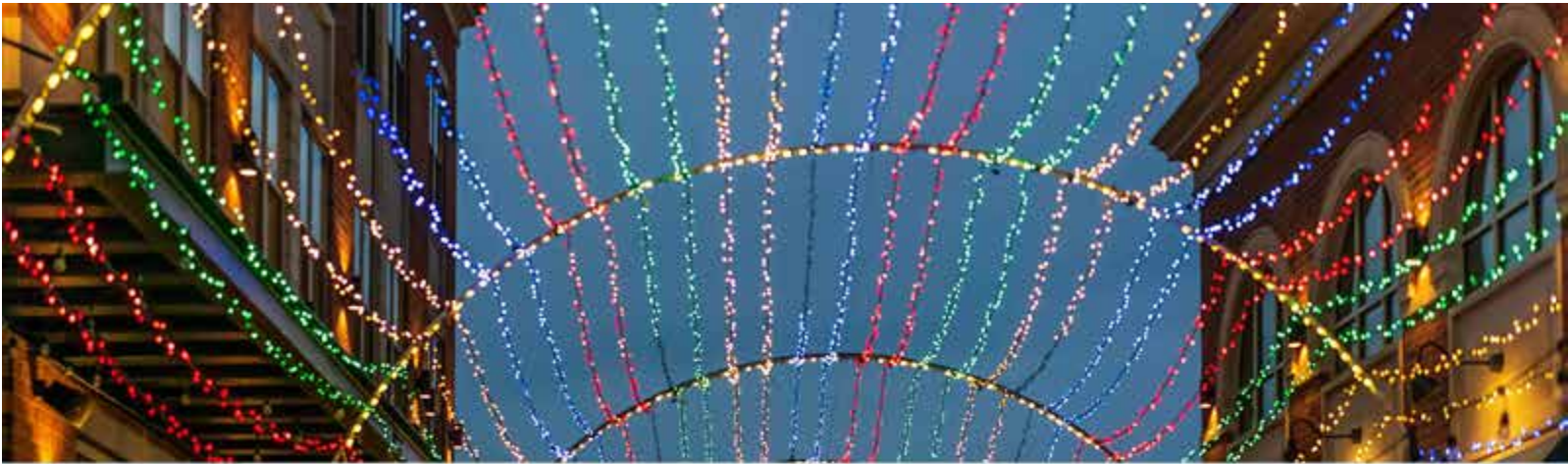




Our Mission ~

- Dedicated to building community, promoting civic engagement, and enhancing the city's landscape, Naperville Century Walk remains committed to its mission of "creating culturally significant and diverse public art throughout Naperville in the 21st century," as it has for the past 25 years.





... And What We Envision

Century Walk believes art is an essential component of a thriving community. Our goal for Naperville, a city that has been lauded nationwide with many noteworthy accolades, is to further transform its image through our public art initiative. To illustrate what we can accomplish, we created this proposal which will give you an overview of our plans for Naperville's public art until 2031, the year Naperville celebrates its Bi-Centennial.

Our recommendations are ambitious. We endeavor to support a public art program that will fill our city with works created to commemorate Naperville's collective memory and embrace the future. With our twenty-five years of experience, we have established standards of excellence that will enable us to support ongoing art projects that reflect cultural relevance and express the values of our community.

We will continue to seek the talents of high-caliber local, national, and international artists to enhance the visual environment of public spaces for the delight of Naperville's many residents and visitors.





- **Dick Tracy** 2010

by Dick Locher, local artist
and Donald L. Reed, sculptor
Naperville Township Plaza

Century Walk's Long-Range Plan for Public Art in Naperville

A Proposal TABLE OF CONTENTS

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PART I

A. Impetus for a Long-Range Plan

What is the most effective way to administer a public art program in the City of Naperville? This is the question that baffled the City Council early in 2020. With consideration given to the current system, Council members voted in February to recruit the SECA Commission to analyze the future of public art and Century Walk. Several months later, the Commission presented a recommendation to invest \$25,000 in the hiring of a consultant to identify best practices for a public art program, a recommendation that was rejected in December. Century Walk's Board suggested another option. With twenty-five years of proven success in public art experience, they offered to submit a long-range plan designed to address the operation and sustainability of Naperville's public art initiative. They also established an advisory committee comprising local business professionals and artists committed to public art and creative place making to carry out the mission. The group met regularly for several months, and through interviews, extensive research, and comparative studies, developed a focused strategy created to drive the public art initiative for the next ten years, leading up to Naperville's Bi-Centennial. Our goal is to alleviate the burden of public art administration from the City and to continue to bring innovative, relevant, and evocative installations to Naperville. Through these efforts, we will give a unique voice to the City's landscape and cement its reputation as an arts destination.

Century Walk has always taken pride in the support Naperville mayors, past and present, have expressed for our public art initiative.

In a recent interview, Mayor Steve Chirico commended Century Walk, calling it “the gatekeeper to public art in Naperville.”

“Naperville’s history and heritage is one to be proud of, but I’m also proud of who we are today. Our diversity does make us stronger in this community and celebrating that with a piece of artwork is appropriate and timely.”

- Mayor Steve Chirico

B. Our Methodology

In 2020 Century Walk curated an Advisory Committee to define a roadmap for the next decade. The team is an inclusive and racially diverse group of accomplished business professionals and artists who understand Naperville as a successful community dedicated to family and quality of life.

Meet the Team:

Alicia McCareins	Ph.D., J.D., President, Research, Evaluation & Consulting Associates
Debbie Venezia	Director of Arts DuPage, a DuPage Foundation Initiative
Ron Amato	J.D., Claims Consultant, CNA Insurance
John Gallagher	Retired President of Exterior Designers, Inc.
Dodie Mondero	Professional Artist & President of Mondero Studios Public Art Curator & Conservationist of Century Walk
Sangeeta Pande	Professional Fine Artist & Founder of Petite Picassos Art Studios
Nina Vittori	Paralegal, Law Offices of W. Brand Bobosky
Rene Wonais	Nonprofit Fundraising Consultant

The Advisory Committee's goal is to determine and address the following:

1. What does the future hold for public art in Naperville?
2. Will the City Council assert a policy regarding its commitment to public art and provide a process for implementing such a policy?
3. Should the Council agree to support and fund Century Walk in this role based on:
 - a) our reputation of excellence over 25 years in bringing significant public art to Naperville
 - b) our proposal for the next ten years to further this commitment
 - c) our Succession Plan showing sustainable actions for accomplishing those goals?

To fully answer these questions, team members researched comprehensive public art master plans and best practices of cities across the nation with long-term commitments to public art. The cities studied were: San Diego, CA; Lakewood, CO; Athens, GA; Aurora, IL; Chicago, IL; Elgin, IL; Evanston, IL; Joliet, IL; Moline, IL; Salem, MA; Boston, MA; and Richmond, VA.

We expect our proposal, compiled from several months of research, to be evaluated for its merit and our ability and capacity to deliver on its promises to be evident.

PART II

A. Naperville: A City Defined by Its Art

Naperville, a city that repeatedly ranks as one of the best places in the United States to live and raise a family, has long been recognized for its commitment to arts and culture. Home to Naper Settlement, DuPage Children’s Museum, Wentz Concert Hall, Millennium Carillon, and Naperville Municipal Band, Naperville presents arts festivals, live concerts, and productions to receptive audiences throughout the year. The City is open to new artistic ventures and in 2004, founded the Special Events and Cultural Amenities (SECA) fund to ensure the continuation of cultural experiences for the Naperville community and its visitors.

It should be no wonder then, that in 1995 the City was ripe for a new concept. That is when Naperville attorney Brand Bobosky first proposed the idea of a public art initiative to business and community leaders. Envisioning a mixture of murals, sculptures, and mosaics, he suggested that the mission of Century Walk would be to honor significant people, places, and events of twentieth-century Naperville.

With the support of many organizations and individuals, Century Walk quickly became a reality, and the first three pieces of art were installed in 1996. Throughout the years, the City of Naperville, private donors, civic organizations, businesses, and volunteers have given generously of their money, resources, and time, ensuring Century Walk’s success.

Today, Century Walk showcases a wide variety of techniques, artistic styles, and media. It is an impressive gallery of art that includes talented Illinois artists as well as internationally renowned artists who have made important contributions to their craft. As noted in the attached brochure, Naperville Century Walk 2017, the works of Century Walk artists are found in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, foreign embassies, and other notable locations throughout the world.¹

“Century Walk stands out among public art projects (because) the artwork embraces the community it represents, and the community, which it represents becomes involved in the pieces of art themselves.”

- W. Brand Bobosky

1

B. Benefits of Public Art

Why Public Art Matters: Cities gain value through public art – cultural, social, and economic value. Public art is a distinguishing part of our public history and our evolving culture. It reflects and reveals our society, adds meaning to our cities and uniqueness to our communities. Public art humanizes the built environment and invigorates public spaces. It provides an intersection between past, present and future, between disciplines, and between ideas. Public art is freely accessible.

