's previous experience in public art planning, resulting in recommendations that are based on best practices and are tailored to Erie.

# PLACEMAKING

**AS THE NEXT INVESTMENT IN ERIE'S IDENTITY**

## WHY PLACEMAKING & PUBLIC ART

Placemaking is the physical embodiment of what a community is and strives to be, and how people want their spaces to be experienced and understood. Through placemaking, communities infuse their built environment with soul and vibrancy, underlining their shared values and fostering a sense of identity that all who experience the space can feel and understand. Placemaking can be fun, tactical, creative, and utilitarian; it knits a place's built environment together and encourages people to use and experience spaces in new ways. Placemaking can include everything from community programming to site fixtures and furnishing to large-scale public art, with all interventions intended to create beacons for activity in public spaces.

## ERIE AS A DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE

Erie residents love that Erie is:

- Welcoming and accepting to all
- Family-friendly
- Immersed in natural beauty
- Rich in recreational amenities
- An active community
- Steeped in history

The recommendations in this plan strategically build upon these beloved characteristics to improve positive feelings of Erie and its overall desirability.

## WHY PLACEMAKING IS THE NEXT STEP

As a growing town, Erie should take the next step to establish its identity through placemaking. This will provide a more unifying experience for community members and create a platform to storytell the unique qualities of what makes Erie, Erie. Through the implementation of this plan, Erie will declare itself a unique place to live and visit, with its own sense of place among the plains communities, its own stories to tell, and entirely unique spaces to experience.

## HOW PUBLIC ART CAN BE A TOOL

Public art can be a powerful tool in placemaking efforts. Though it comes in many forms, all public art has one thing in common — it is available to be seen, heard, and/or felt by everyone. Art can be completely unique to a place and representative of a community. The Town of Erie has chosen to create this plan to support placemaking across its community. Four investment areas were chosen for this document to address with additional recommendations for Erie to continue to support public art and placemaking efforts alongside general recommendations for parks and trail settings.



# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

## COMMUNITY VISION FOR PLACEMAKING

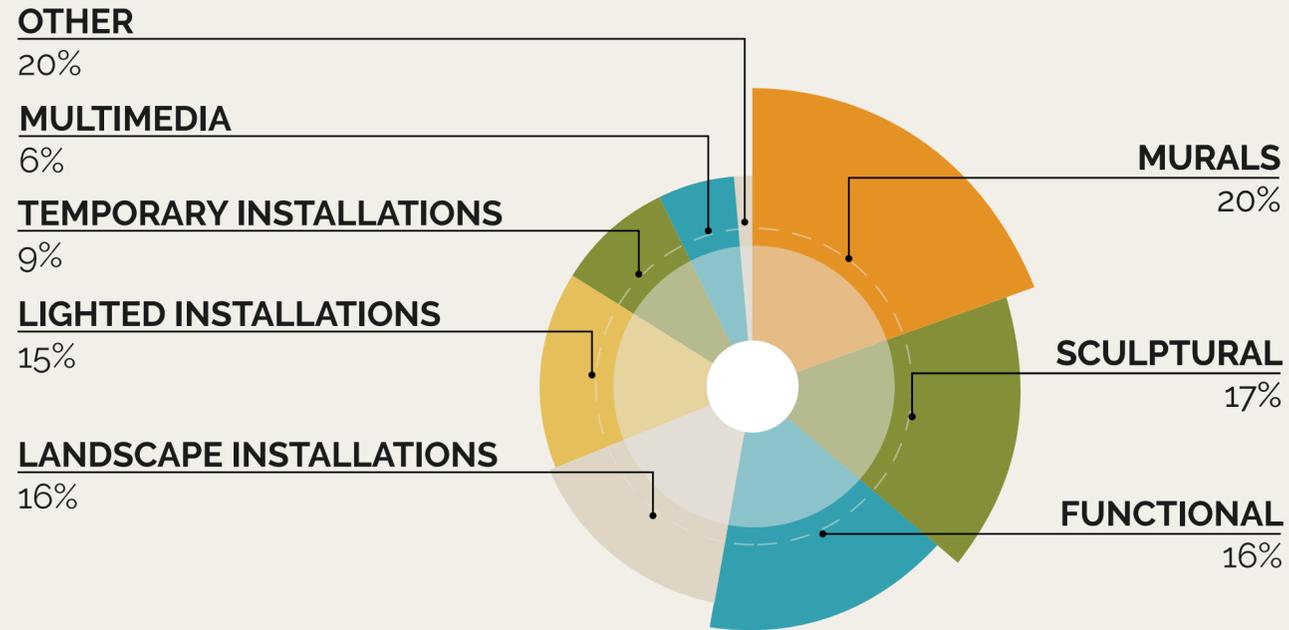
Community conversation participants and stakeholder survey respondents overwhelmingly communicated that the best part of Erie is its people. They are welcoming, fun, and cherish living in a growing community with a small-town feel. Erie residents united by the “Erie way” of building their community and committed to foster a unique identity within the plains region. Their vision for Erie’s future is grounded in its beautiful natural surroundings and distinct history, and leans into its small-town charm. The future of Erie is bright, playful, and true to itself. Placemaking elements will creatively integrate all that makes this place so special to community members.

## COMMUNITY PLACEMAKING MAP

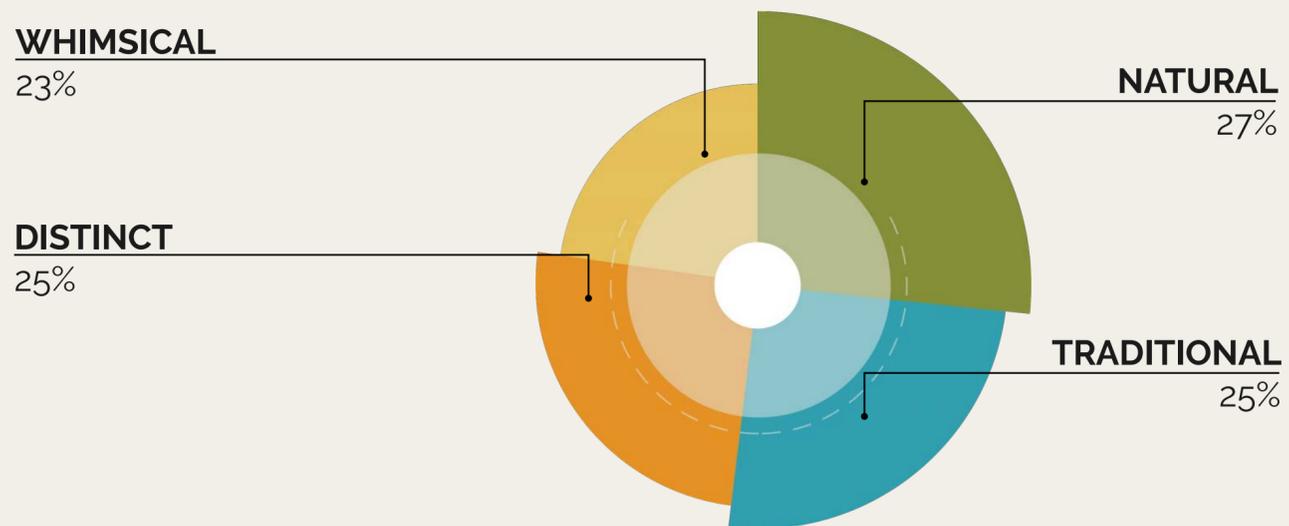
As part of the engagement portion of the planning process community members were asked to map different placemaking tones around town, the results of which are captured in this section, serving to provide direction for material choices in the Areas for Investment plan chapter.



