

# ART INTEGRATION

Building on the City's vision for the corridor, one of the design principles shaping the master plan is that it's not just a place with art, but a place that is art. The Connector presents the opportunity to feature art, be art, and be a catalyst to shape an ever more artistically engaged community. The master plan process was designed to push the integration of art at every opportunity. The master plan team included artist Perri Lynch who was integral to the development of the design from the earliest stages of the project. The resulting framework is based on the concept of Fluctuations (Section 2.3) and makes the presence of art integral to the corridor. The master plan also recognizes that the high aspiration of arts integration throughout the Redmond Connector will be achieved with several layers of opportunity shaping implementation and long-term maintenance and operation of the corridor. The purpose of this Art Integration Plan is to identify opportunities for creative expression already integrated into the corridor design, as well as identify arts opportunities that can be developed in the future as the Redmond Connector is further realized. This plan identifies the role of art; where art happens; how art is incorporated; and how art is implemented.

## ART GOALS: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ART ON THE CONNECTOR?

The goals established for arts integration reflect the design principles for the project as a whole (Section 1.2) yet expand on them with arts-specific planning detail.

### MAKE IT DISTINCTLY REDMOND

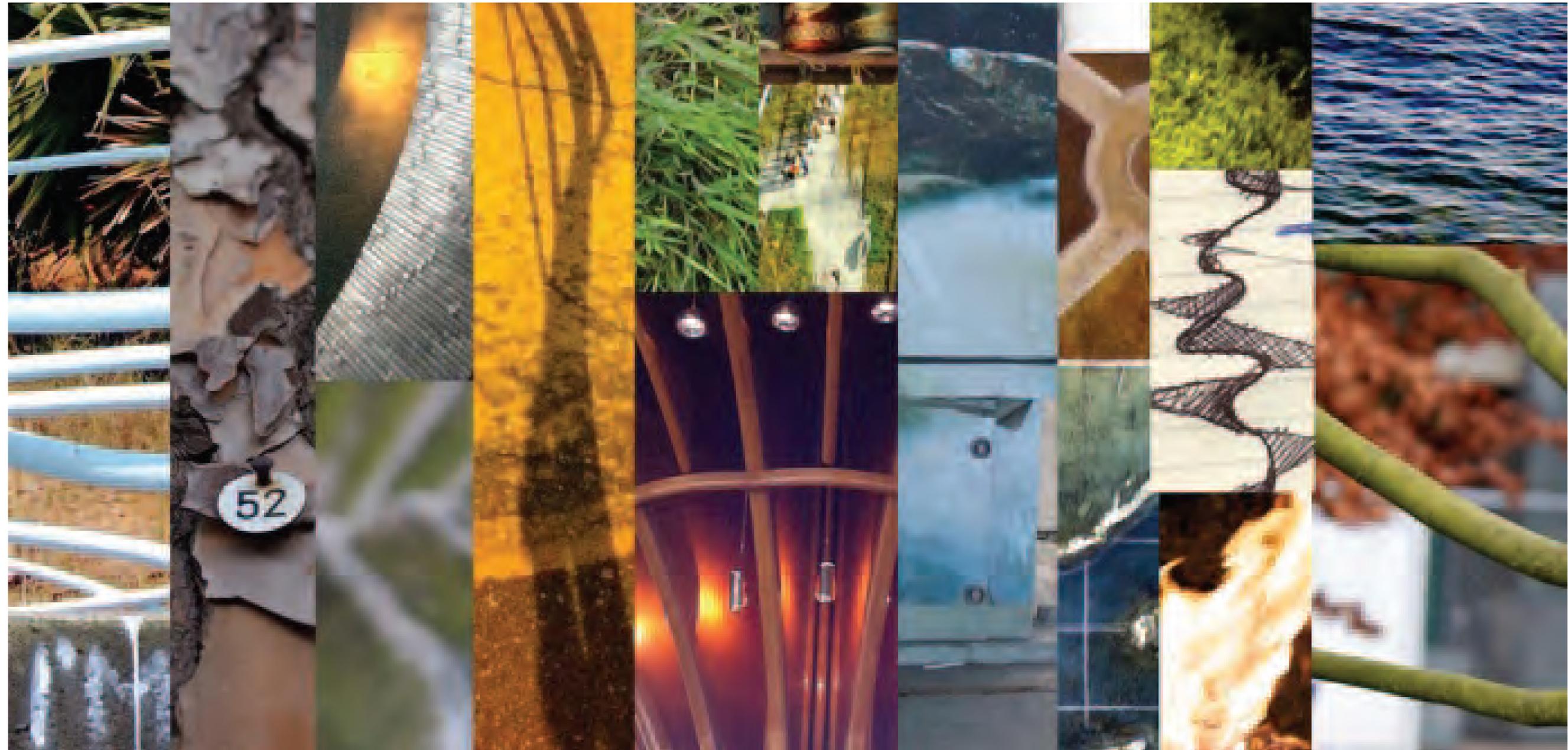


### MAKE IT GREAT ON ALL DAYS, IN ALL WEATHER



### INSPIRE A COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTISTIC ACTIVITY





This collection of photos and textures inspired the concept of “fluctuations” and help convey the “mood” of the Connector. These images are derived from places along the corridor, precedent site visits and other sources that influenced the collaborative planning process. Associated with these images are a variety of words that inspired the plan which include: FLOW, CONNECTIVITY, CADENCE, RHYTHM, CONNECTION, LUMINOUS, CURIOUS, HI-TECH, ACCESSIBLE, VAST, LINKAGE, NARRATIVE, WAYPOINTS, LANDMARKS, PERCHES, PORCHES, PROMENADES, SWITCH, ANCHOR, VENTURE, SENSE.

## MAKE IT DISTINCTLY REDMOND

### Program the Connector with events uniquely Redmond

The first opportunity to make the Connector uniquely Redmond is to make it different from other cities. Build on what Redmond has that makes it different instead of trying to do what other cities are already doing. Build on the strengths and character of the community in Redmond, and ideally expand on events that already “belong” to Redmond. So what are others doing?

#### Woodinville

- Main stage performances
- Picnics, wine tasting
- Garden art

#### Kirkland

- Kirkland Art Center – classes for all ages
- Exhibitions in gallery settings Downtown
- Representational sculptures studio tour

#### Bellevue

- Bellevue Art Museum – focus on crafts, textiles, glass, pottery
- Arts festival of saleable works

