CITY OF ASHEVILLE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM
51 BILTMORE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

The City of Asheville is developing Asheville's next public art in the 51 Biltmore Public Art Project on the exterior of the public parking garage next to the Aloft Hotel at 51 Biltmore Avenue in downtown Asheville.

Public Comment

The artist finalists have completed their design proposals and time to seek public comment on the designs. See more below about each artist and their design proposals.

The next public comment period for the 51 Biltmore Public Art Project begins on April 4 with the First Friday Gallery Walk in downtown Asheville. The artists' proposals will be on display at the Blue Spiral 1 Gallery, 38 Biltmore Avenue, 5:00 to 8:00 pm during the Gallery Walk, and continue through April 6 during regular operating hours. April 7 - 11 the proposals will be on display at the Aloft Hotel in the second floor lobby, 51 Biltmore Avenue, during regular operating hours. The public is invited to review and make comment on the proposals, with the option to select their preferred proposal.

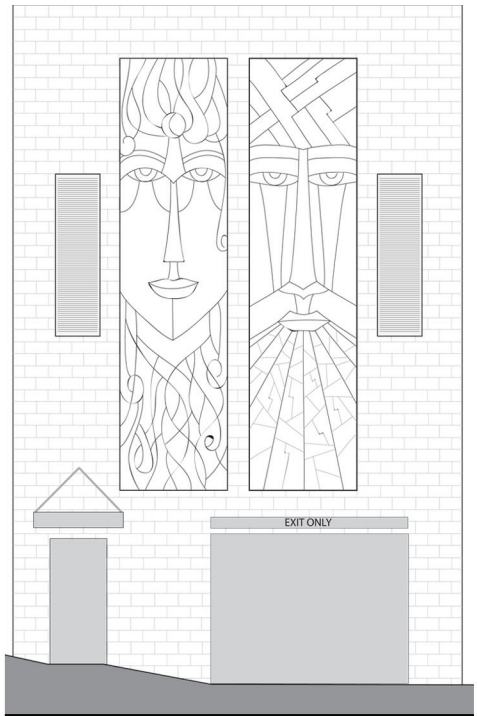
Comment can also be made here April 4-11, 2014.

Please note that comments do not constitute a vote. In addition to public comment, the Selection Panel will consider artistic merit, originality, appropriateness for the site; and practical factors such as maintenance, feasibility and budget. Once the final proposal is approved, the artist will enter into a contract with the City of Asheville to complete the final design, fabricate, transport and install the artwork.

Alex Irvine & Ian Wilkerson

Click to see the artists design

Marc Archambault



Click to see the artists design

Mike Allison

Click to see the artists design

The Project

The Aloft Hotel and public parking garage at 51 Biltmore Avenue in downtown Asheville, North Carolina is a visible landmark in the city's skyline, set apart by its contemporary architecture and vibrant color scheme. The artwork will be located on the exterior wall of the parking deck exit way on the north side of the Aloft Hotel on Aston Street. It is intended to enhance the sense of local identity in downtown Asheville, as well as compliment the architecture of the hotel. The artwork may be two or three dimensional, must be durable and meet all levels of safety and codes. The approximate area for art-work is 25'H x 22'W.

The City issued a call for artists in September 2013. The top artist finalists were selected by a Selection Panel from an application pool of over 150 artists. The Public Art and Cultural Commission hosted a public forum in January 2014 in which the public could meet the artists and provide comment to inspire the artists in their design proposals. The project is part of the City's Percent for Art Program.

Project Timeline 2014

Public Forum #1 with Artist Finalists	January 24
Artist Finalists Proposals Due	March 17
Public Forum #2 on Artists Proposals	April 4 -11
Select Final Proposal	April 30
Artwork Installation Complete	Fall

Selection Panel

David McCartney, Aloft Hotel
Sharon Trammel, Public Art and Cultural Commission
Jenny Bowen, Asheville Artist and Photographer
Elizabeth Barr, Art Resources
Susie Millions, Asheville Visual Artist
Sarah Larson, 51 Biltmore Neighborhood Resident, Arts Advocate

Follow the Project

Stay current on 51 Biltmore Public Art Project at the City of Asheville's website at ashevillenc.gov. For more information contact Basil Punsalan at 828-259-5552 or bpunsalan@ashevillenc.gov.