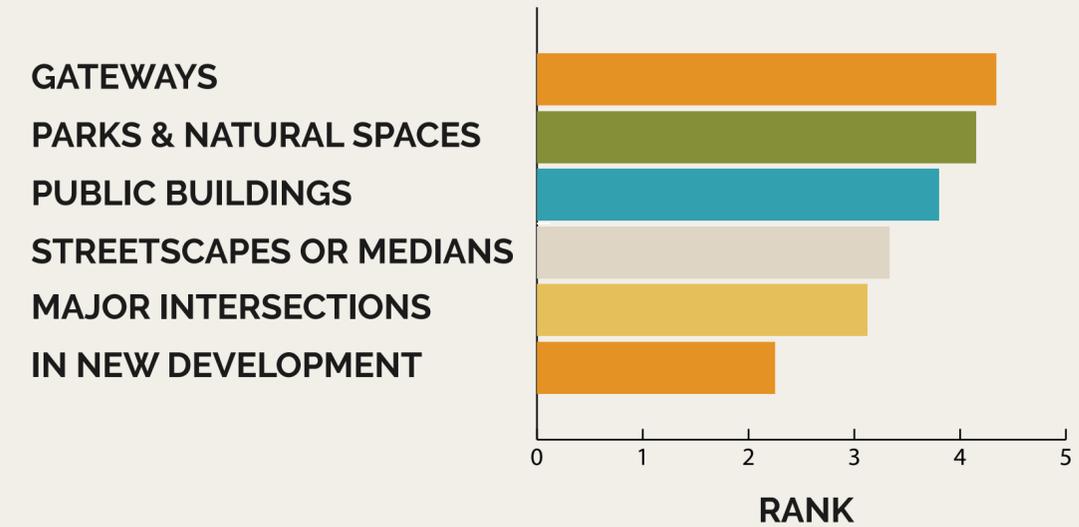
## WHAT TYPES OF PUBLIC ART WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN ERIE?



## WHICH PLACEMAKING STYLE BEST FITS ERIE?



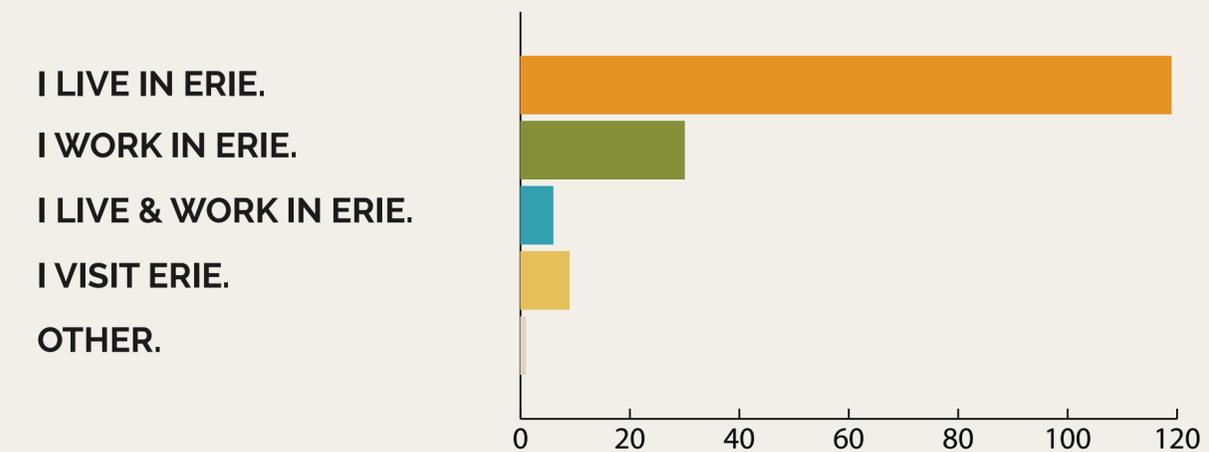
## WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE PUBLIC ART?

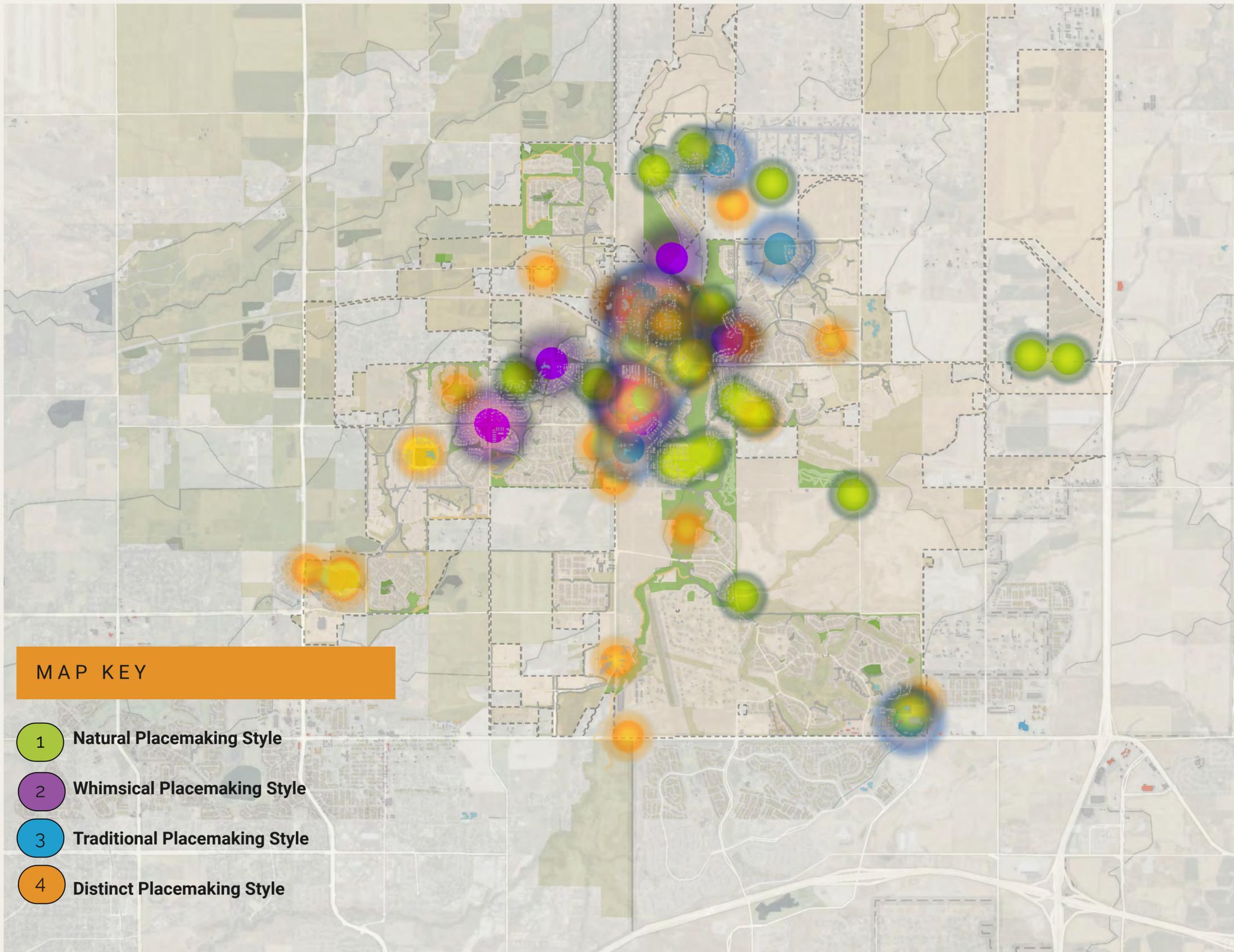


## SHOULD ERIE TRY TO STAND OUT, OR BLEND IN WITH ITS NEIGHBORS?



## WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO ERIE?





MAP KEY

- 1 Natural Placemaking Style
- 2 Whimsical Placemaking Style
- 3 Traditional Placemaking Style
- 4 Distinct Placemaking Style



Natural Materials & Tone



Whimsical Materials & Tone



Traditional Materials & Tone



Distinct Materials & Tone

# IDENTITY

**IF INVESTMENT IS MADE ON A HIGH LEVEL, WHAT WILL ERIE BE?**

## REINFORCING IDENTITY

If placemaking and public art investments are made, Erie will uniquely position itself among adjacent communities as a charming and community-centered place. That identity will be expressed through public art installations that draw attention to Erie's scenic surroundings — the open spaces and the Rocky Mountain range. Material choices will both reflect and augment these settings, while Erie's values and history will be physically represented in modern space and time.

## HOW TO USE THESE CONCEPTS

Each focus area is framed by guiding principles and material choices that convey the unique identity of the place. Provided within each section is a place-based strategy that defines the primary public art typologies to be sought, a pallet of materials that fit the character of the area, and guiding principles describe the mood and vision for each place, whether it be natural, whimsical, or inviting.

