

# Metropolitan Community College Master Plan for Public Art

Submitted by the  
Metropolitan Community College  
Public Art Committee  
September 24, 2010



# Public Art Committee Members

- Tom McDonnell, Committee Chair, Dean of Languages and Visual Arts
- Randy Brown, Principle in Charge, Project Manager, Randy Brown Architects
- Pat Crisler, Associate Vice President of Development
- Katherine Holian, Senior Associate to the President
- Stan Horrell, Assistant Director, Facilities Planning and Construction
- Luann Matthies, Instructor of Graphic Communication Art and Design
- Carol Russell, Member, MCC Foundation Board
- Pat Salerno, Volunteer and Advocate, Omaha by Design
- Watie White, Artist
- Suzanne Wise, Executive Director, Nebraska Arts Council

# Committee Charge

- The Committee recommends policy, determines locations, establishes selection criteria, and makes recommendations to the College President concerning public art projects on all MCC campuses and learning centers.
- The Committee is responsible for creating and maintaining a master plan for art on all the campuses and centers. Final approval of any public art project is the responsibility of the President.
- The Committee works in collaboration with appropriate departments at MCC to recommend proper maintenance and repair of public art.
- The Committee is responsible for maintaining and distributing all the previous Art Committee collection as well as any new gifts, purchases and donations of College art.
- All public art installed in any outdoor space or inside common spaces must be reviewed by the Public Art Committee and forwarded, with recommendations, to the College President for his/her approval.

# Committee Vision

- Public works of art on all MCC campuses will make the College a destination point for visitors. Working with civic groups and organizations, decision-makers will insure that Metro's public art installations will be part of any information about public art in the College's four-county service area.



PUBLIC ART OMAHA



# Committee Priorities

1. South Omaha Campus
  2. Elkhorn Valley Campus
  3. Fort Omaha Campus
  4. Sarpy Center
  5. Applied Technology Center
  6. Fremont Center
- These priorities are based on the committee's assessment of potential locations for public art at MCC campuses and centers and the potential for public art to enhance the mission at these locations.

# General Recommendations

- The Public Art Committee will encourage funding for public art as part of any major capital improvement project at any college campus or center. “Research indicates that arts inclusion enhances cognitive engagement among students; provides a better sense of ownership of learning; improves attention, engagement, attendance and perseverance among students...” (Appel, 2006).
- Establish a Public Art Fund with the MCC Foundation.
- Establish a maintenance schedule for all public art installations at MCC.
- Put out a Request for Qualifications to develop a list of qualified artists to work with MCC on public art projects.
- Tie public art to the general mission of the college and to the specific mission of its location, whenever logical.



# SOUTH OMAHA CAMPUS

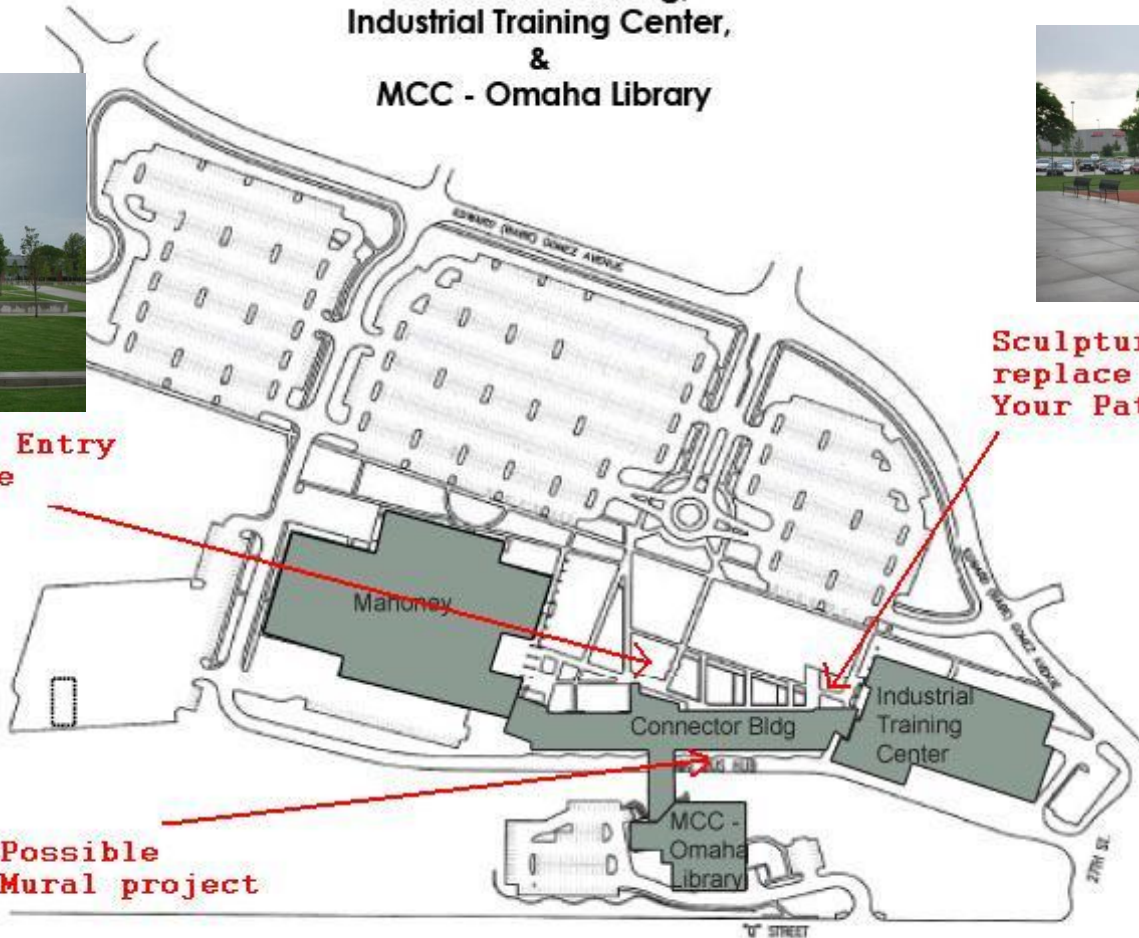
Mahoney,  
Connector Building,  
Industrial Training Center,  
&  
MCC - Omaha Library