- Public Art Network Council, Americans for the Arts

Century Walk's collection of public art brings numerous and wide-ranging benefits to the City of Naperville. The initiative adds value to the community as it:

- Is equally accessible to all, enriching our physical environments.
- Promotes civic engagement and encourages civil discourse.
- Improves quality of life by creating community pride and cultivates artists' interests by providing professional opportunities for growth and creativity.
- Promotes interaction among people when shared history, cultural heritage, environmental stewardship, and respect for diversity are celebrated.
- Benefits students by making public art learning environments supportive, attractive, and fun.
- Boosts local economies by creating environments conducive to business development, attracting visitors who rely on industries like restaurants, hotels, and transportation, while improving employee morale, productivity and respect in those enlivened environments.
- Increases property values.
- Promotes growth in cultural tourism.
- Increases a town's identity as an arts and culture destination.

“Naperville is fortunate to have residents who recognized the benefits of public art and donated various pieces to the city. Century Walk kept the tradition alive. Today our community enjoys a wide variety of excellent art forms for all to enjoy.”

- Peg Price, Mayor of Naperville from 1983 to 1991

C. How Cities Fund Public Art

While public art brings many benefits to a community, it also poses the challenge of funding. Our team studied the best practices of public art initiatives across the country and our intensive research revealed a variety of publicly-funded mechanisms.

- A majority of the 400-plus public art programs in the U.S. are funded through percent programs.
- Twenty-seven states and more than 90 U.S. municipalities employ a Percent for Art program to fund the creation and placement of public art in their communities.
- In San Diego, CA, the public art program is a department of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, whose operating and personnel expenses of nearly 90 arts and cultural organizations are covered by a portion of the city's Transient Occupancy or Hotel/Motel Room Tax.

The mechanisms used include:

- Establishing by policy, a discretionary City Council appropriation consisting of 2% of selected eligible Capital Improvement Project budgets for public art.
- Creating Public Art Initiatives by Ordinance that establish Public Art Commissions and outline via Administrative Guidelines, the basic charge of a Public Art Master Plan and a structure for the Public Art Initiative.
- Employ a Percent for Art Program or Ordinance. Percent for art is a public art funding mechanism, usually established by Ordinance, in which a set percent (generally .5 to 2%) of capital project funds are set aside for the commissioning of public art.
- Allocate a percent of monies for art programs at federal, state and local government levels and have mandatory percent allocations for art programs that include Public Art.
- Use diverse funding sources to fund public art initiatives to help fulfill a program's vision by engaging multiple stakeholders to ensure that projects are adequately funded, that there is flexibility in where public art can be commissioned for the most impact, where funds can be used for both temporary and permanent work, all aimed at ensuring the multiple stakeholders can share in its success.
- Establish General Fund-Supported Public Art Manager positions within the Cities to handle public art initiatives.

As stated in a paper by Americans for the Arts, "...public art can be an essential element when a municipality wishes to progress economically and to be viable to its current and prospective citizens."



"A City in Transit" Mariah de Forest and Hector Duarte 1997



"Symbiotic Sojourn"

Jeff Adam 2003



PART III

Celebrating our Past and Embracing the Future

Over the past twenty-five years, Century Walk has created an outdoor collection of art that spans the City. With the addition of Ladder of Light, a tribute to Naperville’s fallen firefighters, installations are now in 51 locations, and plans for two more projects are under discussion.² In this Part, we describe how we will add to our public arts program over the next 10 years.

To ensure the longevity of Century Walk and its projects, we’ve crafted a plan that establishes an administrative structure and defines methods for managing a public art program. Standards set by Americans for the Arts Public Art Network (PAN), the only network in the United States dedicated to advancing public art programs and projects, served as our guide. It was also the impetus for re-examining our existing public art portfolio, installing future artwork, and establishing a start-to-finish roadmap for artists to create art in Naperville.

Century Walk has earned a reputation of excellence through its efforts to bring significant work to the region. Its public art has been a major draw for tourism in the City and a point of pride for its citizens. We are committed to furthering our reputation and will use our public art projects to:

- Celebrate Naperville’s Diverse Cultures
- Create an ecosystem that supports local artists whenever possible
- Facilitate collaborations with schools, donors, businesses, organizations, and the City to form long-lasting partnerships in support of our mission
- Build community participation in quality arts experiences
- Include outreach to diverse or underserved populations
- Create educational programs and events with a public art component
- Form a sense of attachment and cultural identity
- Enhance the growth and character of the community
- Provide social cohesion and cultural understanding

2

Starting in 2021, we are evaluating fresh new concepts and designs that will become part of Century Walk's signature. Projects under consideration that will add to our 51-location collection include:

- Art that highlights historical figures and Naperville's own celebrities (performers, athletes, Olympians)
- Installations that showcase Naperville's diverse history and culture
- Dynamic kinetic sculptures
- Artwork designed to engage children
- Video projection mapping (e.g., on the Carillon)
- Sidewalk art
- Art that maximizes Naperville's Visual Assets on Social Media
- Art installations representing indigenous people and other diverse ethnicities
- Temporary art projects
- Spontaneous art projects
- Projects that bring vibrancy to key civic places throughout Naperville, including gateways, squares, and historic walks that help to tie different areas together (such as Riverwalk, Springbrook Prairie, DuPage River Trail, and Naper Settlement).
- Installations designed to engage people and artists and welcome visitors at important gateways like the I-88 Corridor, and the many public parks, bridges, schools, and hiking trails.

• **DIVERSITY**

Century Walk has celebrated Naperville's diverse culture over the years through art located throughout our city.



“The River of Life” mural involved 300 Naperville local junior and high school students who captured memories, hopes and experiences in quilts. 1999



“Golden Rule Days” sculpture addressed early school integration and a teacher’s insistence on upholding it. 2000



“Lean on Us” incorporated various ethnicities and races in this sculpture of victims of 9/11. 2003



"Volunteers Welcome" highlights Naperville service organizations in panels that show inclusivity and diversity. 2006



“KidsMatter Way-Finding Murals”

A group of “wayfinding” murals on the five floors of the Van Buren parking deck were painted by students from all five Naperville high schools and reflect numerous ethnicities and races. 2010-2014

We are considering more art installations that celebrate our diversity, as depicted in the following photos.

Embracing the Future of Public Art

With continued support from the community, Century Walk faces a bright future and endless possibilities as we create public art that continues to celebrate diversity in Naperville.

Interactive kid-friendly art throughout the City



"The Happy Wall"
Thomas Dambo,
Edmonton, Canada
2018



Interactive Light
Installation,
"Aqueous"
Jen Lewis
2019

Art Installations Attractive to Instagram Users



The St. Charles Business Alliance began work on “Be You” in 2018 with Chicago artist Matthew Hoffman, custodian of “You Are Beautiful,” a project to better the world in little ways.

Paris Hilton’s viral picture from her visit to St. Charles in 2020 has reached every corner of the globe with 5 million stickers shared and 187,500 views in one hour.

“Be You”

Matthew Hoffman 2020



The Power of Public Art: The Cloud Gate sculpture in Chicago’s Millennium Park may have caught investors by surprise but it is clear that their investment in what is known as The Bean has had a tremendous positive impact on tourism, economic growth, and overall cultural awareness in the Chicago community.

“The Bean” Anish Kapoor
2006



One way to spread love and joy is to showcase the colorful visual heart sculptures by local artist, George Berlin 2021

The ingenuity of kinetic sculptures fascinates the mind.

This piece by Anthony Howe is a fine example of entertainment simply by the power of the wind.
Anthony Howe 2017



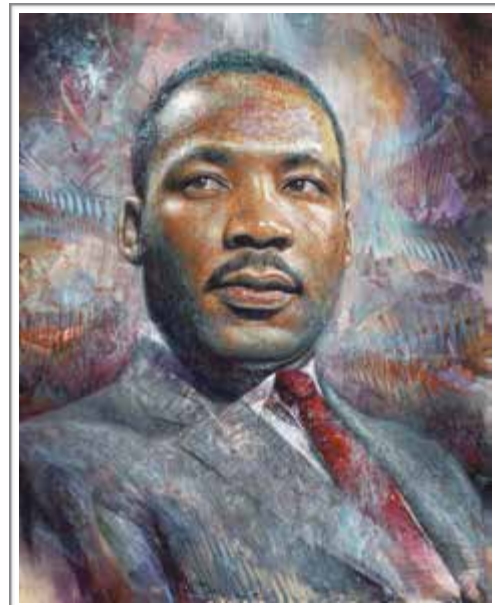
- **MURALS**

Century Walk's immediate plans include an installation of art that depicts notable athletes from Naperville schools.