## WHAT STORIES DOES ERIE WANT TO TELL?

While Erie residents appreciate conversation starters like the intriguing horse head in downtown, they want their art and placemaking elements to move the community forward. The people of Erie value the history of the land they currently reside on, and don't mind hints at its long legacy, but would prefer to see canaries, not just coal. Therefore, the most successful art and placemaking concepts in Erie might explore these themes:

### *Tell this...*

- Natural History
- Plains Lifestyle
- Recreation & Play
- Family
- Diverse & Representational Stories

### *Community members have heard enough of this...*

The most successful art and placemaking elements will carefully consider the context of:

- Coal Mining & Other Extractive Industries
- Wild Fires
- Environmental Issues & Conditions



# AREAS FOR INVESTMENT



## **DOWNTOWN ERIE**

Public Art & Placemaking strategies will enhance and already well-loved and well-trafficed central community space.

## **GATEWAYS TO ERIE**

Public Art & Placemaking strategies will welcome people to town with iconic artwork that showcases Erie's personality and cultural offerings.

## **ERIE TOWN CENTER**

Public Art & Placemaking strategies will include artists from the beginning stages of its development, to become a place to shop, work, live, and also enjoy unique art.

## **PARKS AND TRAILS**

Public Art & Placemaking strategies will capitalize on the beautiful parks and scenic surroundings of the city, which are cherished by community members.



# DOWNTOWN ERIE

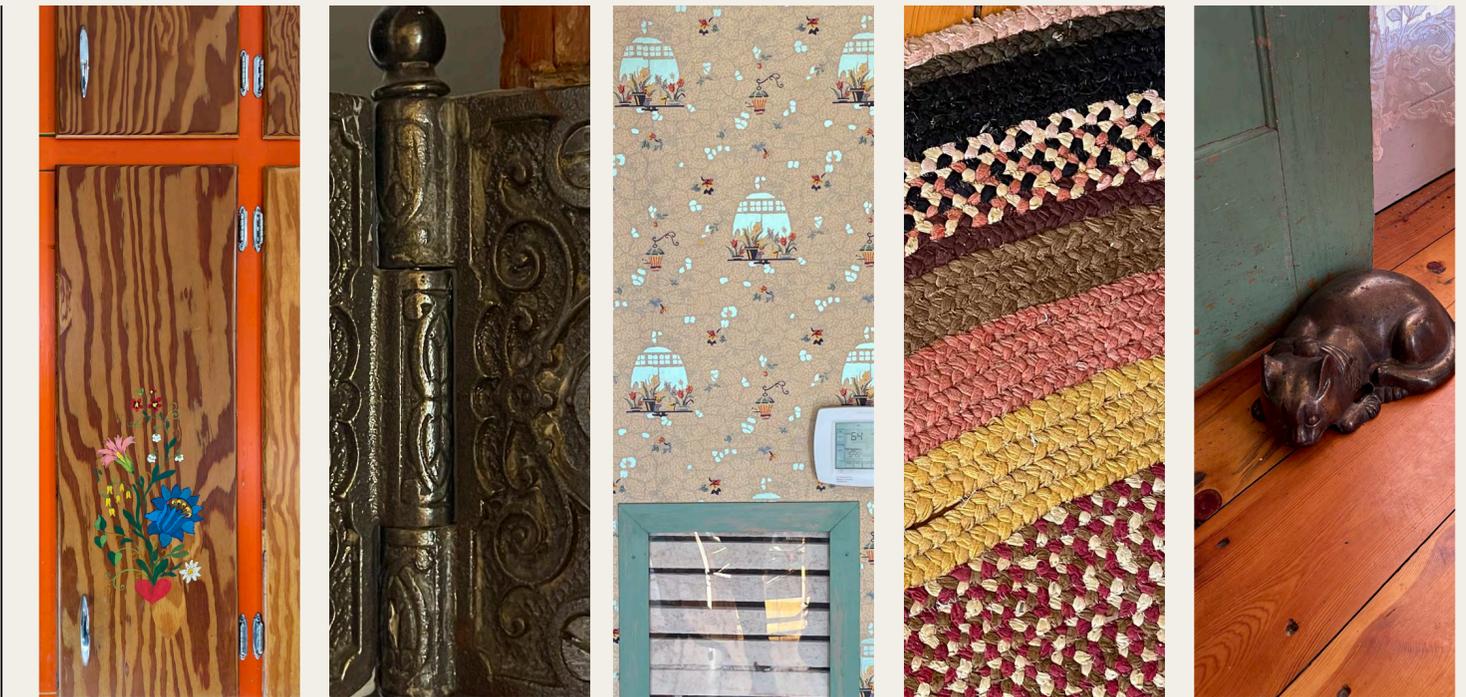
Erie's historic downtown, also known as Old Town, is a place well-loved by residents. Community members frequently expressed how important this neighborhood is, so it will be important to place art here that truly represents Erie and honors its historic themes. Incorporating new art into historic areas has been implemented successfully in many towns, and the effect in Erie could engender even more community pride.

# CHARACTERISTICS

Erie's downtown is quintessential, quaint, and completely charming. Residents desire to enhance its existing character with art and placemaking elements that add a new dynamic to this cherished space. The most successful art and placemaking elements in Erie's downtown will be:

- Whimsical
- Traditional
- Handcrafted
- Historic
- Natural

PALETTE FOR  
FOR INSPIRATION



- Brushed Metals
- Waxed & Stained Wood
- Woven Fabrics
- Brick
- Painted Metal
- Gold Leaf
- Wallpaper, Textiles & Fabric
- Colored Glass



## Textiles & Fiber Art

Fiber art is any kind of artwork that uses natural or synthetic fiber materials as the primary component of its overall composition. Fiber art can take the form of wall hangings, tree wraps, suspended sculptures, and beyond. Examples of fiber materials include fabric, yarn, polyurethane materials (like tarp), and mesh.

Woods of Net | **Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam**



## Bronze Sculpture

The small bronze canary sculpture that currently exists in downtown Erie should be reimagined. Its connection to the area's mining history and emphasis on nature make it an ideal candidate to represent the area. The scale and material of the original should be maintained, but bright yellow canaries can be scattered throughout the neighborhood for people to seek and find.

BRONZE RABBITS | **Yabuuchi Satoshi**



## Environmental Art

Environmental art is any kind of outdoor public art that uses materials with a direct connection to nature, landscaping, or organic materials. Environmental art can be temporary or permanent, and its scale can vary. Its thematic context addresses environmentalism and sustainability.

FRANKIE FEETSPLINTER | **Thomas Dambo**



## Architecturally Integrated

With new development comes unique opportunities to integrate artistic elements. Architecturally integrated elements are artworks created by an artist or artist team which are then melded into structures, features, and or facades to enhance the character of an area. Occasionally, the art itself can be the architecture, such as a sculptural pavilion designed by an artist.

TEMPLE OF BOOM | **NGV Architecture**

# PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING CONCEPTS

## White Rabbit Trail (..but it's Canaries)

The small bronze canary sculpture that currently exists in downtown Erie should be reimagined. Its connection to the area's mining history and emphasis on nature make it an ideal candidate to represent the area. The scale and material of the original should be maintained, but bright yellow canaries can be scattered throughout the neighborhood for people to seek and find.

## Rocking Chairs + Little Knitting Library

As a callback to the early days of the West and a slower way of life, rocking chairs should be affixed to a quiet corner of Briggs Street adjacent to a little knitting library — a new take on the little libraries scattered throughout the world at which people can take and leave books. In this proposed library, people could take and leave yarn, knitting needles, and crochet hooks. The sidewalk nearby could feature a simple knitting pattern to help those who choose to rock and knit learn a new hobby.

## Neighborly Fences

As one of the few non-HOA neighborhoods in the area, Downtown Erie is uniquely positioned to take advantage of a neighborhood placemaking grant opportunity the town could offer. Nearly every property in downtown has some form of fencing, varying from simple chain links to custom shapes and brightly colored designs. It would be interesting to use grants, prizes, and recognition to incentivize homeowners to explore the creative possibilities of their fences. After all, as Robert Frost famously said, *"Good fences make good neighbors."*

## Murals

Several historic painted graphics adorn the facades of downtown-area architecture. Any future mural endeavors should be approached with a deep sense of respect for downtown's historical context, ensuring that they complement rather than detract from the unique character of the buildings. By embracing the site's rich history, mural artists can weave narratives that resonate with the community while infusing bold colors and dynamic forms to captivate viewers, enlivening the urban landscape.



