

# Art Envisioned



### Contacts



### LAND 4100: Landscape Architecture Capstone 2020

**Client:** Longmont Downtown Development Authority

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### Instructor: Jesse Van Horne

### Site: St. Stephen's Plaza



### Site Narrative



Despite the issues of St. Stephen's Plaza, it has the potential to be a lively space. The current design does not maximize the space available on the site and does not seem to lend itself to accommodating the beautiful works produced by local artists. Additionally, the site struggles to maintain interest beyond the spring and summer months and often feels cold and uninviting during the winter. Our proposed redesign of the plaza will incorporate art into the functional aspects of the site, while still prominently featuring works added on a rotating basis. It also offers more natural circulation and creates an environment more suited to hosting events and large gatherings, as well as individuals and small groups. Finally, our redesign will create a more inviting atmosphere year-round by providing both plantings and programmatic elements that maintain winter interest.





**Fire Feature** 



## **Longmont Creative District Context**

St. Stephen's Plaza sits right off Main Street which tends to see heavy traffic throughout the day. This placement including its central position in Longmont's developing Creative District puts the plaza in a prime position to become a creative node for Longmont. By functioning as a gathering space, event space, site of art, the plaza will become a attraction that can help define Longmont creatively.



Main Street Parade's

### Art as Identity

The overall concept for the redesign of St. Stephen's Plaza incorporates art into the functional areas of the site in a way that coincides with the creative district's identity and facilitates larger gatherings and events. These additions, along with a careful selection of plants, will make the space more lively throughout the day and year.









### **Site Issues / Site Visit**



**Further Connect St. Stephen's Plaza to the Creative District** How can the plaza build its identity to become an attraction in Longmont's creative district?



#### **Improve Interest and Efficiency of Plantings**

We identified that the plants and plant beds could be improved to create more winter interest, less maintenance, and meaning.



**Emphasize Art in St. Stephen's Plaza** The plaza already has an unique program of art, how can we emphasis interaction with it?



Make a Place that Harbors Gatherings St. Stephen's struggles with creating meaningful gathering spaces with a leaking fountain, lack of open space, and engaging, identifiable elements.



## **Issues & Inspiration | Ribbon**



### Pitfalls of the Colored Walkway

Colored Walkway was a welcomed connecting feature throughout the plaza.

The color and prompts were prompting and inspiring.

However during colder months snow vastly minimized its impact.

How can in the plaza's reddesign improve on the function of the colored walkway.



### **Color, Verticality, and Interaction**

Upgrade the colored walkway into something that makes the plaza an identifibale node of Longmont's Creative District.

Adding verticality can create an installation whose form is artistic.

Color moving throughout the site can connect all the different sections of the plaza.

Design a form that encourages interaction, how can it act as seating, shade and art at the same time?



### **The Ribbon's Function**





### Heat Mitigation

Plants mitigate radiating heat from brick wall







### Space Creation



Gathering Area

**Art Identity** Shade of Ribbon takes up an artistic form



### **The Ribbon Details**





# **Ribbon Perspective**



# **Ribbon Play**





## ELEVATION





Materiality: Construction material is 2.25" steel tubing that has been powder coated in order to provide that wonderful red color. Support poles are 6" stainless steel square tubing. 6" 2.25" 3 2 SUPPORT **RIBBON** Support Structures Intersections provide additional support to structure







The gallery ribbon takes inspiration from the other forms of the ribbon used as shade structures, sitting and gathering structures as well as incourageous exploration in forms of play. I took the adaptability of the ribbon pattern and its ability to provide depth and meaning for an entire space while also having the form to draw your eyes and want to spend time in the plaza. Also will be lighted which will make the site feel bigger and introduce verticality which will in turn create a gallery feel. The lighting also provides a unique oppurtunity to showcase events that the community cares about and celebrates.



In the spirit of communal celebration San Fransisco City Hall lights up every single night in order to honor someone from the community, pay our respects after a tragedy, and to celebrate movements that are helping to liberate suppressed people. Longmont's smaller version could give the community more social interaction and some identity to other places. Seen below are just some of the examples seen at SF City Hall including celebrating Christmas, LGBTQ Month, in recognition of remembering Kobe Bryant.













Rope lights provide a very nice consistent light over long distances. Also provide the option for custom colors and patterns. They provide great inspiration for artists and the community as a whole while adding a fun aesthetic that is not see often in smaller cities.





### **Issues & Inspiration | Fountain**



### **Pitfalls of the Current Fountain**

The current fountain leaks water when used.

The material does not blend with other materials on the site.

The fountain also losses function during colder months, when water will freeze.

How can a new fountain become an art piece that looks good in colder months, but also functions during the warmer months?



**Artistic Form, Water, Interaction** 

Designing the fountain with an artistic fountain will allow it to become a point of interest even in the snow

By playing with the form, the fountain can be something that people cab walk through and interact with

How can the fountain use materials that match the other artistic features of the plaza?