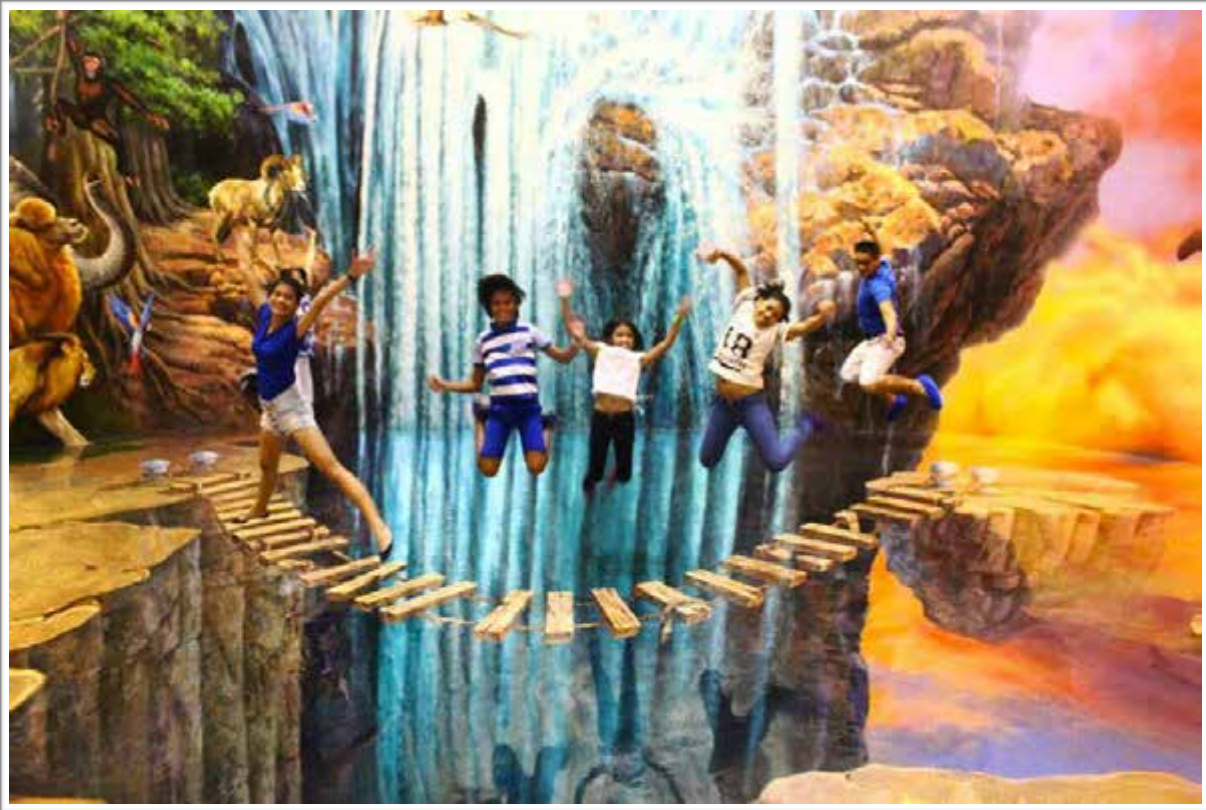


Another planned installation will be inspired from Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic visit to Naperville in 1960.

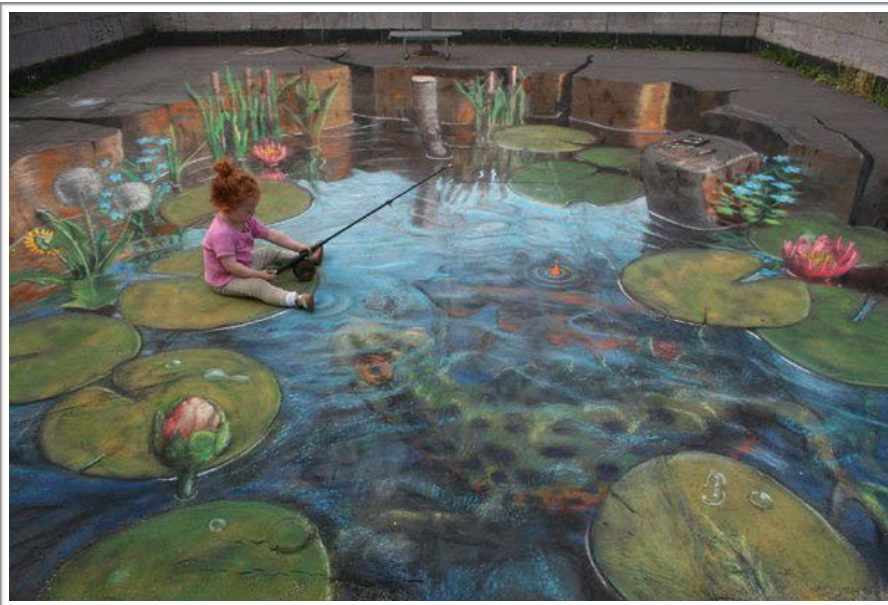
"Elevate (Your Mind)" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Paul Daniels 2020



Interactive Murals



In Manila, Philippines, artists create optical illusions of interactive murals. The museum is a tourist attraction for all ages.



English, Belgium-based chalk artist, Julian Beever, has been creating trompe-l'œil chalk drawings on pavement surfaces around the world since the mid-1990s and has become an Internet sensation.

Art installations representing indigenous people and other diverse ethnicities



“Ekwabet” Guy J. Bellaver, St.Charles, IL 1988



Spontaneous Wall Art Painting to involve community members
Photo by Jeannine Venezia 2019

• RECYCLED ART



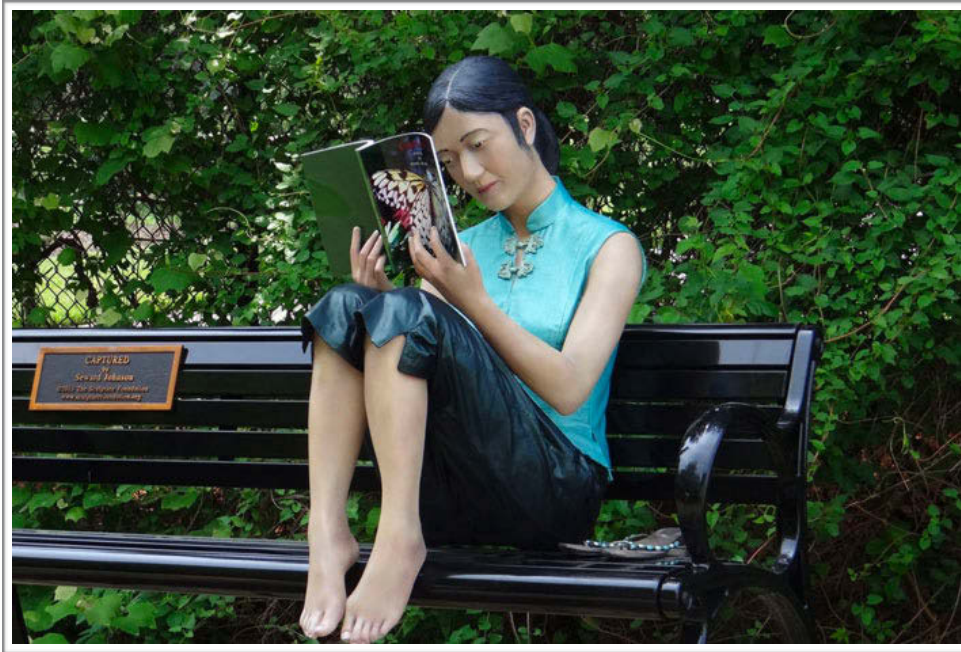
Children’s early years are a perfect time to introduce the benefits of recycling and conservation. Programs that teach them the art of crafting and design allow them to showcase their creative skills.



A posse of grand-scale wooden troll sculptures carried Morton Arboretum to the highest attendance in its 97-year history during 2018, as 1.276 million people visited the west suburban nature park. Built by Danish artist Thomas Dambo, each troll has been shaped out of reclaimed wood, illustrating the artist’s self-described ability to make “anything you can imagine out of trash.”

“Giant Troll” Thomas Dambo 2018

- **LEASED ART**



"Captured"
Seward Johnson
2013

Seward Johnson designed life-size bronze statues that were castings of living people, depicting them engaged in day-to-day activities. They are leased or sold to the public through an organization endowed with this mission.

Our focus for the next 10 years will be on creating unique art experiences in our city that promote diversity and cohesion.

“Through the skills of the artists and the subjects they have chosen, Century Walk motivates us to know the past and moves us into the future of this wonderful community. I am so proud of Naperville for its commitment to public art. Residents and visitors can enjoy dozens of sculptures, mosaics, and murals, and these beautiful works are in public places where people can see them anytime. Century Walk is truly a scenic and inspirational walk down memory lane.”

- *George Pradel*, Mayor of Naperville from 1995 to 2015

PART IV Public Art in Naperville

A. Century Walk's Proposal to Naperville City Council

We begin this Part by revisiting and responding to the key questions posed under Methodology on page 7.

What does the future hold for public art in Naperville?

Century Walk believes the future for public art is bright because we have a great foundation to build upon. Our reputation for excellence in bringing significant public art to our region over the years has been a draw for tourism in the City and a point of pride for our citizens. We plan not only to expand this effort as Part III indicates, but also to put Naperville on the national and international map as a must-see vacation stop.

Will the City Council assert a policy regarding its commitment to public art and provide a process for implementing such a policy?

Century Walk believes the ongoing funding we have received from the City since 1996 is indicative of its interest in public art. However, we hope the City would play a much more active role in supporting and promoting arts and culture than it has in the past. It can do so by first formalizing both a policy declaring its commitment to public art and establishing a process for implementing that policy. Public art cannot survive on inconsistent funding which has been the case over the last five years. It needs reliable subsidy from the City Council to help us create and promote public art as we move forward.