# ADDITIONAL ARTIST CREATED CONCEPTS

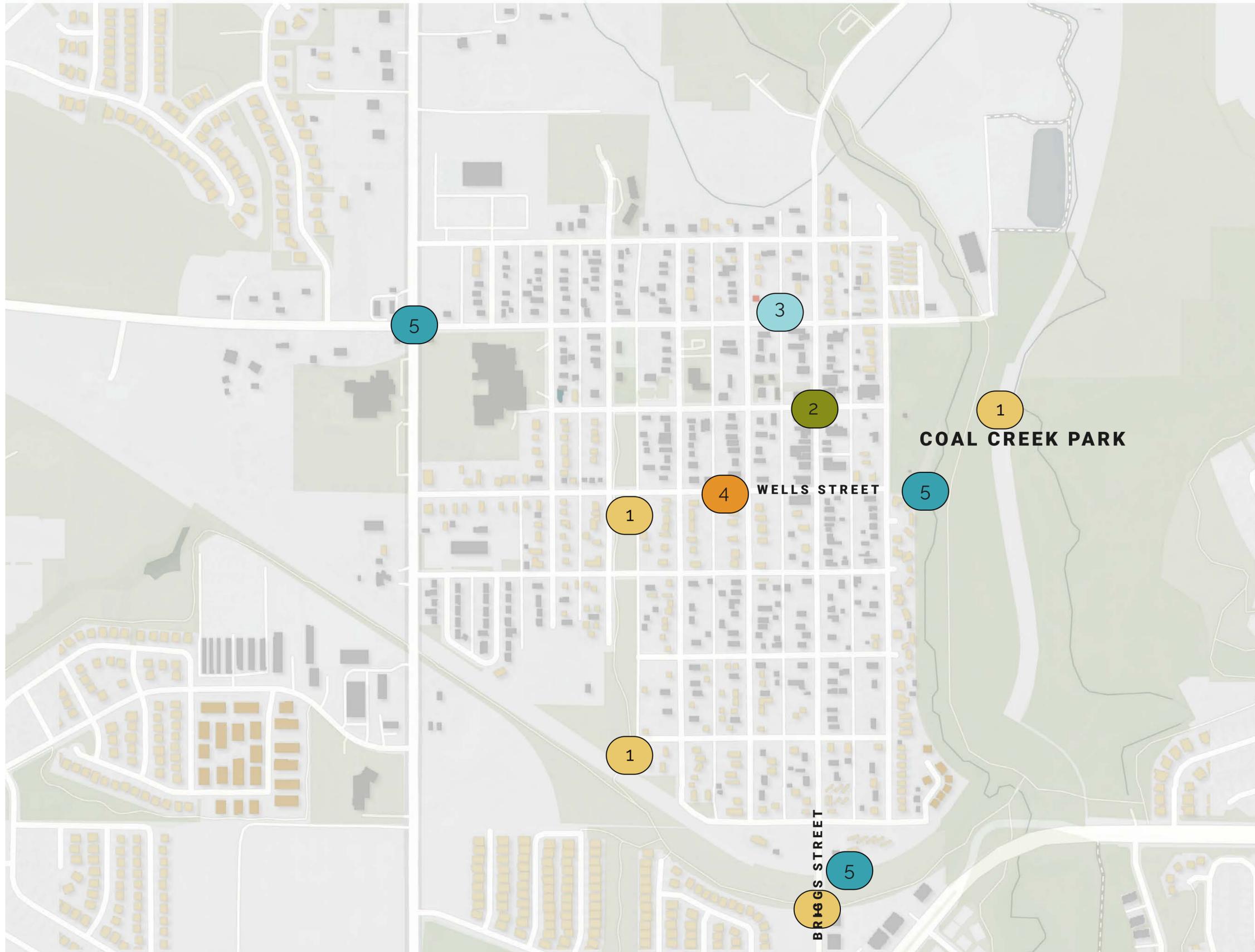


*The concepts presented in this plan do not represent proposals for public art or placemaking projects, they are merely meant to serve as inspiring examples of how the character of Erie and the stories of town can be presented in creative and site-specific ways. These concepts were created using a variety of methods including artistic collage, computer-generated imagery, and superimposed photography.*

# ADDITIONAL ARTIST CREATED CONCEPTS



*The concepts presented in this plan do not represent proposals for public art or placemaking projects, they are merely meant to serve as inspiring examples of how the character of Erie and the stories of town can be presented in creative and site-specific ways. These concepts were created using a variety of methods including artistic collage, computer-generated imagery, and superimposed photography.*



MAP KEY

- 1 White Rabbit (Canary) Trail
- 2 Rocking Chairs + Little Knitting Library
- 3 Wall Paper Mural
- 4 Horse Sculpture
- 5 General Public Art Opportunities



# GATEWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

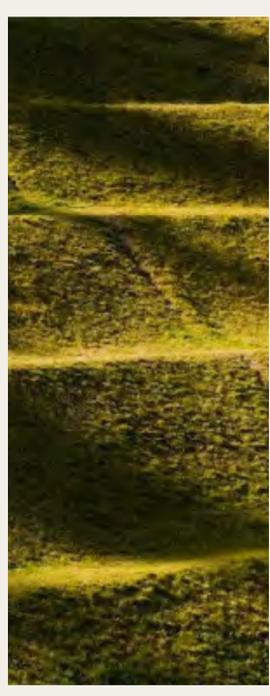
As Travelers enter Erie it is critical that the identity of Erie as a place is underscored so that the people of Erie are able to define to the rest of the world what they want to be seen as, so that the town's identity is not limited to commercial and residential signage. These works of art can be integrated with well-designed landscaping or incorporated into roundabouts at major north/south or east/west entry points to the Town. This could be a commercial or residential development. Art could be in the ROW, center median, or dedicated open space such as parks, trail heads and junctions .

# CHARACTERISTICS

As people make their way into Erie, they are greeted by expansive landscapes set against a majestic mountain backdrop. This presents a prime opportunity to install a prominent public artwork that serves as a welcoming beacon, announcing to people that they have arrived in Erie. The artwork should seamlessly blend boldness, playfulness, and elements of tradition, all while harmonizing with the surrounding landscape. The most successful art and placemaking elements in Erie's Gateways will be:

- Monumental
- Bespoke
- Natural
- Inviting

PALETTE FOR  
FOR INSPIRATION



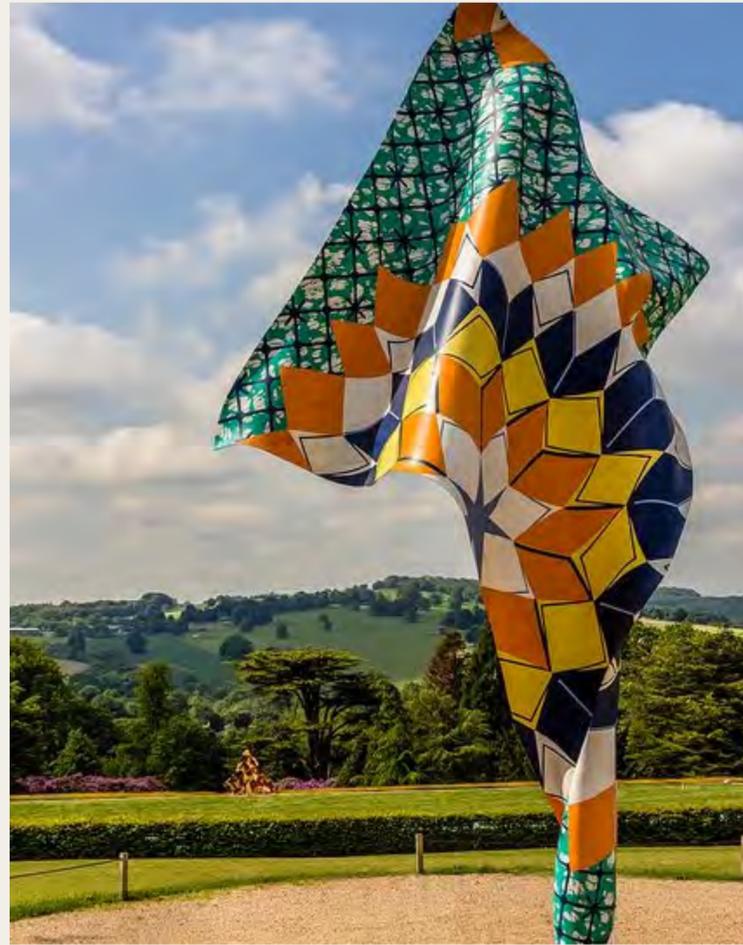
- Wood
- Painted Metal
- Gold Leaf
- Textiles & Fabric (flowing materials)
- Vibrant Painted Metals
- Colored Glass



## Textiles & Fiber Art

Fiber art is any kind of artwork that uses natural or synthetic fiber materials as the primary component of its overall composition. Fiber art can take the form of wall hangings, tree wraps, suspended sculptures, and beyond. Examples of fiber materials include fabric, yarn, polyurethane materials (like tarp), and mesh.