#### Issaquah

- Free film series
- Art walk – gallery based
- artEAST craft workshops

#### Seattle

- Olympic Sculpture Park
- First Thursdays and various “firsts” art walks in neighborhoods
- Commercial gallery scene, “high” art – SAM, opera, symphony, ballet
- Live theatre
- Mercer Island
- I-90 outdoor sculpture gallery (rotating exhibition) saleable works
- Music in the park



**SO WHAT MIGHT REDMOND DO?**

**Digital Arts Festival**

Redmond already hosts a Digital Arts Festival, building on its position of cutting-edge knowledge shaping the world.

Capitalize on this event by:

- Refocusing it to be multi-sited along the Connector, or at least make the Connector “home base” to the event.
- Let the festival blend indoor/outdoor—Think Sundance Film Festival or a Jazz Fest, multiple venues that link together as a progressive party along the trail.
- Curate digital works for the long term to assure that the trail serves as a year-round reminder of the festival.



**Redmond Lights**

Everyone in the City talks about and loves Redmond lights, yet it only occurs once a year. Consider building on the event’s great success by:

- Bringing it into the Connector (and Downtown and its commerce) connecting to the Sammamish River.
- Integrating creative lighting into the design framework that supports Redmond lights.
- Celebrating Redmond lights more than once a year, imagine it monthly. Whereas numerous cities have First Friday art walks or some version of it, imagine Redmond lights as a monthly event that no other City has, yet can integrate and celebrate the arts!



**Celebrate Redmond’s Unique History**

Redmond is unique in its character, physically represented by its smaller scale Downtown, presence of historic (and older, if not historic) buildings, and great natural setting. All of these can be a wealth of inspiration for arts in the corridor, including...

- Celebrating the rail corridor that shaped the City.
- Tell the natural history of the river valley.
- Convey Redmond’s evolution from natural resources such as lumber, to agrarian, to one of the technology capitols of the world!



### MAKE IT GREAT ON ALL DAYS, IN ALL WEATHER

Most public spaces are used and loved in the warmer dryer summer months; as Northwesterners, we do not waste the opportunity to enjoy being outside. The Redmond Connector strives to build on that love of being outside, making the Connector a place Redmond residents and visitors will make a destination year-round.

- Use art as a tool to make it engaging year-round
- Think of enduring or episodic art opportunities to attract people morning, afternoon, and night
- Rain or shine, there's something to experience

Opportunities:

- Celebrate the weather through sun, rain, and wind expressive art.
- Emphasize events like the Digital Arts Festival for non-summer months.
- Capitalize on darkness in the dead of winter.
- Electronic art and sculptural lighting.



**ENGAGE A COMMUNITY OF ARTISTIC ACTIVITY (ENGAGE, DON'T JUST DISPLAY)**

The Connector presents the opportunity not only to house art, but to be art and be a catalyst to shape an ever more artistically engaged community.