Should the Council agree to support and fund Century Walk in this role based on:

- a) Our reputation of excellence in bringing significant public art to Naperville for over 25 years**
- b) Our proposal documenting our intent to honor this commitment over the next ten years**
- c) Our Succession Plan showing sustainable actions for accomplishing the defined goals?**

We have evaluated how City Council and the SECA Commission disbursed funds since 2005 and have observed local organizations comparable to ours that receive significant funds annually. Based on our findings we ask that the City consider a similar approach to funding public art to ensure Century Walk has funds available for projects annually as well as the flexibility to allocate those funds to places and projects that will have the greatest impact.

Our recommendations are that the City:

- Incorporates Century Walk into the City Obligations that Naperville shoulders for cultural entities like Naper Settlement, Naperville Municipal Band, DuPage Children’s Museum, River Walk Maintenance, Carillon Maintenance, Century Walk, and others. See chart at the bottom of this page showing SECA City Obligations for calendar years 2018-2021.
- Dedicates 10% of the SECA allocation of the Food and Beverage Tax or \$200,000 of the total capital budget, whichever is greater, for supporting public art in Naperville via Century Walk as a yearly City Obligation. (This would include the current \$50,000 City Obligation for maintenance that generally is not a part of capital improvements.) Recognizes that Century Walk’s request of 10% will leave 90% of the monies available to other organizations.

**SECA City Obligations
CY18 – CY21**

Organization	CY18	CY19	CY20	CY21
4 th of July Fireworks – City Contribution	13,300	14,000	20,000	20,000
4 th of July Shuttles	28,000	29,000	29,000	30,000
Carillon Maintenance	128,123	105,217	106,795	108,397
Century Walk Maintenance	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
DuPage Children’s Museum Debt Service	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Annual Grant Management Software	5,200	6,420	7,100	7,600
Naperville Development Partnership	175,000	175,000	175,000	175,000
Naperville Municipal Band	153,151	155,820	153,615	155,403
NCTV17 Community Event Coverage	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
NCTV17 – Naperville News	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
Riverwalk Maintenance	179,699	180,736	177,956	180,625
Special Events Coordinator	75,376	76,195	80,236	84,591
Total City Obligations	1,018,539	1,002,388	1,009,702	1,020,991

We base our \$200,000 ask on the following compilation of averages over 25 years. The cost to complete the 51 locations of public art is approximately \$4,150,000. That number divided by 51 yields an average cost of \$81,373 which rounds down to \$80,000 per location.

Throughout our twenty-five year history, we have produced work at 51 locations at an average of two installations per year.³ Two installations per year at an average of \$80,000 each equals an average expense to create public art of \$160,000 per year. We are presently receiving \$50,000 for maintenance but would reduce it to \$40,000 and add it to the \$160,000, giving us \$200,000 per year as a “City Obligation.” Century Walk would then be required to not only create public art but to maintain it as well. (Financial details available upon request.)



“The Great Concerto”

A mural honoring the Naperville Municipal Band and its fans 2006

3

B. Century Walk's Succession Plan as Support for Our 10-Year Plan

Sustaining a Healthy Functioning Organization

This year, the Century Walk Corporation celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first artwork installation, "Naperville's Own." In the ensuing years, the Century Walk has evolved under the leadership of W. Brand Bobosky, its president. A long-term succession plan for Century Walk's leadership is currently a topic of discussion for Century Walk's Board of Directors. In short, Century Walk is dedicated to continuing its mission of creating culturally significant and diverse public art throughout Naperville well into the 21st century. Inclusion of all interests is something on which we will continue to focus as we move forward in pursuit of our long-standing mission.

Finally, our 10-year Succession Plan was created to provide more specifics about our strategies and goals for our city and the actions that the City, our partners, our citizens, and our artists will take to achieve Naperville's vision for arts and culture as we approach the City's Bi-Centennial.

Maintaining Citizens' Interest in Public Art

1. Communication & Outreach

Work with the City, local organizations, and the press to foster interest in the community about our public art initiative, grow support for new projects, and build audiences for public art through ongoing communications.

2. Focus Groups and Community Surveys

Naperville citizens have shown interest in and support for public art, and we capitalize on that through community participation in focus groups and surveys as we plan for the future.

Staffing

1. CEO Search & Board Recruitment

An important goal is to engage a search team to work with the Century Walk Board of Directors to determine the characteristics of an ideal candidate for the CEO position. The current CEO is ready to relinquish his role to someone with appropriate leadership skills who can work with the current Board and new board members – and for whom art is a passion. Century Walk is currently recruiting new members, in light of board attrition due to Covid-19, with the intention of expanding board size.

2. Management Team

In addition to searching for a CEO and recruiting Board members, Century Walk is also working on building a management team that will focus on our marketing/public relations/publicity needs, technology, grant writing, and event planning in order to achieve the many goals described in this proposal. Our current curator, Dodie Mondero, will be retained on staff on an as-needed basis for maintenance.

3. Marketing/ Public Relations

We will work aggressively to promote our organization and its public art installations so that Naperville lands on the national and international map as a must-see cultural destination.

4. Technology

In the spirit of collaboration, we will work with local colleges to recruit interns to oversee our technological needs, social media, and website development.

5. Artist Support

Century Walk will work to establish an alliance with Arts DuPage, a DuPage Foundation Initiative to promote art and assist local artists.

Fundraising

We will complement SECA City Obligation funding by proactively implementing the following fundraising tactics:

1. Mandating Board Support for the Mission

Directors' Financial Support of the Organization will be based on financial ability.

2. Seeking National or Regional Grants

Century Walk will continue to research and apply for grants to support its public art initiative.

3. Establishing Public Art and Private Development Partnerships

We will continue working with developers, such as Intercontinental Real Estate & Development Corporation at City Gate West, and private parties to incorporate artwork throughout the community.

4. Establishing a Private Gift & Loans Funding Partnership with Residents

We will endeavor to form partnerships with Naperville residents who, in conjunction with private individuals, foundations, corporations or other organizations, may wish to give or loan the City of Naperville a work of art for public display to enrich public spaces.

5. Leveraging Funding through Partnerships

Partnerships, an important part of civic culture in Naperville, are essential tools for project development and execution. We will continue to use our public art programs to collaborate with cultural organizations, educational institutions and community organizations to bring needed resources and expertise to our projects. We will continue to pursue strategic alliances with partners such as the Naperville Park District, the Naperville Public Libraries, the City of Naperville NCUSD #203 and #204, the Washington Street Bridge, and Fifth Avenue Development Project planning team, to assist us in achieving our goals.

We are currently considering a joint project with Art of Inclusion, LLC that will embrace our similar missions of creating diverse public art throughout Naperville. In late April, we will be attending an exploratory meeting with the SECA Commission, city representatives and municipal invitees to further define the relationship between Century Walk and the City.

In addition, City Gate West has built a partnership with Century Walk and will provide 3,000 square feet of free office space once the project is approved and completed. Art and culture will be integral throughout the \$200 million development, proposed to be built on 60 acres at Route 59 and Interstate I-88.

6. Establishing a Legacy Fund

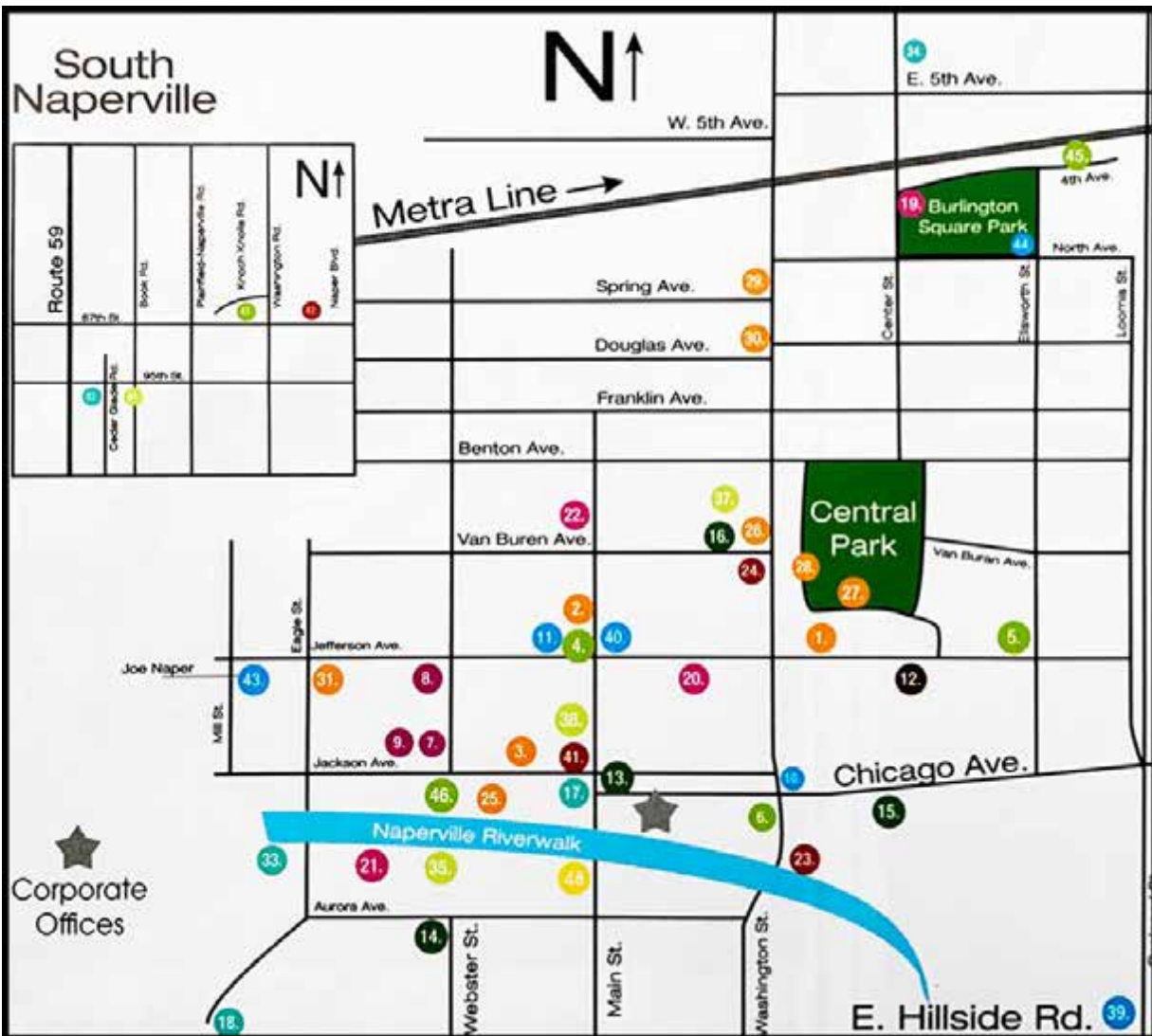
We plan to eventually create a fund to support Century Walk's public art initiative.