Untitled | **Rachel Hayes**



## Gateway Sculptures

Sculptures are three-dimensional original artworks that can be made of any material that offers structural stability and durability. Sculptures are scaled to their surroundings and typically do not move from the location in which they are installed. Whether contemporary, whimsical, traditional, or something more, sculptures are often the focal points of civic art. Sculptures may commemorate and celebrate history, express civic pride, or be established as culturally defining showpieces for the town.

WIND SCULPTURE II | **Yinka Shonibare**



## Environmental Art

Environmental art is an obvious contender for the gateways to Erie, with its use of natural materials it melds into the landscape and enhances the natural scenery.

UMI | **Daniel Popper**



## Kinetic

Kinetic art integrates movement as part of its overall design or aesthetic. Examples include wind-activated sculptures, water-propelled installations or gravity-powered suspensions.

LE VENT SOUFFLE OÙ IL VEUT | **Daniel Buren**

# PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING CONCEPTS

## Gateway Art

It is crucial that any proposed gateway art strikes a delicate balance, framing the breathtaking natural scenery while honoring Erie's rich history and heritage. This can be achieved through thoughtful incorporation of elements that reflect Erie's roots, such as motifs inspired by its early settlers, indigenous cultures, or historical landmarks.

Moreover, the artwork should capture the imagination of visitors, inviting them to engage with the space and fostering a sense of connection to the community. Whether through innovative, sculptural forms, dynamic installations, or interactive elements, the artwork should evoke a sense of wonder and curiosity, leaving a lasting impression on all who pass through.

By carefully considering the unique characteristics of landscape and heritage, the proposed public artwork has the potential to not only serve as a distinctive landmark but also as a source of pride for the community, embodying the spirit and identity of Erie for generations to come

## Open Space Installations

Creative use of landscaping and site-specific public art can add an entirely new dimension to gateway elements for the Town of Erie. The Town should consider involving landscape architects and other design professionals in the process alongside artists co-collaborate on welcoming and entirely unique gateways to the town.

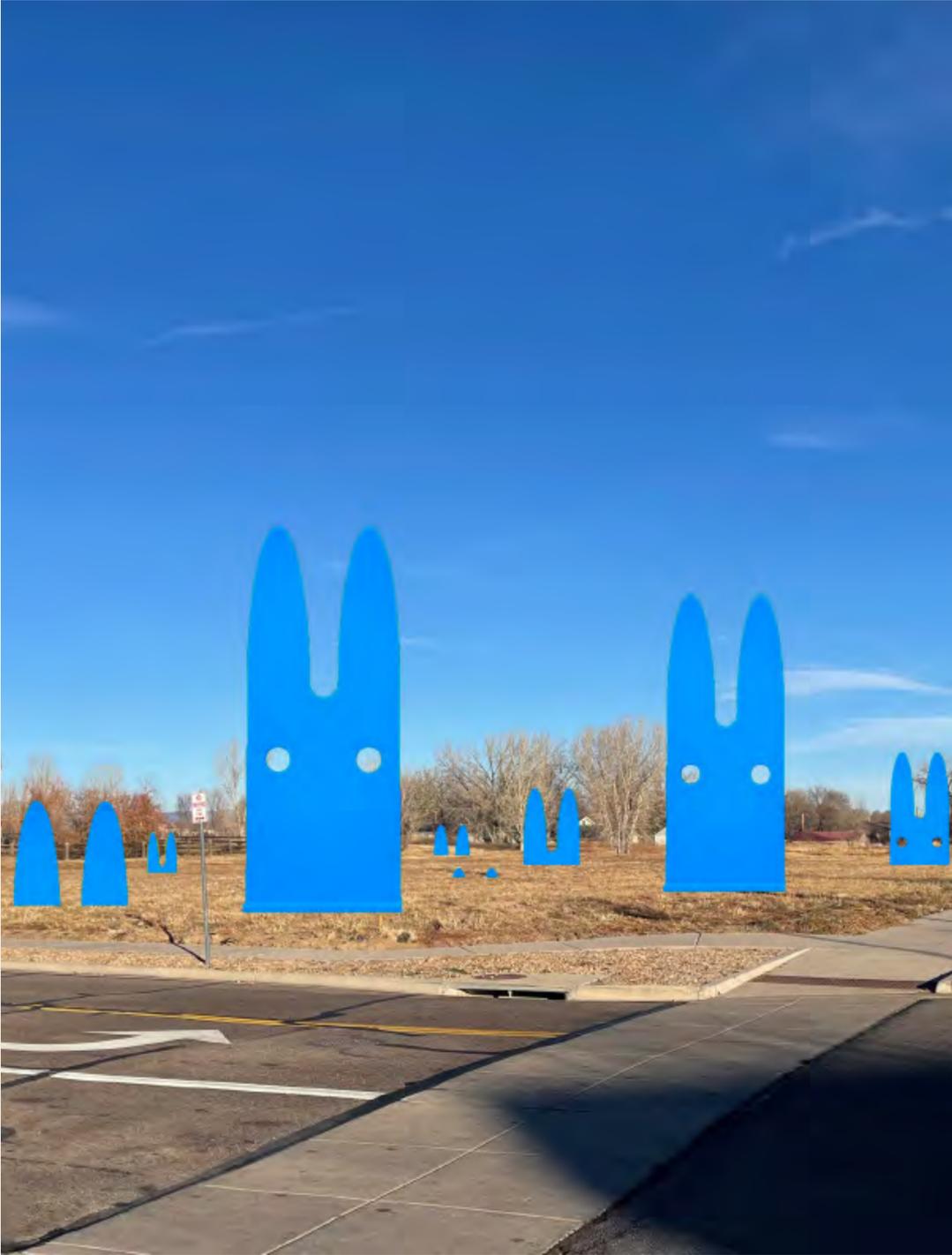


# ADDITIONAL ARTIST CREATED CONCEPTS



*The concepts presented in this plan do not represent proposals for public art or placemaking projects, they are merely meant to serve as inspiring examples of how the character of Erie and the stories of town can be presented in creative and site-specific ways. These concepts were created using a variety of methods including artistic collage, computer-generated imagery, and superimposed photography.*