### **Fountain Details**





piping for water.

# Fountain Perspective



### **Stage Inspiration**



### **Interactive Steps for Play and Seating**

Varying widths and heights of steps allows for different uses at different times of the year.

Angular design of steps creates contrast between the fluidity of The Ribbon and the plaza.

Creates seasonal interest during winter months.



**Multifunctionaility: Entertainment and Play** 

The stage creates an artistic placemaking feature for entertainment and play.

The arrangement of concrete steps allows for multifunctionality.

Platform for stage allows for a full band when used for entertainment and seating/play when not in use.



### **Stage Details**



14' stage allows for a full band (drummer, vocalist, guitarist, bassist) to play comfortably



Width of steps vary to accomodate all seating and play needs

Varying heights and widths of steps allows children to have an interactive experience

18" stage makes it easy for musicians to place equipment on

> ADA Accessible ramp for ease of access to stage

8" gaps between steps for easier maintenance and growth of plants to create visual interest



### **Placement** Creates active space that discourages transient residence, utilizes the alleyways for large events, retains parking, and creates a node for gathering







## Stage Perspective I



## **Stage Perspective II**



### **Fire Feature Details**



#### Placement

The location selected is already geared toward harboring gatherings as it sits in a natural corner formed by the kitchen store and the southeast planters The area is also the most heavily affected by snow build up, making it the optimal location for a heat source such as a fire feature



### **Concrete Seating Formation**

The arrangement of concrete blocks creates variable seating throughout the area and connects with the form of the stage

### Tempered Glass Panes,

Allows people to get closer to the feature than an open flame would

#### 3.5' Height

Height makes it a noticable element but isn't large enough to shelter someone

#### Interior Aluminum Frame

Allows for easier maintenance and facilitates changes in cladding

### **Gas Fire**

Reduces both pollution and maintenance

### **Red Metal Cladding**

Maintains the materiality of the ribbon to maintan site identity



## **Fire Feature Perspective**

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## **Planting Concept**

This selection of plants is advantageous for several reasons. The selection consists largely of native plants which will be able to survive with minimal irrigation once established. Additionally, they require very little maintenance when compared with the roses and trimmed hedges currently on site. The plants we selected were chosen for their variety of colors and how they manifest their color. Some have underlying tones of color, some have vibrant blooms, and others will only show their strongest colors right before dropping their leaves. This variety helps to ensure that the site maintains color throughout the year as much as possible.

### LIVELY





#### PERENNIALS





Blanketflower

Gaillardia aristata

Black-Eyed Susan





Torch Lilv Kniphofia uvaria

Prairie Coneflowe Scarlet Bugler Ratibida columnifera Penstemor Penstemon harbatus

#### **SHRUBS**





Rhus trilobata

Skunkbush Sumac Cinquefoi Potentilla



Golden Currant Ribes aureum





Feather Reed Grass Calamaarostis acutiflora

Little Bluesten Schizachvrium scoparium

#### SERENE

#### GROUNDCOVERS



Bowles Periwinkle Vica minor 'Bowles'

### PERENNIALS



Side-Bells Penstemon Penstemor



Blue Mist Penstemon Penstemon virens



Gayfeathe Liatris punctata



Pitcher Sage Salvia azurea



Rocky Mountain Penstemon Penstemon strictus





Ruby Muhly Muhlenbergia



Silvery Leadplant Amorpha canescens



### **Ozone Garden**

#### What is ozone?

Ground-level ozone is formed when pollutants emitted by vehicles, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone at ground level is a harmful air pollutant. Ozone is likely to reach unhealthy levels on hot sunny days in urban environments and can also be transported long distances by wind. Denver is ranked the 6th highest ozone-polluted city in the U.S., and the Denver Metro/Front Range Region has been out of compliance with U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** standards for ground-level ozone since 2007.

### What is an ozone garden?

An ozone garden is a garden made up of plants that serve as bio-indicators of ozone injury. These bio-indicators are plants that exhibit typical and verifiable responses when exposed to stress, such as ground-level ozone.

### Why is this important for Longmont?

Main Street is a primary corridor to Rocky Mountain National Park and sees an average of 30,000 cars a day. Research and monitoring are showing the park's air quality is affected by air pollution coming from a variety of human-made sources. Air pollution in the park reduces visibility, increases ozone levels, and causes excess nitrogen deposition. By implementing a bio-indicator ozone garden in St. Stephen's Plaza, we can bring awareness and education of this issue to the people of Longmont and those passing through.

### Where we are currently...

We have been in contact with Dr. Danica Lombardozzi, a project scientist in the Climate and Global Dynamics (CGD) laboratory at NCAR and co-founder of Boulder's Ozone Gardens. She was delighted to hear of a potential indicator garden in Longmont and offered insight to make this a feasible project. Though we are still in communication to determine the best location for St. Stephen's Plaza, she is happy to give us seeds from her gardens and templates for educational signage if needed.