7. Establishing Local Fundraising

Naperville has a strong culture of giving. Century Walk envisions working on its own or in coordination with non-profit partners to raise funds through "asks" directed at individuals and Naperville businesses.

- Create an Annual Signature Century Walk Fundraiser.
- Examine and expand our Audio Narration on our website, CenturyWalk.org.
- Offer Public Walkable Art Tours with interactive maps of artwork.

Century Walk's website provides a map and audio public art tour of numbered locations.



“Joe Naper”

Dick Locher, designer
and Jeff Adams, sculptor 2013

Joe started it all at his homestead at the corner of Jefferson and Mill Street.

PART V

Conclusion

Within these pages, we described our ten-year vision for public art in Naperville. The articles in EndNote four are a testament to Century Walk's success in contributing culturally significant art throughout the Naperville community.⁴ The proposed request for funding will enable Century Walk to continue to increase our collection of art and make Naperville a unique and culturally active destination for residents and visitors for years to come.

EndNotes

1. See Naperville Century Walk 2017 Brochure that showcases Naperville's public art collection from 1996 through 2017. Steeped in Naperville's 20th century history, the body of artwork from Century Walk reflects the evolving views on inclusion, diversity, and the cultural significance of people, places, and events throughout Naperville.
2. Artwork #1 is the Goldstar Monument designated for Veterans Park. Artwork #2 is an enhanced version of the Printed Word; its return is on hold and being researched.
3. Schedule of Century Walk Assets as of 12/31/2020, PHASE I & PHASE II (see pp. 34-35).
4. Articles below feature Century Walk's achievements.
 - Alleman, A, (2021, February, 19) Naperville's Century Walk Marks 25 years of Free Public Art. The Naperville Sun Weekend, Section 1, pp. 4-5.
 - Bobosky, B, (2020, November) Celebrating 25 Years of Public Art. Naperville Chamber of Commerce Business & Community Resource Guide 2021, November, 2021, pp. 18-19. Century Walk was the cover and feature story of this publication.
 - Gianopoulos, P, (June-July 2020 edition) Alfresco Artistry. Naperville Magazine, pp. 46-47. Featured art in select Northern Illinois cities (Batavia, Naperville, Lombard, Elgin, Aurora).
 - Hoekstra, D, (2020, November edition) The Day MLK Came To North Central - LIVING LEGACY. Naperville Magazine, pp. 53-59. Illustrated by Taylor Callery, the article cites Century Walk's sculpture of Genevieve Towsley and her efforts to integrate Naperville's Centennial Beach.
 - Bookwalter, G, (2016, September 20) Money Magazine ranks Naperville as Top Place to Live. Naperville Sun, pp. 1-2. Naperville's top ranking was attributed, in part, to the noteworthy public art created by Century Walk.

4



Dodie Mondero and his family are proud to be a part of *Naperville Loves A Parade* mural. He is originally from Manila, Philippines and his wife is from Seoul, South Korea



**Schedule of
Century Walk Assets as of 12/31/2020
PHASE I - 30 Works**

Year	No.	Artwork Description & Location – Per Jini Leeds Clare coffee table book entitled "Century Walk – Art Imitating History" ©2010	Owner	Total Value @
1996	1	Relief of Municipal Band (Bank at Washington and Jefferson Streets)	Private	\$22,000
1996	2	Mural of Printing Industry (Former Sun Building/Pottery Barn)	N/A*	\$10,000
1996	3	Mosaic Benches (Jackson St. near Egg Harbor)	Private	\$19,000
1997	4	Mosaic Wall of Naperville Farms (Main & Jefferson/Two Bostons)	Private	\$20,000
1997	5	Sculpture of Various Tools (Jefferson Hill Shops)	Private	\$25,000
1997	6	Mural Naperville in Transit (Washington & Chicago/Lantern Wall)	Private	\$18,000
1998	7	Bronze Plat of Geographic History (Nichols Library)	Library	\$30,000
1998	8	Base Relief Sculptures carved in brick (Nichols Library)	Library	\$43,000
1998	9	Sculpture of Boy/Girl Reading (Nichols Library)	Library	\$35,000
1998	2	Replacement of Mural of Printing History (Ellman's Wall/Q's BBQ)	N/A*	\$20,000
1999	10	Sculpture – Genevieve Towsley(Barnes & Noble)	Private	\$30,000
1999	11	Mosaics (4) by School Children (West Wall Anderson's Bookshop)	Private	\$20,000
2000	12	Sculpture – Golden Rule Days (Christian Science Reading Room)	Private	\$40,000
2001	13	Murals – Pillars of Community (Sullivan's south wall)	Private	\$50,000
2001	14	Sculpture – Horse Market Days (Naper Settlement)	City	\$90,000
2001	15	Sculpture – Athlete/WWII Hero (North Central College)	Private	\$45,000
2002	16	Stained Art Glass–Cars of the 20 th Century (Van Buren Parking Deck)	City	\$65,000
2002	17	Sculpture – 2 children on bench (Riverwalk on Main Street)	City	\$65,000
2002	18	Sculpture of Basketball Player (Naperville Central High School)	NCUSD 203	\$65,000
2003	19	Statue – Doughboy of WW1 (Burlington Park)	City	\$100,000
2003	20	Sculpture – Wehrli Hands (Jefferson St. near Naperville Running Store)	City	\$35,000
2003	21	Sculpture – Shanower Memorial (DuPage River/City Hall)	City	\$240,000
2003	22	Symbiotic Sojourn Sculpture (Main Street Promenade/Hugo's)	Private	\$128,000
2005	23	Fredenhagen Sculpture (Fredenhagen Park)	City	\$45,000
2005	24	Way We Were Mural (Washington Street across from old library)	Private	\$35,000
2005	25	Riverwalk Visionaries Sculpture (Riverwalk near horse trough fountain)	City	\$95,000
2005	26	Service Club Mural (North wall of Catch 35 Building on Washington)	Private	\$41,000
2005	27	The Great Concerto Mural (Central Park Concert Center)	City	\$101,000
2006	28	Veterans' Valor Sculpture (Washington Street by YMCA)	City	\$196,000
2006	29	Kids Kinetic Sculpture (DuPage Children's Museum)	City	\$120,000
2006	30	Officer Friendly Sculpture (Washington St. @ Washington Jr. High)	NCUSD 203	\$125,000
		TOTAL (30) works–1 painted and removed twice leaving 29 in place		\$1,973,000

**Schedule of
Century Walk Assets as of 12/31/2020
PHASE II – 17 Works**

Year	No.	Artwork Description & Location – Per Jini Leeds Clare coffee table book entitled "Century Walk – Art Imitating History" ©2010	Owner	Total Value @
2007	31	Cat in the Hat Sculpture (Nichols Library)	Library	115,000
2008	32	Green Eggs & Ham Sculpture (95 th St. Library)	Library	105,000
2008	33	Mr. & Mrs. Naperville Sculpture (Riverwalk near Carillon)	City	130,000
2009	34	World's Greatest Artists Mural (Naperville Art League Building)	Private	40,000
2009	35	Dick Tracy Sculpture #35 (Riverwalk at Naperville Township)	Private	145,500
2010	36	The Spirit of the Y Sculpture (Fry Family Y)	Private	92,500
2010	37	Van Buren Deck Way Finding Mural (Van Buren Parking Deck)	City	30,000
2011	38	Parade of The Century Mural (Talbots Building)	Private	12,000
2011	39	Whale of a School Sculpture #39 (Highlands Elementary School)	NCUSD 203	21,000
2011	40	Faith, Hope and Charity Mural (Russell Cleaners Building)	Private	22,000
2011		Van Buren Parking Deck	-	62,000
2011	41	Naperville Loves a Parade Mural (Gap Building Main Street)	Private	100,000
2012		Van Buren Parking Deck	-	20,000
2012		Naperville Loves a Parade Mural	-	119,000
2012	42	The Grinch Sculpture #42 (Naperville Blvd. Library)	Library	50,000
2013		Naperville Loves a Parade	-	25,000
2013	43	Joe Naper Sculpture (Joe Naper Homestead – Jefferson & Mill)	City	190,000
2013	44	The Spirit of the American Navy (Burlington Square Park)	City	75,000
2014	45	Tragedy to Triumph (BNSF Naperville Train Station)	Private	66,000
2014	46	Best Friends (adjacent to Riverwalk near Park District Building)	Park District	32,495
2014		Naperville Loves a Parade Mural	-	50,795
2014	47	Reflections on Scotts Mill (DuPage River Park/Knoch Knolls Rd)	Park District	52,895
2017	48	Streaming History (Water Street)	Private	75,000
2018	49	Rotary Harmony Park (Riverwalk near Rotary Hill)	City	53,500
2018	50	Laughing Lincoln (Central Park)	City	115,200
2020	51	Ladder of Light (West of the River on Jefferson)	Park District	118,000
		TOTAL (21) works		1,917,885