- Support artists, not just the arts
- Keep local artists local
- Decentralize the arts – not just sculpture parks and art centers
- More than placing art in the corridor
- Focus on direct connections between the public and artists
- Opportunities for public engagement and expression—art can come from anyone

Opportunities:

- The Connector is a studio space and gallery
- Events and installations that are spread out over time and space along the Connector
- Make it interactive – trail and park users participate in the creation and manipulation of art
- Define new “Rules of Engagement” where ordinary elements and infrastructure is something special
- Provide space and time for artists – live/work, outdoor studio zone, performance areas
- Art extends indoor/outdoor



### **BUILDING ON THE FRAMEWORK: WHERE DOES ART HAPPEN ALONG THE CORRIDOR?**

The master plan's arts-integrated concept of Fluctuations builds a framework for arts to occur through the corridor as experiential elements shaping the corridor and defining a hierarchy of spatial elements where art occurs along the corridor. These elements are landings, islands and eddies, and ties (Section 2.3), which form the framework of the Connector and the integration of art.

#### **Landings**

Landings provide the single largest, most iconic art opportunities along the corridor as sites for permanent site-specific art elements. These spaces are "claimed" in the near term with simple cost-effective means that create a series of different yet complimentary spaces along the corridor. In time, likely in conjunction with development of adjacent properties and/or the transit light rail line, these landings will become more permanently developed as opportunities for large and dramatic art installations.



#### **Islands and Eddies**

Islands and eddies, as secondary experiences along the trail, provide opportunities for art, though likely less iconic art than the landings. These art elements afford the opportunity to be less interconnected from one area to another, unlike the interrelated landings, and open the door to a great diversity of art including permanent and non-permanent art, potentially curated. These spaces, being places of pause and rest, might also be great opportunities for performance art and artists.



#### **Ties**

Ties are permanent features of the corridor, inspired by the Fluctuations concept. These elements have a strongly defined rhythm and character and are very architectural in nature, often acting as site furnishings along the corridor. Ties again offer the opportunities for art, yet do so as permanent features, incorporating art to add richness to the tie elements, without obscuring the immediately identifiable architectural character of the tie.



### Variety of Opportunities: How Art is Integrated into the Connector

#### Permanent Site Specific:

- Artist takes location into account when designing the artwork.
- “Permanent” is generally defined as residing in one place and constructed out of durable materials, lasting for 30-50 years or more. Stone, steel, wood, glass, and concrete are typical materials for permanent, site-specific artworks.
- Though this work is designed to endure the test of time, it does not have to be static. Sometimes work in this genre has kinetic elements, activated by the wind, sun, rain, etc.
- Generally this work is large scale, resides outdoors in a prominent location, and designed for the public setting, not gallery exhibition.
- Site-specific permanent works are likely to involve natural elements or be otherwise situated in the landscape, rather than on a plinth or riser.
- Sometimes referred to as Environmental Art, Earth Art, Social Sculpture, and Land Art.



#### Integrated:

- Integrated artworks are so tied to landscape and surroundings that one could not exist without the other. Often experiential in nature, encouraging audiences to move over, under, or through the sculptural elements.
- Integrated artwork is generally designed for a local rather than global audience.
- This work may incorporate oral histories, indigenous language, historical photographs, or interpretive information on natural surroundings.
- This work is generally multi-sited, inviting one to move along a path, along which the story of the artwork unfolds.
- Another example of integrated artwork is when off-the-shelf or stock-issue urban amenities (railings, tree wells, refuse bins, etc.) are replaced with artist-made building parts.



#### Curated:

- Curated artworks are primarily selected for exhibition.
- These works may be sited indoors or outside.
- Curated art is generally not intended to be permanently sited.
- The curator defines an overarching theme for an exhibition or festival and then selects work that fits that theme.
- Because curated art is generally invitation-only, the curator will often interpret or define the artwork relative to their theme, which may differentiate from the artists own intentions.
- The Venice Biennale, Documenta, and Art Basel are examples of large-scale curated exhibitions.



Ephemeral:

- Ephemeral artworks are not made of durable materials. Generally, ephemeral art is designed to fall apart, degrade over time, or last for only a short duration. This decay is often the conceptual basis for the work, with permanence and impermanence being a common theme.
- Artworks that change due to storm events, wind direction, or tidal rhythms are also ephemeral.
- This term also refers to event-based works such as performance art, outdoor puppet shows, projections, or busking.