Public Art Program

The City of Asheville Public Art Program oversees Asheville's public art collection. The Public Art and Cultural Commission is responsible for approving the site and content of public art, and the development of an inclusive selection process that involves community feedback. The Commission also acts as a public art ambassador by advancing the City of Asheville as an "arts destination" in cultural and economic development efforts.

The city's public art collection includes the popular Urban Trail, a historic walking tour of downtown Asheville; along with other prominent works including but not limited to the Pack Fountain, Energy Loop, Deco Gecko and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

Alex Irvine (Santa Fe, NM) www.alexirvineceramics.com
Ian Wilkinson (Asheville, NC) www.ianthepainter.com

A stylized mural using painted surface and ceramic tile speaks to both the modern architecture of the Aloft Hotel and to Asheville's historical terracotta buildings. The mural features a central figure as a daydreamer as she looks out over downtown Asheville as a place where creativity flourishes. In the background is an art deco horseshoe pattern referencing the historic location of Asheville's farrier (a person who shoes horses). The horseshoe, a symbol of good luck, is hung open-end downward to spread luck to passersby.

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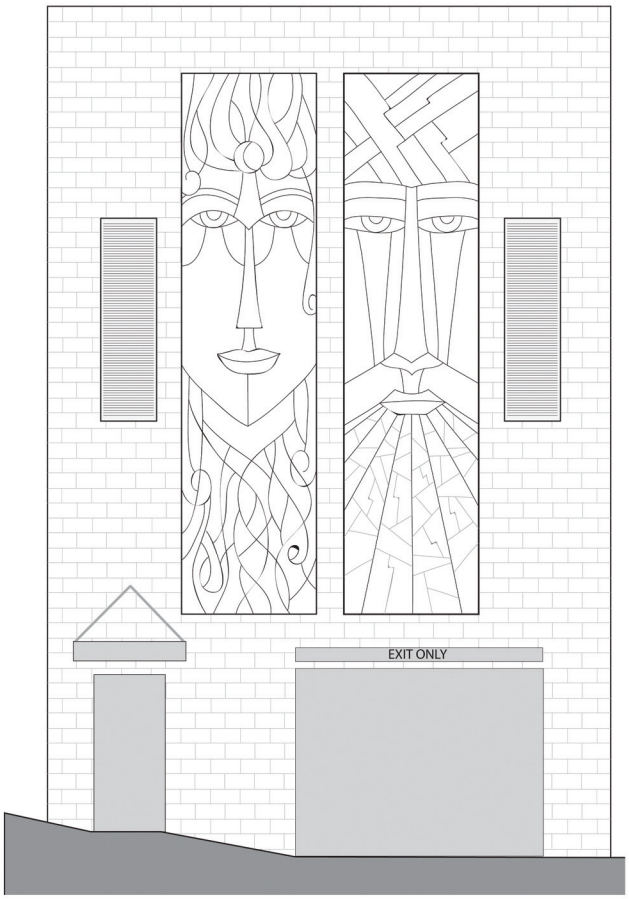
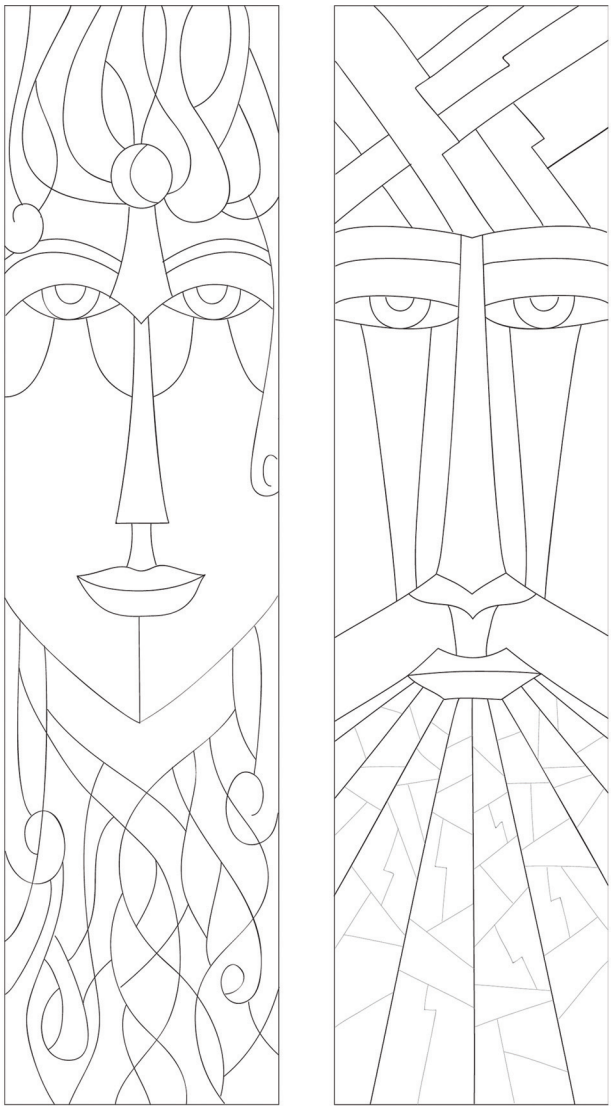
Marc Archambault (Asheville, NC) www.hammerheadstoneworks.com