**Schedule of Century Walk Assets as of 12/31/2020
PHASE I and PHASE II – 50 Works**

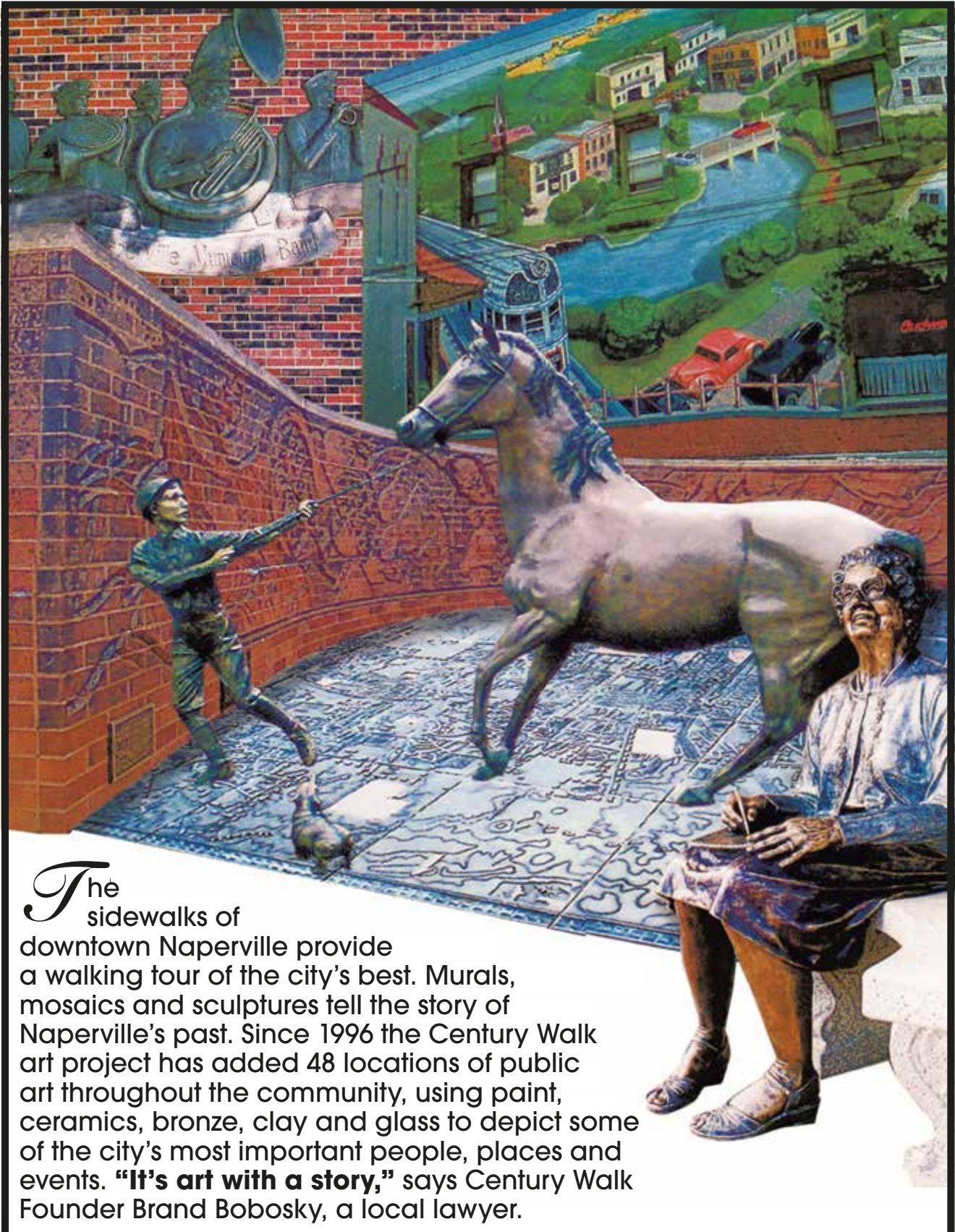
	Total Value
Phase I – 29 works in place (includes \$144,000 in-kind)	\$2,117,000
Phase II – 21 works in place (includes \$138,600 in-kind)	\$2,056,485
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,173,485
% Contribution – City of Naperville vs. Private	51%/49%

Owner	No.
Private	21
NCUSD	3
Library	6
City	17
Park Dist	3
TOTAL	50

ENDNOTE 1

CENTURY WALK 2017 BROCHURE

Naperville Century Walk 2017



The sidewalks of downtown Naperville provide a walking tour of the city's best. Murals, mosaics and sculptures tell the story of Naperville's past. Since 1996 the Century Walk art project has added 48 locations of public art throughout the community, using paint, ceramics, bronze, clay and glass to depict some of the city's most important people, places and events. **"It's art with a story,"** says Century Walk Founder Brand Bobosky, a local lawyer.

1996



1 **"Naperville's Own,"**
relief of the Naperville
Municipal Band.
Artist S. Michael Re.



2 **"The Printed Word,"**
mural from the Naperville SUN building to Ellman's
Music Center. It tells the story of publishing in
Naperville and will be relocated for the second time
in the near future. Artist Timm Etters.



3 **"River Reveries,"**
mosaic-covered benches inspired by
Kroehler Manufacturing Co. lounges.
Artist Jennifer Hereth.

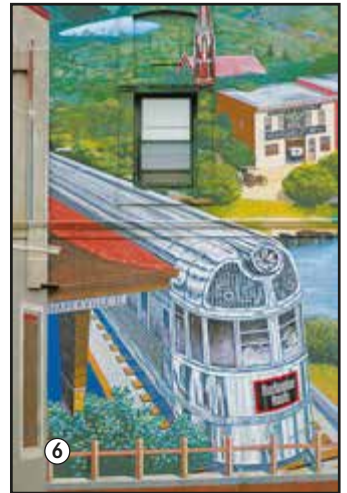
1997



4



5



6

1998



7



8



9

7 **"Naperville,"**
bronze squares depicting Naperville's
geographic history. Artist Gregg LeFevre.
Created in 1986, this piece was adopted
into the Century Walk in 1998.

8 **"Man's Search for Knowledge Through
the Ages,"**
bas-relief sculpture carved in brick
symbolizing the human quest for learning.
Artist Mara Smith. Created in 1987, this piece
was adopted into the Century Walk in 1998.

9 **"Reading Children,"**
bronze sculpture of girl and boy reading.
Artist Dennis V. Smith. Created in 1988, this
piece was adopted into the Century Walk
in 1998.

1999



10 **“Genevieve,”**
bronze sculpture of journalist and historian Genevieve Towsley, author of “A View of Historic Naperville.” Her book is available at Anderson’s Book Shop with proceeds going to support Century Walk. Artist Pamela S. Carpenter.



11 **“River of Life,”** Clay story quilt
Artists were students in Naperville schools.

2000



12 **“Golden Rule Days,”**
sculpture of one-room schoolhouse in honor of rural teacher Reba Steck. Artists George C. Olson and Shirley Johnson Olson

2001

4 **“Heartland Harvest,”**
glass-tile mosaic featuring the contributions of family farms. Artists Kathleen Farrell and Kathleen Scarboro.

5 **“Growth and Change,”**
sculpture depicting the tools of business, industry and the household. Artist Jack Holme.

6 **“A City in Transit.”**
Mural depicting evolution of travel, including the DuPage River, Old Plank Road, the railroad and the Lima Lima flight team. Artists Mariah de Forest and Hector Duarte.



13



14

13 **“Pillars of the Community,”**
Mural depicting significant people, places and events. Artist Diosdado “Dodie” Mondero.