# ADDITIONAL ARTIST CREATED CONCEPTS

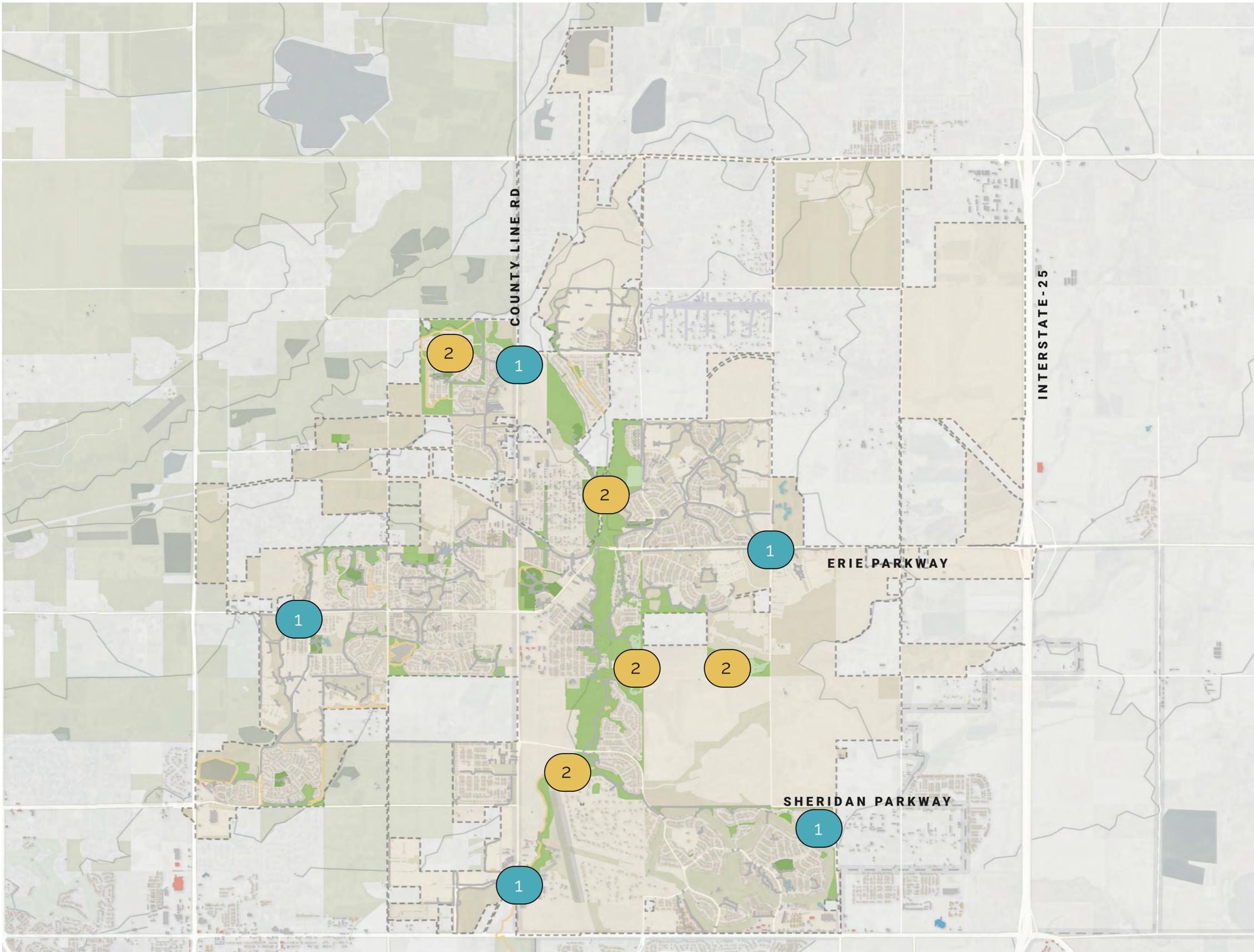


*The concepts presented in this plan do not represent proposals for public art or placemaking projects, they are merely meant to serve as inspiring examples of how the character of Erie and the stories of town can be presented in creative and site-specific ways. These concepts were created using a variety of methods including artistic collage, computer-generated imagery, and superimposed photography.*

MAP KEY

1 Gateway Piece

2 Open Space Installation



RENDERING FROM DPZ MASTER PLAN



# ERIE TOWN CENTER

The Erie Town Center will be a transformative addition to Erie. With its mixed-use design and variety of housing options, the Town Center will be the first opportunity many in Erie will have to experience living, working, and shopping in the same place. Often, new developments do not represent the character of a place, but there is now an opportunity to directly involve artists in the placemaking process, integrating public art into the Town Center from the very beginning — an opportunity not often seized in the development process, but one that can instill true character within a new place.

## CHARACTERISTICS

The future Town Center development will be ripe for the integration of artist-designed elements. This vast expanse presents an ideal canvas for the incorporation of creatively crafted features such as artist-designed pavers, distinctive light fixtures, ornate tree grates, and innovative seating arrangements. By blending traditional materials and construction methods with contemporary forms and shapes, the Town Center Plaza can establish its own distinctive identity within the development. The most successful art and placemaking elements in Erie's Gateway will be:

- Architectural
- Distinct
- Contemporary
- Engaging

PALETTE FOR  
FOR INSPIRATION



- More Contemporary Forms
- Vibrant Painted Metals
- Colored Glass
- Painted Wood



## Architectural

With new development comes unique opportunities to integrate artistic elements. Architecturally integrated elements are artworks created by an artist or artist team which are then melded into structures, features, and or facades to enhance the character of an area.

TEMPLE OF BOOM | **NGV Architecture**



## Functional

Functional Art is the ordinary infrastructure that has been reimagined and designed by an artist. Integrating unique designs into infrastructure may be an affordable and efficient way to create a major visual impact. Some possible options for functional art installations include bike racks, benches, play equipment, medians, subdivision walls, trash cans, transit stops, storm drains, manholes, monument signage, sidewalk treatments and more.

MI CASA YOUR CASA | **Hector Esrawe & Igancio Cadena**



## Interactive

Interactive placemaking measures help drive social connection, which in turn strengthens relationship between people and city spaces. Interactive placemaking measures also have the benefit of creating moments of surprise for users and energizing spaces that have become static.

SOUND INSTALLATION | **Yuri Suzuki**



## Murals

While curating permanent works of art as part of the collection is important, ephemeral works such as murals allow for the exposure of many artists over a short period of time rather than a few artists over a long period of time. Murals are large-scale, two-dimensional compositions that can be: 1) painted onto the surface 2) graphic reproductions printed onto vinyl that is adhered to a surface, or 3) painted onto a panel that is affixed to the building.

FOLDING THE PRISM | **Jessie Unterhalter & Katelyn Truhn**

# TOWN CENTER APPROACH

## APPROACH

### *How the town can own the artwork*

The construction of the new Town Center requires a more measured approach to incorporating art and placemaking elements, striking a balance between the realities of new construction and the desire for a place where residents and visitors can feel a sense of authenticity and vibrancy, even in a brand-new space. To execute a successful art and placemaking strategy for the Town Center, careful consideration of how pieces on publicly-owned and publicly visible spaces should be owned and maintained is required.

The Town of Erie should maintain ownership of artworks commissioned through both CIP funding and art acquired or commissioned using the proposed Erie Public Art Acquisition Fund. These pieces should be placed on publicly-owned land or within the right-of-way where possible.

There may come a point when it creates a greater public utility to commission a piece of art or to construct placemaking elements on privately-owned property. In these circumstances, the Town of Erie may enter into an agreement with a private entity to establish methods of operation and maintenance for a piece of art or other installation that clearly outlines roles and responsibilities within this public-private partnership. It may be determined that all or a portion of the artwork under these circumstances could be funded using the proposed Erie Public Art Acquisition Fund.

### *How the can developers can own the artwork*

While the private percent for art policy outlined on in the appendix allows for the contribution by developers to the Erie Public Art Acquisition Fund in lieu of commissioning the artwork themselves, they may still choose to commission, own, and maintain the artwork. Should private property owners pursue this route it should be made clear that all applicable review commissions and processes still apply.\*

### *Integration into design guidelines for overlay*

While the proposed Town Center's design guidelines allow for up to 10% of a mural's (or, per the guidelines, "Wall Mural Sign") surface area to include an advertisement, it is not allowable for public art funding dollars acquired through Capital Improvement Projects not the Erie Public Art Acquisition Fund to pay for art that functions as an explicit or implied advertisement for a private business or entity.

Furthermore, all artwork proposed within the Town Center overlay district should go through appropriate review commissions prior to the commissioning or acquisition of the artwork.



# PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING CONCEPTS

## Structural Art Installation | Plaza

In southern portion of the Town Center development, there is a focus on creating an event space that stands out as a key architectural feature within the development. This space is integral to the early activation and placemaking agenda of the site. Therefore, this architectural element must be not only functional but also unique and dynamic, serving as a destination even when not in use. In essence, the event space will not merely be a venue for gatherings, but a landmark that anchors the development, attracting both visitors and residents with its compelling design and function.