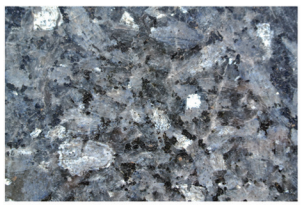
“Rio & Apu” is a pair of natural stone mosaics that celebrate the elemental forces that have shaped the Blue Ridge Mountains, stone and water. Apu is the Inkan word for mountain spirit, and Rio is Spanish for river that evokes moving water. Colorful stone, much of it natural to the Asheville area, will be used to fill the mosaic pattern. The design speaks to the sense of place felt by many who live in the mountains, and how the mountains and the rivers guide their lives. Asheville’s architecture is unique in its diversity with both old and new buildings that creates a patchwork of style. The mosaic adds to the mix bridging the old with the new, while keeping a clean line design reflects the modern aesthetic of the Aloft Hotel.



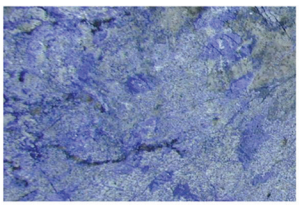


“Rio & Apu” (above)

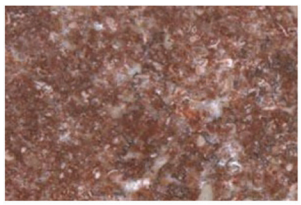
Stone color samples for “Rio & Apu”



Blue Pearl



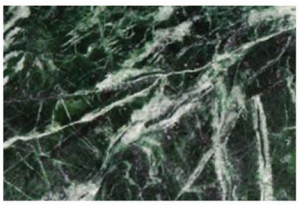
Blue Bahia



Tennessee Cedar

Tennessee Dark Rose

Solar Gray Marble, Georgia



Vermont Windham Serpentine

Previous mosiacs by Marc Archambault (below)