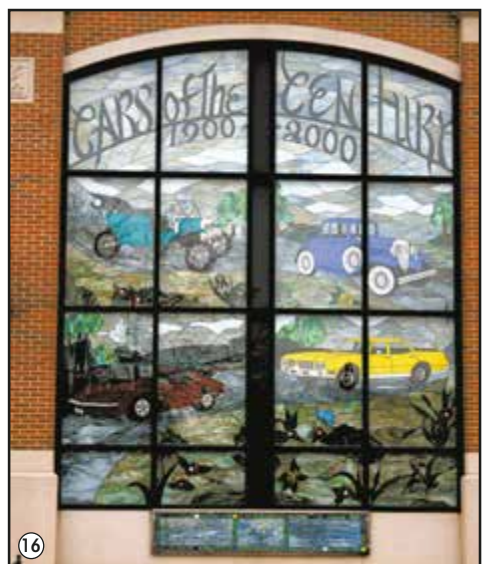
14 **“Horse Market Days,”**
bronze sculptures of a boy, horse and dog. Artists Pamela S. Carpenter, Robert P. Buono and Torsten Muehl

15 **“College, Community and Country,”**
sculpture of football player and World War II veteran William Shatzer II. Artist Shirley McWorter-Moss.

16 **“Cars of the Century,”**
stained glass panels depicting four cars and local dealerships from the 20th century. The Artists of Sheri Law Art Glass, Ltd.



15



16

2002



17



18

17 **"A Lifetime Together,"**
Statue of Jane Latshaw Scherer
and her husband as children. Artist
Emanuel Martinez

18 **"Be the Best That You Can Be,"**
sculpture of William H. "Billy" Scherer,
a graduate of Naperville High school.
Artist Emanuel Martinez.

2003

19 **"The Spirit of the American Doughboy,"**
restored E.M. Viquesney
doughboy sculpture.
Restoration Artist Giorgio Gikas of
Venus Bronze Works, Inc.

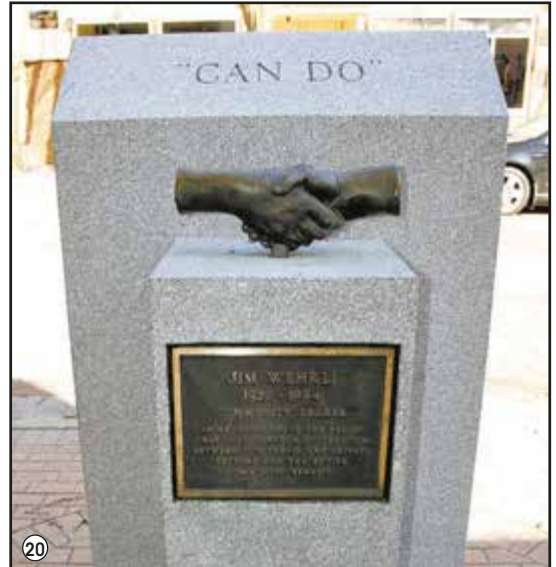
20 **"Yes We Can!"**
a detailed study of hands
honoring the late community
leader Jim Wehrli. Artist Earl E.
Swanson, Jr.

21 **"Lean on Us,"**
September 11 memorial
monument. Artist Bill C. Cooper.

22 **"Symbiotic Sojourn,"**
relief dedicated to recycling and
conservation. Artist Jeff Adams



19



20



21



22

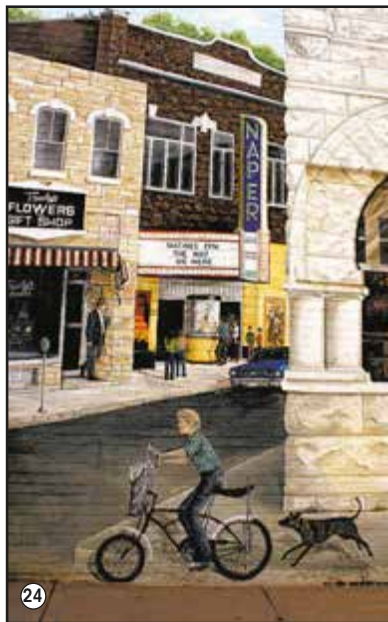
2005



23

23 "Two in a Million,"
a sculpture honoring Walter and Grace Fredenhagen, former owners of a downtown ice cream shop.
Artist Jeff Adams

24 "The Way We Were,"
a mural fondly looking at Naperville businesses in the 1960's. Artists Marianne Lisson Kuhn and Lisa Netzley-Hopkins.



24

2006



25



26



28

25 "Riverwalk Visionaries,"
a sculpture of Chet Rybicki and Jim Moser, two driving forces behind the Riverwalk.
Artist Kathleen Farrell.

26 "Volunteers Welcome,"
a mural celebrating seven Naperville service clubs. Artists Ernest Claycomb and Jennifer Richmond.

27 "The Great Concerto,"
a mural honoring the Naperville Municipal Band and its fans. Artist Barton F. Gunderson.

28 "Veterans' Valor,"
a sculpture honoring five World War II veterans. Artist Shirley McWorter-Moss.



27

2007



29



30



31

29 "Parting the Prairie," an interactive sculpture celebrating the city's railroad heritage. Artist Christine Rojek.

30 "Officer Friendly," a sculpture of Mayor George Pradel, the city's first Officer Friendly. Artist Sarah Furst.

31 "The Cat in the Hat," 10-foot sculpture of the beloved Dr. Seuss character. Artist Leo Rijn.

2009

32 "Green Eggs and Ham," 8-foot tall sculpture of Dr. Seuss' Sam-I-Am character holding a platter of the infamous breakfast food. Artist Leo Rijn.

33 "Mr. and Mrs. Naperville," 7-foot tall sculptural tribute to Harold and Margaret Moser. Artist Barton F. Gunderson.

34 "World's Greatest Artists," 67-foot wide, 12-foot tall mural depicts 36 famous artists working on their well-known pieces. Created by Mike Venezia; Painted by Marianne Lisson Kuhn.



32



33



34

2010



35



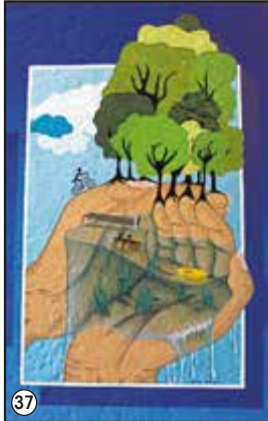
36

35 “Dick Tracy,”
9-foot tall bronze sculpture of Dick Tracy. Dick Locher, who succeeded Chester Gould in drawing the Dick Tracy comic strip and became a Pulitzer-prize winning editorial cartoonist at the Chicago Tribune, has been a Naperville resident for almost half a century. **Artist Dick Locher and Sculptor Donald L. Reed.**

36 “Spirit of the Y,”
bronze sculpture celebrating 100 years of the YMCA. **Artist Jane DeDecker**

37 “KidsMatter Way - Finding Murals,”
a group of “wayfinding” murals, located in the parking garage at the corner of Main and Van Buren St., will ultimately feature the artwork of high school students from all five Naperville High Schools. **Artist Timm Ethers and students from District 203 and 204 High Schools.**

38 “Parade of the Century,”
mural shows a parade across time beginning in 1900 and continuing through the end of the 20th century. **Artist Adela Vystejnova.**



37



38

2011



39



40

39 “Whale of a School,”
the concrete whale, with a head almost nine feet high and a tail raised five feet in the air, is a testament to Highlands Elementary slogan, “A whale of a school.” The whale is a symbol of school pride and connection between students of past, present and future. **Artist Victoria Fuller.**

40 “Faith, Hope & Charity,”
the mural includes the names of 12 famous American masons on one side, and 12 well-known Naperville masons on the other side including city founder Joe Naper. An 18” border painted to simulate wood and rope shows how masons are tied together around the world. **Artist Marianne Lisson Kuhn.**

2012



41

41 “Naperville Loves a Parade”
Installed in 2012 and dedicated over Labor Day weekend 2014 in the Rubin’s Way alley west of Main Street between the Gap and Talbots. **Artists Dodie Mondero, Adela Vystejnova and Marianne Lisson Kuhn**

42 “The Grinch”
Installed in 2012 at Naper Boulevard Library, 2035 S. Naper Blvd. **Artist Leo Rijn**



42

2013

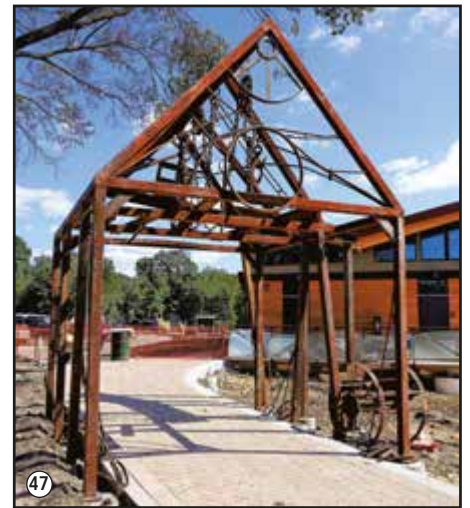


43 "Joe Naper"
dedicated in 2013 at the Joseph Naper Homestead, Mill Street and Jackson Avenue.
Artist Jeff Adams



44 "Spirit of the American Navy"
Dedicated in 2013 at Burlington Square Park, 307. N. Ellsworth St.
Artist E.M. Viquesney