## Underpass Tunnel Installation

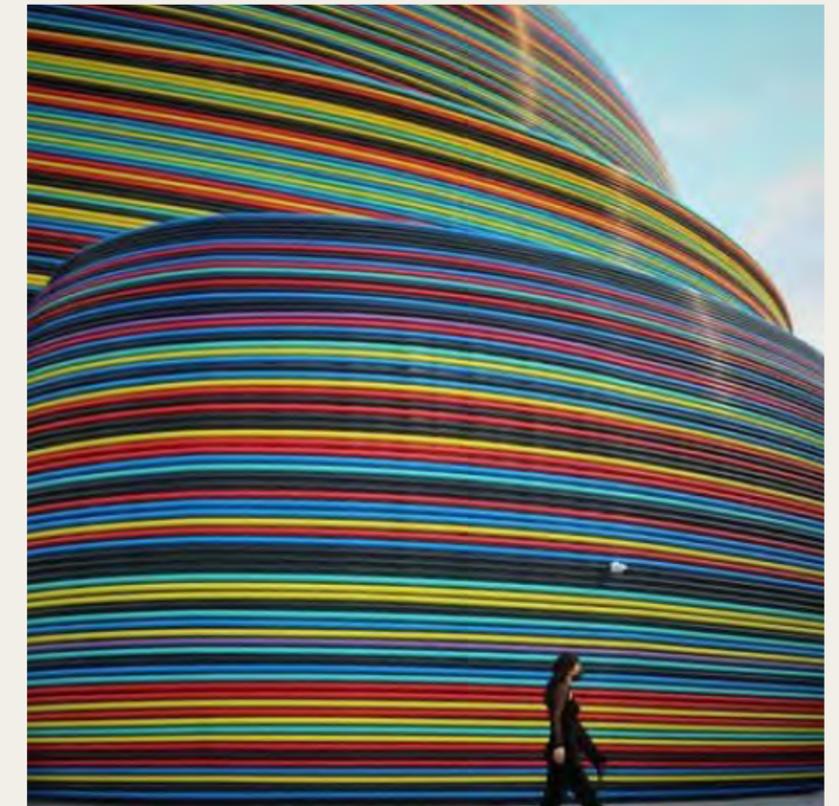
In the proposed plan, an underpass serves as a safe and convenient crossing beneath County Line Road, linking the new Town Center with the existing Erie Community Park. The design already evokes a mine entrance, presenting an excellent opportunity to further explore an artistic feature that accentuates this historic theme. The incorporation of bold colors and dynamic lighting would not only enhance visibility but also create a captivating ambiance, encouraging pedestrians to linger and appreciate the artistic craftsmanship on display. This transformative approach would fulfill the practical need for a safe crossing and also enriches the urban experience, making the underpass a destination in its own right — a testament to the seamless integration of art, history, and functionality within the urban landscape.

## Artist Designed Park

The Four Corners Neighborhood green space. Which serves as one of the largest open green spaces in the development. Given its central role, it is imperative that this space caters to the diverse needs of the community, with a particular emphasis on providing a high-quality playground experience. The playground should not only be expansive but also entirely custom-designed, reimagining urban play with a playground that is both innovative and inclusive. By integrating elements inspired by Erie's heritage, such as mining motifs, historical landmarks, or natural landscapes, the playground becomes more than just a recreational area — it becomes a platform for storytelling and cultural expression.

## Site Fixtures and Furnishings

The center parcel of Town Center development is home to the expansive Town Center Plaza, a sprawling area ready for the integration of artist-designed urban elements. This space presents an ideal canvas for the incorporation of creatively crafted features. The integration of artist-designed elements adds a layer of creativity and uniqueness to the plaza, transforming it from a mere open space into a multifaceted destination that engages and inspires visitors. These elements serve not only as functional amenities but also as works of art in their own right, contributing to the aesthetic appeal and cultural richness of the Town Center.



# ADDITIONAL ARTIST CREATED CONCEPTS

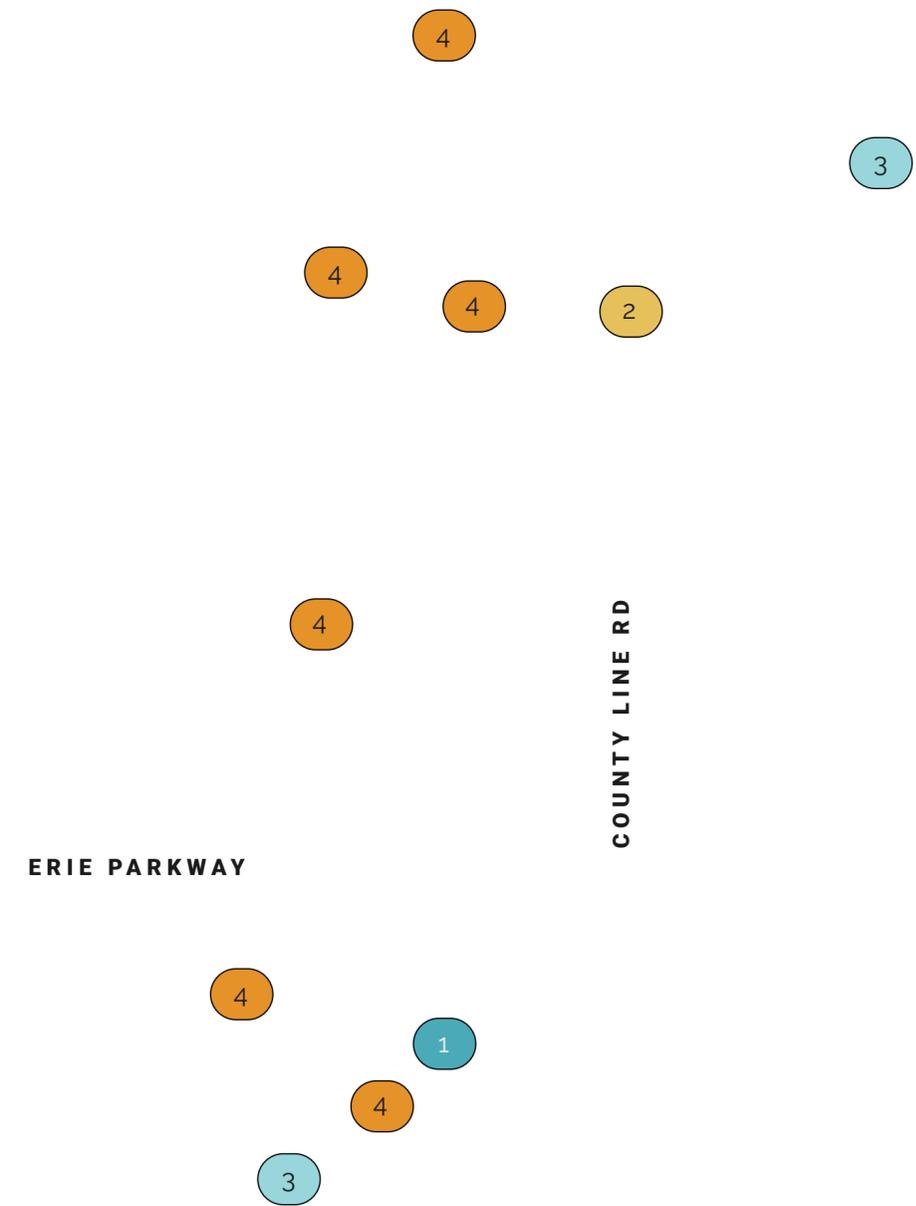


*The concepts presented in this plan do not represent proposals for public art or placemaking projects, they are merely meant to serve as inspiring examples of how the character of Erie and the stories of town can be presented in creative and site-specific ways. These concepts were created using a variety of methods including artistic collage, computer-generated imagery, and superimposed photography.*

# ADDITIONAL ARTIST CREATED CONCEPTS



*The concepts presented in this plan do not represent proposals for public art or placemaking projects, they are merely meant to serve as inspiring examples of how the character of Erie and the stories of town can be presented in creative and site-specific ways. These concepts were created using a variety of methods including artistic collage, computer-generated imagery, and superimposed photography.*



ERIE PARKWAY

COUNTY LINE RD

### MAP KEY

- 1 Structural Art Installation | Plaza
- 2 Underpass Tunnel Installation
- 3 Artist Designed Play Experience
- 4 Creative Site Fixtures and Furnishings

# PARKS & TRAILS

Residents and visitors to Erie can agree that Erie's parks are "where it's at." Erie has been a magnet for individuals and families who love recreation and appreciate the wealth of natural beauty at the foot of the Rockies

## CHARACTERISTICS

The town should make it a priority to continue investing in art and placemaking elements within its parks and trails. The most successful art and placemaking elements will be:

Interactive

Joyful

Playful

Natural

PALETTE FOR  
FOR INSPIRATION



- Stained Wood
- Wheathered Metal
- Painted Metal
- Textiles & Fabric (Woven or Kinetic)
- Painted Fields/Mosaics





## Sculptural

Sculptures are three-dimensional original artworks that can be made of any material that offers structural stability and durability. Sculptures are scaled to their surroundings and typically do not move from the location in which they are installed. Whether contemporary, whimsical, traditional or something more, sculptures are often the focal points of civic art. Sculptures may commemorate and celebrate our history, express civic pride, or be established as culturally defining showpieces for the city.

ARCADE | **Gijs Van Vaerenbergh**



## Functional

Functional Art is the ordinary infrastructure that has been reimagined and designed by an artist. Integrating unique designs into infrastructure may be an affordable and efficient way to create a major visual impact. Some possible options for functional art installations include bike racks, benches, play equipment, medians, subdivision walls, trash cans, transit stops, storm drains, manholes, monument signage, sidewalk treatments and more.