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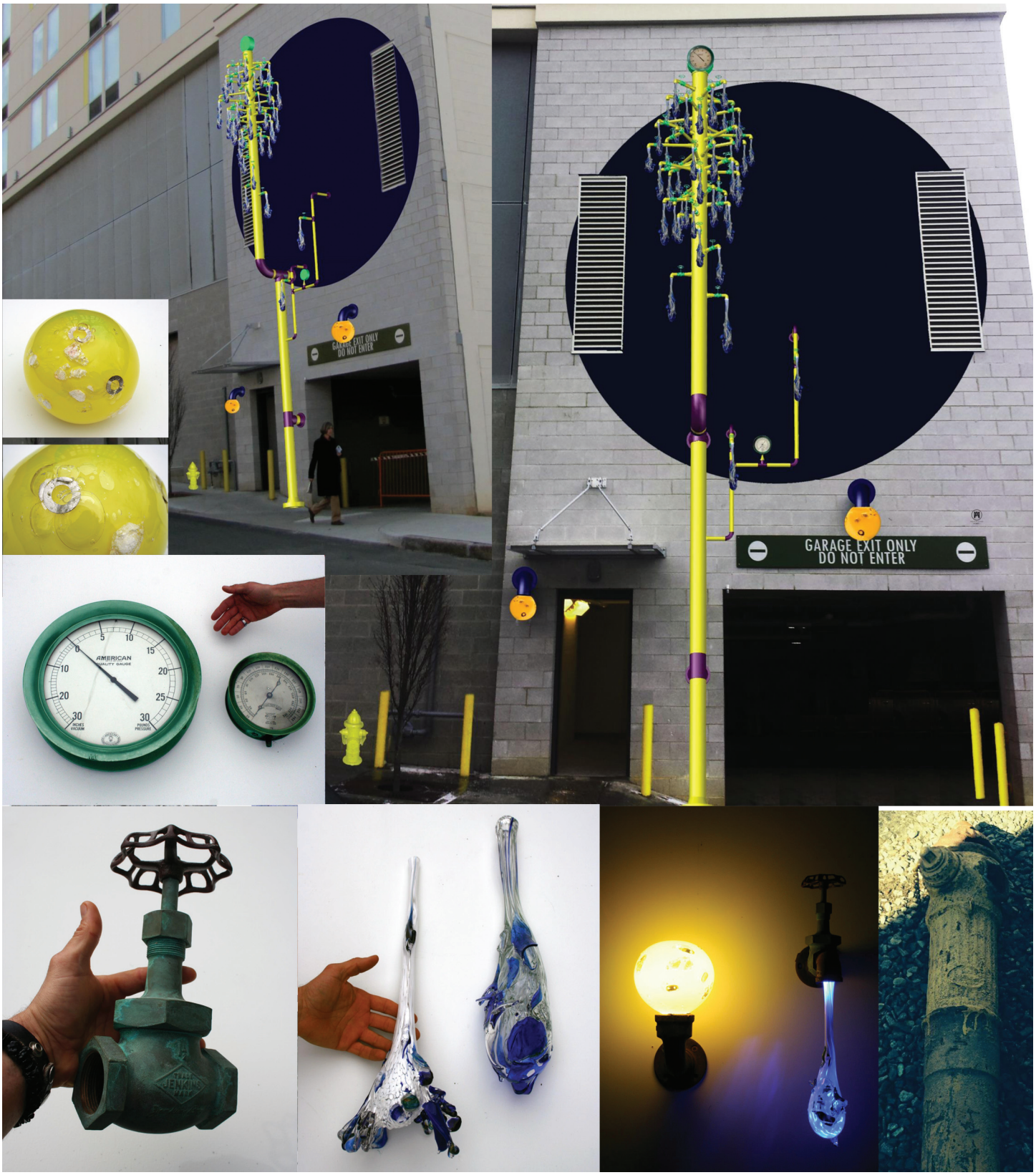
Mike Allison (Joelton, TN) www.fluidglassmovements.com

A metal and glasswork display of recycled pipes, water valves, pressure gages and glass water drops that point to Asheville's history and its most valuable natural resource, water. Up until the early 1880s, Asheville residents collected water from public wells in the downtown area. Later a reservoir and pumping station was built creating Asheville's first public water infrastructure supply. People rarely imagine the intricate network of underground pipes and gages that bring water from its source to the tap. The display brings the underground infrastructure above ground in a playful manner that draws attention to them, and beautifies them in the visual landscape of an art piece.



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