**How Arts may be Implemented into the Connector**

The Art Commission's 2009 Strategic Plan identifies three key strategies which include: Make art Accessible, Create a Place for the Arts, and Nurture the Arts in Our Community. In addition to the integration of art in the basic design framework of the plan, visual and performing arts also play a significant role in the corridor and put the strategies of the Art Commission into action. This section builds on the strategies of the Art Commission as well as the goals and policies included in the Redmond PARCC Plan by identifying a number of opportunities for arts within the corridor, and recommendations for ensuring that art contributes to the character and story of the Connector.

Process for implementation

Phasing:

- Near-Term Opportunities
  - o Curated Outdoor exhibition (1-12 months)
  - o Community artworks
  - o Festivals, Biennials
- Long-Term Considerations
  - o Permanently sited works that share linkage
  - o Designated "kid art" zone
  - o Artist-made building parts instead of off-the-shelf (see matrix below)
  - o Call for Artists

Protocol:

- Send Request for Qualifications (see matrix below).
- Assemble review panel from community, Arts Commission, parks and trails.

Procurement:

- Establish selection criteria to foster "tried and true" artists as well as emerging talent.
  - o Consider art from "non-artists" within the community.
  - o Capitalize on the talent bank of designers and engineers in the surrounding Tech industry.
  - o Community Engagement

Utilize the corridor as a catalyst that fosters art in Redmond.

As with biking, how can Redmond embrace art, not by displaying art and saying it is embraced, but by becoming a more artistically active community?

- Community-based art workshops and projects
- Housing artists
- Opportunities for impromptu "making of art"
- Celebrate creativity
  - o Art Budget Considerations
- Prioritize great art in a small space rather than light touches over a large expanse
- Cost share with trail work whenever possible (footings, grading, installation, etc.)

### Art Integration Matrix

#### Why?

- To turn the whole place into art
- To resolve the site without killing the buzz
- To encourage participation and creative expression without dictating or requiring

#### How?

- Make passive observation pleasurable
- Create a more vibrant and less scripted trail experience
- To delight and bewilder, but not confuse
- Focus on what people will experience, and echo that in the necessities.

	Landings	Islands/ Eddies	Ties
Permanent Site-Specific	Large Steel Sculpture Interactive Stone Labyrinth Major Landmarks	Craftsman Benches Artist-made Birdbaths Funky Bike Racks	Embedded Steel Sections Bike-Activated Sound Art Elements Trail Distance Indicators
Integrated	Big Recycled Train Track Art Climbing Berms Natural Echo Chamber	Recycled Railroad Rest Spots Interactive Landforms Interesting Waypoints	History of Redmond Storyline Indigenous Poetics Creative Navigational Aids
Curated	Outdoor Sculpturefest Lunchtime Concert Series	Community Artworks Creative Game Night Series Outdoor Open Mike Night	Map Art Exhibition Artist-made Geological Timeline
Ephemeral	Digital Arts Festival Outdoor Film Festival	Kids Art Corner Scavenger Hunt Local Holiday Madness	Trail Chalk Art Competition Parades Summer Music Festival

### Rules of Engagement Matrix

In making a place that is art, every opportunity should be taken to realize art, in big moves and small.

#### Why?

- Make the ordinary special and create opportunities for artists
- Design mechanisms for order and safety that don't feel like barriers

#### How?

- By meeting specific needs in unexpected ways
- By choosing artist-made over off-the-shelf
- By encouraging collaboration between artists and the community
- By melding creative expression with functional and efficient means of engagement

Bollards	Sandblasted, Wrapped, Twisted, Hammered	Historical Waypoint Markers Poetry on Poles Giant Refrigerator Magnets	Sculptors, Writers, Photographers
Benches	Carved, Sandblasted, Molded	Unexpected Objects Repurposed Material Alice-In-Wonderland Moments	Sculptors, Painters, Printmakers, Writers
Utility Boxes	Wrapped, Muraled, Texted	Illustrated Trail Maps Photographic Imagery Oral Histories Sound/Light Art	Writers, Painters, Printmakers, Community Members, Call for Art from non-artists
Tree Wells	Sand blasted, Laser cut	Agricultural Motifs Techno-Memorabilia Historical Signs and Symbols	Sculptors, Illustrators, Historians, Community Members
Guard Rails	Hand-forged, Hammered, Pelted	Felt Sense of Place Poetry Symbols	Sculptors, Writers
Bike Racks	Twisted, Knotted, Bent	Redmond Icons Historical Symbols	Illustrators, Sculptors
Flat Surfaces	Textured, Colored, Inlaid, Interactive Opportunities, Temporary Works	Chalk Art (Temporary/Interactive) Community Mosaics Murals Post-its Pin on the Map	Writers, Painters, Printmakers, Community Members Kid-centric