LOS TROMPOS | **Hector Esrawe & Igancio Cadena**



## Interactive

Interactive placemaking measures help drive social connection, which in turn strengthens relationship between people and city spaces. Interactive placemaking measures also have the benefit of creating moments of surprise for users and energizing spaces that have become static.

INTO THE HEDGE | **SO-IL**



## Murals

While curating permanent works of art as part of the collection is important, ephemeral works such as murals allow for the exposure of many artists over a short period of time rather than a few artists over a long period of time. Murals are large-scale, two-dimensional compositions that can be: 1) painted onto the surface 2) graphic reproductions printed onto vinyl that is adhered to a surface, or 3) painted onto a panel that is affixed to the building.

BASKETBALL COURT | **Matt W. Moore**

# PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING CONCEPTS

Proposed public art and placemaking measures for Erie parks should be fun, joyful, interactive, and both colorful and complementary to the natural scenery. These interventions should also be designed or created with consideration of the utility parks provide to the people of Erie, allowing for all audiences to experience joy and participate in the activities they cherish.

## Artist-Designed Play Experiences

In addition to the Four Corners green space, Erie should consider adding other artist-designed play experiences, park furnishings, and creative enhancements to its existing parks.

## Trail Experiences

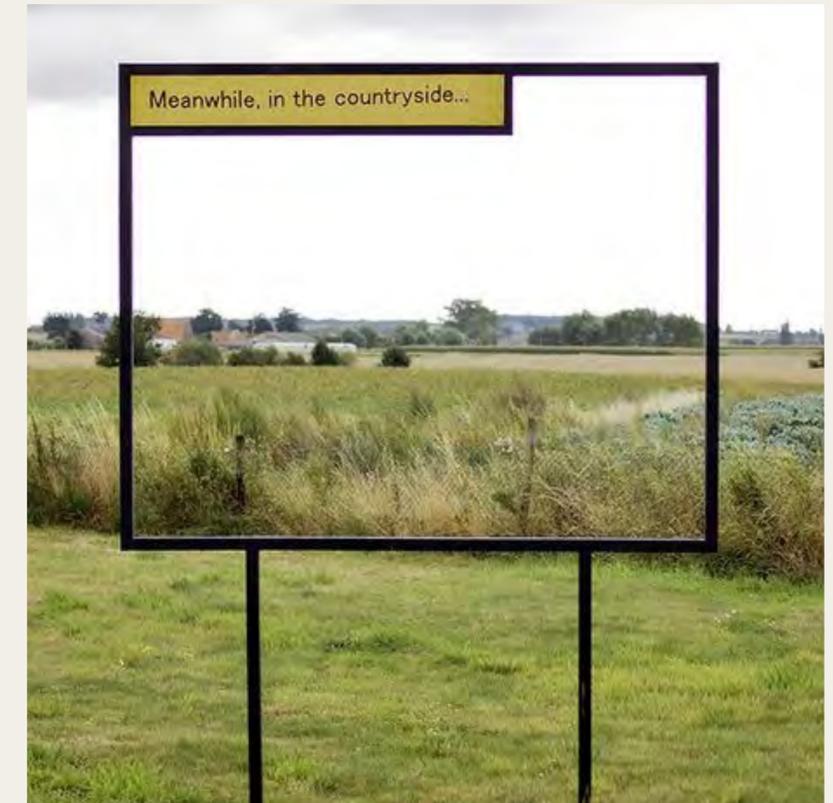
Opportunities for public art along trails include iterative trail pieces, larger scale pieces at trailheads, murals and mosaics on overpasses and tunnels, and pavement treatments that act as either wayfinding or embellishment.

## Court & Field Murals

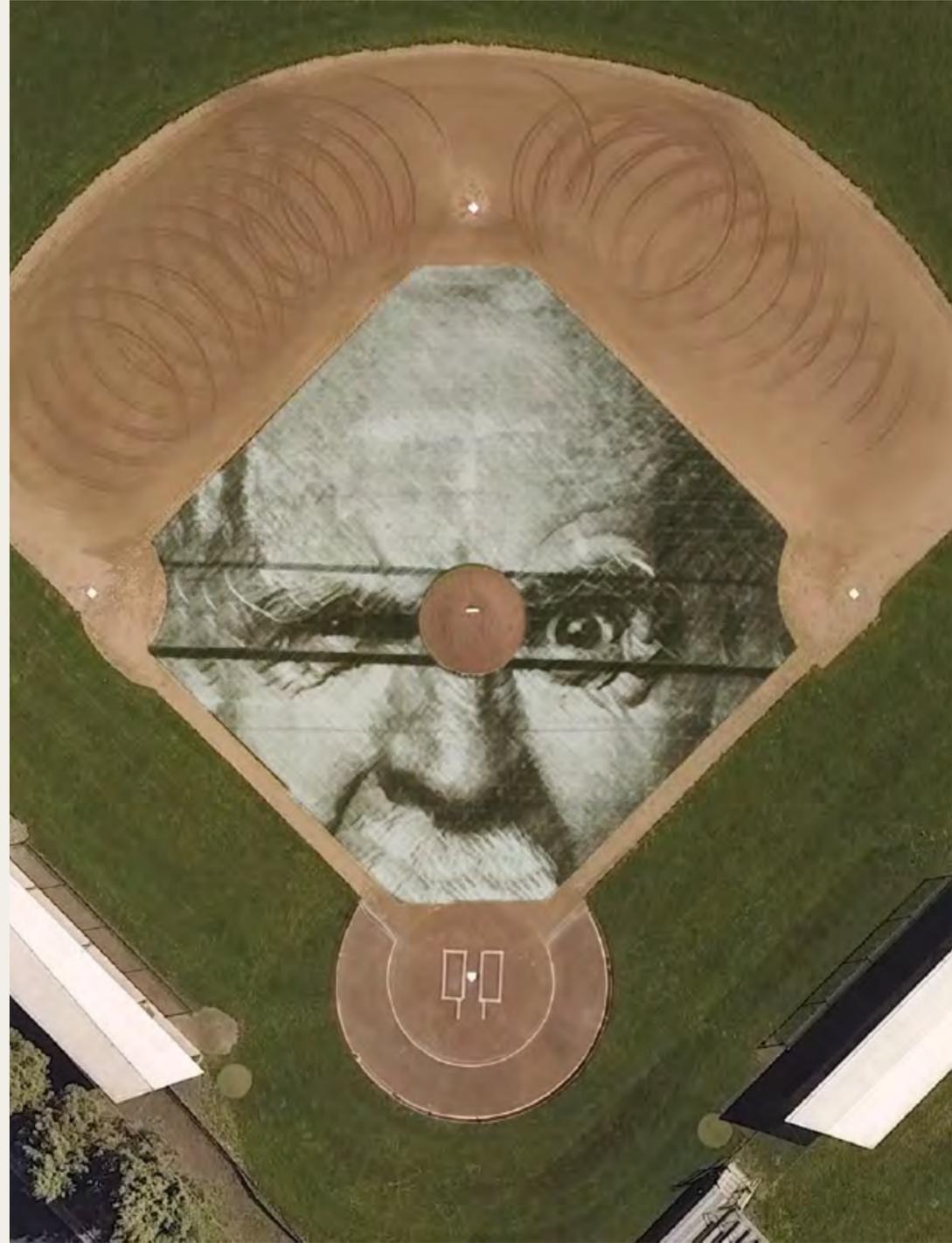
One way to fuse art and play is through ballfield and court murals that cling to grass or are directly applied to the pavement or wood surface. This form of art can best be appreciated from an aerial perspective in which the entire piece comes together, as from the stadium stands.

## Temporary Public Art & Events

Art and community events go hand in hand. When art supplements or becomes central to community events, it adds another layer to the experience and generates excitement among audiences. These types of experiences can span a single day to a few months of exhibition.



# ADDITIONAL ARTIST CREATED CONCEPTS



*The concepts presented in this plan do not represent proposals for public art or placemaking projects, they are merely meant to serve as inspiring examples of how the character of Erie and the stories of town can be presented in creative and site-specific ways. These concepts were created using a variety of methods including artistic collage, computer-generated imagery, and superimposed photography.*



**THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN**

# **ERIE WILL BE**

***Welcoming, fun, and a place those that live here cherish, where children grow up in community centered place with a small-town feel. Residents will be united by the “Erie way” of building community and committed to fostering a unique identity within the plains region.***

***Erie's future is grounded in its beautiful natural surroundings and distinct history, and leans into its small-town charm. The future of Erie is bright, playful, and true to itself.***