Possible Entry Sculpture



Sculpture to replace "Follow Your Path"



Possible Mural project



# South Campus Interiors



- Connector Building commons area: Possible installation suspended from the ceiling or a 3D installation around the perimeter of the first floor commons space to help define the space
- Mahoney Building Commons near north entrance: 2D work on walls
- Mahoney Building near Health Careers section of building: 2D work on walls to welcome and assist with way-finding

# Elkhorn Valley Campus Exteriors



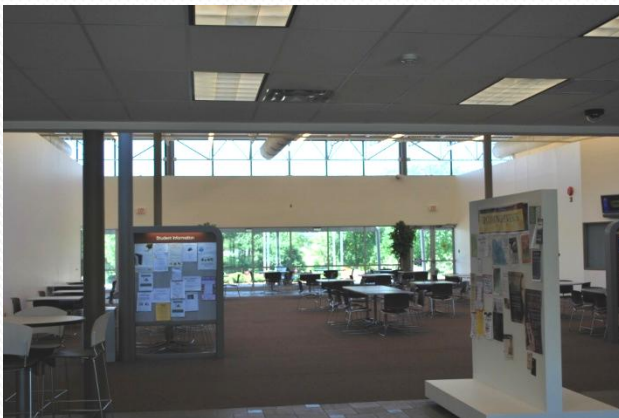
- Establish the identity of the Elkhorn Valley Campus as the “Arts Campus” with a sculpture installation at a point of entry. The best location for an entry sculpture is on the west side of the campus as a focal point for students, staff and visitors as they drive onto campus from the 204<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. Consistent with the 2010 Master Plan for Campuses and Centers, this sculpture could be a kinetic piece that doubles as a wind generator to aid in sustainability efforts .

# Elkhorn Campus Exteriors



- Add outdoor installations if any “quad space” is created by the addition of buildings to the south of the existing building as recommended by the campus master plan consultants.
- Include a possible space-defining 3D work if an outdoor seating space is created adjacent *to* the café on the north side of the building.
- Consider securing a sculptural piece that would also serve as a bicycle rack.

# Elkhorn Campus Interiors



- Establish an exhibit wall for student artwork in the EVC commons area. Students will be taught how to properly frame their work to present it for public exhibit. Work on the exhibit wall (the long wall facing the commons that is shared with the art gallery) will be juried by Visual Arts faculty and rotated periodically. We recommend some kind of grass cloth wall covering or wall treatment similar to what exists at the Sheldon Art Museum at UNL. This would make it possible to hang and re-hang student artwork without having to patch and paint holes between exhibits. It would also eliminate the need to purchase an expensive wall hanging system for the commons. Further, we see the student exhibit wall as a chance to further tie the art curriculum to the Elkhorn campus identity as the “Art Campus.” An exhibit wall will help instructors teach students about the proper way to prepare work for exhibit. It also is another outlet for our Gallery Management class.
- Pursue *a mural installation and/or a ceiling installation for the* commons area. These first two priorities could begin now regardless of future construction at the EVC. We don’t see the commons space changing in the future.

# Less Immediate Priorities

- Fort Omaha Campus
  - Facilitate and maintain a rotation of artwork in the Mule Barn exhibit space.
  - The south Fort Campus renovation holds a great deal of potential for art in public spaces; however, there is not enough information about the future of the Fort campus to make informed recommendations about public art installations. The Public Art Committee will need to be involved in the planning and design of public spaces on the Fort Campus.
- Sarpy Center
  - There is some potential for 2D art in interior spaces, but the design of the building does not lend itself to extensive art installations.
- ATC
  - There is an existing collection of framed photos depicting the various Applied Technology programs offered at MCC. These photos should be reframed in the near future.
- Fremont Center
  - There is little potential for public art in interior or exterior locations here.