### **Ozone Sensitive Species**

## **Planting Plan**





<b>Plant Schedule</b>				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Abreviation	Count	
Scarlet bugler penstemon	Penstemon centranthifolius	Pc	46	
Blanketflower	Gaillardia pulchella	Gp	23	
Ruby Muhly	Muhlenbergia reverchonii	Mr	27	
Golden currant	Ribes aureum	Ra	5 —	
Cinquefoil	Potentilla fruictosa	Pf	8	
Black Eyed Susan	Rudbeckia Hirta	Rh	42	
Sulphur Flower	Eriogonum umbellatum	Eu		
Torch Lily	Kniphofia uvaria	Ku	17	
Prairie Coneflower	Ratibida columnifera	Rc	54 —	
Three leaf sumac	Rhus trilobata	Rt	7	
Dotted Gayfeather	Liatris punctata	Lp	17 —	
Rocky Mountain Penstemon	Penstemon strictus	Ps	61 —	
Purple Lupine	Lupinus polyphyllus	Lpo	13 —	
Silvery Leadplant	Amorpha canescens	Ac	13 —	
Bowles Periwinkle	Vinca minor	Vm		
Blue Mist Penstemon	Penstemon virens	Pv	23 —	
Pitcher Sage	Salvia Azurea	Sa	60	
Snap Beans	Phaseolus vulgaris	Pvu	19	
La Chipper Potatoes	Solanum tuberosum	St	7	
Red Saxifrage	Saxifraga rocco	Sr	25	
Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	Ss	25	
Feather Reed Grass	Calamagrostis acutiflora	Са	17	



## Existing lighting

The lighting arrangement that is currently on site does seem to provide sufficient light for the most part, but does leave a few areas unlit, which leaves them open to unwanted activities. Additionally some of the lamp posts are placed at awkward locations that don't lend themselves to creating a fluid and artistic space.



## **Proposed lighting**

This proposed lighting arrangement would allow for better circulation throughout the site as well as providing an attraction for night life. In addition it will illuminate more areas of the site that have the potential to harbor nefarious activities. Lighting along the wall on the south edge of the site and along the benches will be oriented downward, so as not to disturb the residents living in that building.



### **Demolition Plan**



## **Phasing Plan**

### Phase I:

- Establish plant beds
- Install new paving
- Construct gallery ribbon
- Install new fountain
- Rearrange art pedestals

### **Phase II:** Install ribbon structures

- Install stage
- Install The Ribbon play

Phase III:Install fire feature





### **Art Envisioned Cost Plan**







Total Material Cost E	Note: Cons	
The Ribbon		
Cost: \$11,586		Mai
Metal Rods - \$7,706	Powder Coating - \$3,000	No r
Anchor Bolts - \$100	Concrete Foundation - \$780	
Ribbon Wall		
Cost: <b>\$4,500</b>		Mai
Metal Rods - \$2,000	Pedestals - \$500	Rep
Powder Coating - \$1,000	Lighting - \$1,000	year
Fountain		
Cost: \$703		Mai
Metal Rods - \$177 Mist	: Pad Tiles - \$286	Will
Powder Coating - \$200	Concrete Foundation - \$20	cold
Anchor Bolts - \$20		
Stage		
Cost: \$1,420		Mai
Concrete - \$1,420		Gen
Fire Feature		
Cost: \$1,710		Mai
	rnal Structure & Piping \$200	Gas
Glass Panes \$800 Con	crete Seating Formation \$350	
Powder Coating - \$150		
Plants		Mai
Cost: \$2,395		
Estimated based on cour	nts listed in planting schedule	Irrig
		plar

### nstruction & Demolition are not included

#### aintenance:

maintenance needed

#### aintenance:

placement of lights every 3 ars

#### aintenance:

ll need snow removal during lder months

#### aintenance: neral cleaning

#### aintenance: Is Line Maintenance & Cleaning

#### aintenance:

Irrigation should continue until plants become established. May require annual trimming



### **Art Envisioned**



### Longmont's Creative Node

Art Envisioned develops the plaza into an identifiable creative node that can act as an attraction within Downtown Longmont's Creative District. All of our design elements will further strengthen the image of the plaza.

### More Efficient Gathering Space

Art Envisioned will open up the back portion of the plaza to bigger events to utilize the redesigned alleyways. Additionally the front of plaza retains open space for crowds of people.

### Meaningful Planting Design

Art Envisioned will update the planting plan to choose plants that will thrive within Colorado's climate. Utilizing color and form the plants will now provide color and winter interest through all the seasons. Additionally, Art Envisioned will use Ozone Gardens to make a conscious environmental statement that often is not present in urban areas.

### Promoting the Community

Through strengthening the interaction of the rotating art program and increasing the potential of events Art Envisioned will help promote community activity and engagement.





# Thank You