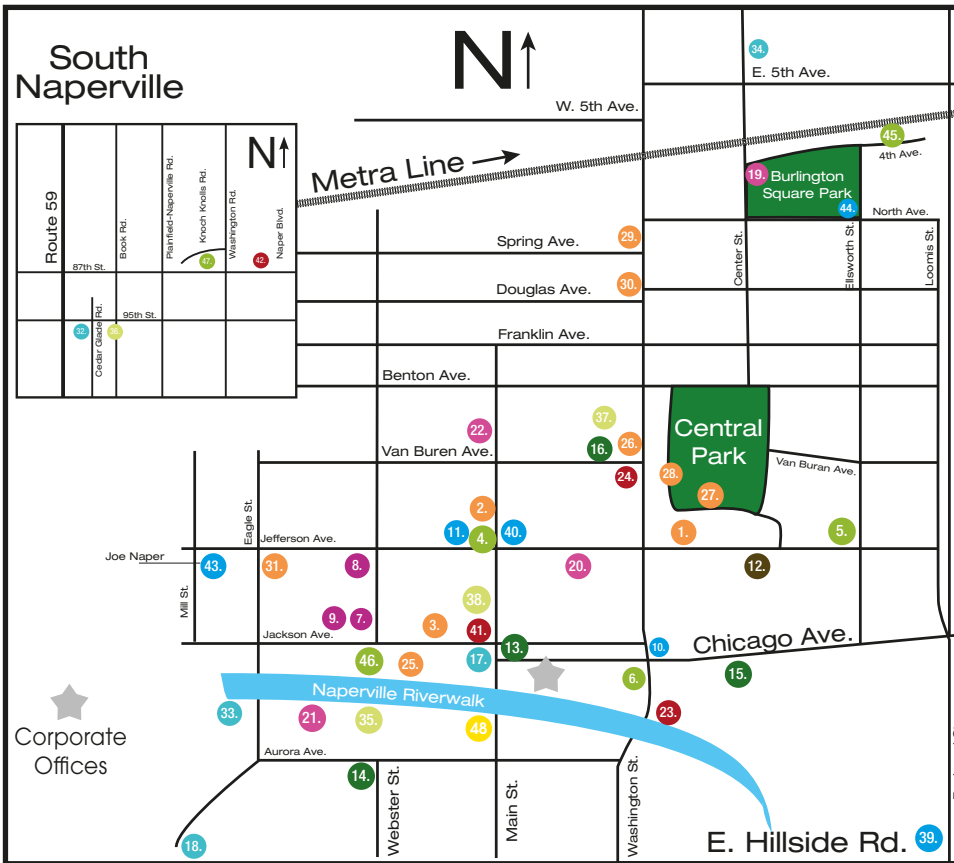
2014



45 "Tragedy to Triumph"
Dedicated April 2014 at the Naperville Metra station, 105 E. 4th Ave. **Artist Paul Kuhn.**

46 "Best Friends"
Dedicated in 2014 along the Riverwalk near the Naperville Park District administrative center, 320 W. Jackson Ave. **Artist Dale Rogers**

47 "Reflections on Scott's Mill"
Dedicated in 2014 at the Knoch Knolls Nature Center, 320 Knoch Knolls Road. **Artist Lucy Slivinski**



Our Century Walk Mobile Website

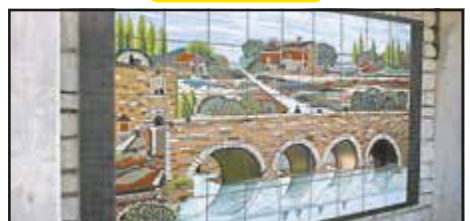
Listen to an audio tour for over 40 pieces of Century Walk art while you visit the art! It's easy! Just scan the QR code to the left with your mobile device to open the website, and then click on the audio tour you'd like to hear! Or, visit m.centurywalk.org

Brochure Courtesy of



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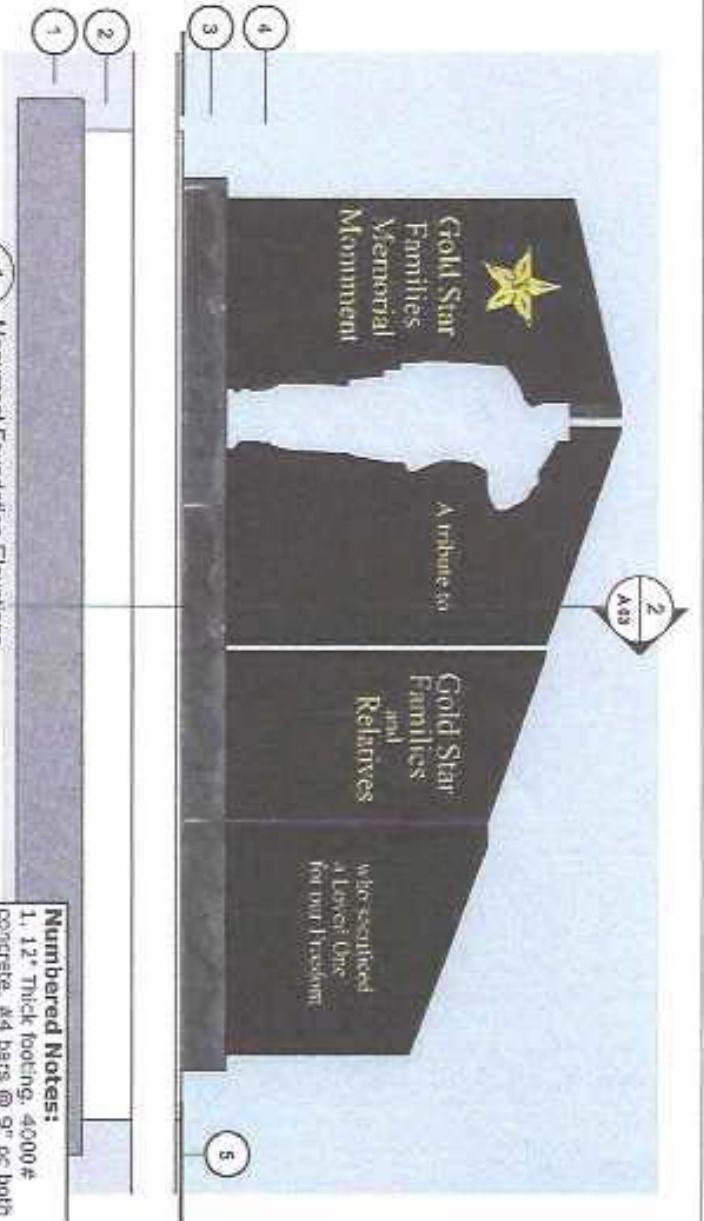
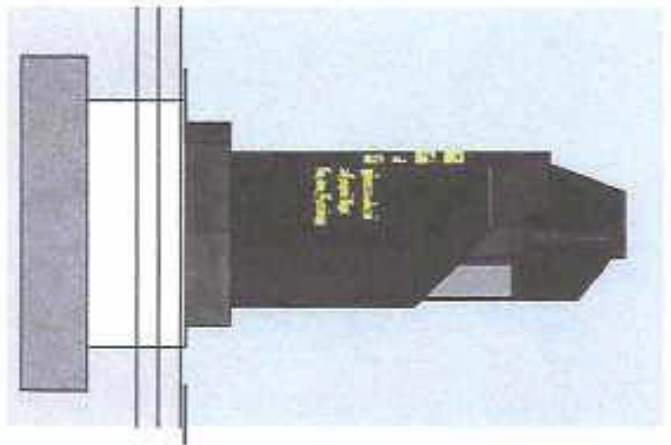
2017



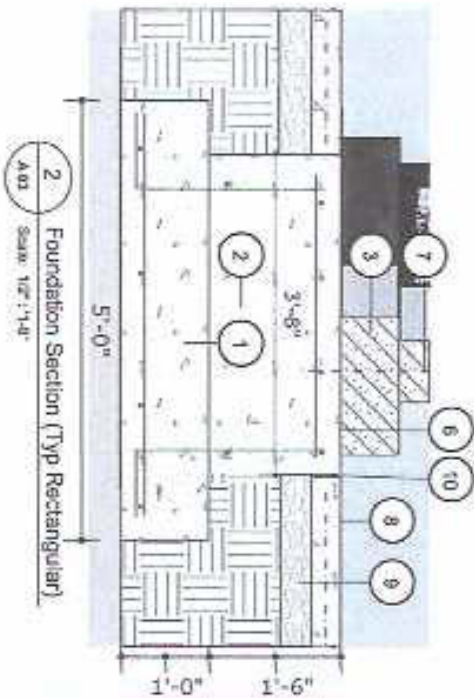
48 "Streaming History"
Dedicated 2017 along the Riverwalk in the Water Street District.
Artist Debora Duran-Geiger

ENDNOTE 2

GOLDSTAR MONUMENT ARTWORK



1 Monument Foundation Elevations
Scale: 3/8" = 1'-0"



2 Foundation Section (Typ Rectangular)
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

- Numbered Notes:**
1. 12" Thick footing, 4000# concrete, #4 bars @ 9" oc both directions. Minimum 3" cover, #4 bent bars @ 18" oc.
 2. 18" tall stem wall - 2'-6" w/c, 4 rows of #4 bar long direction equally spaced (3 rows in at foundation detail 2 at A&A). #4 bars @ 12" oc in short direction.
 3. 8" Tall monument base (by others).
 4. Laser etched monuments, images will vary from site to site (by others).
 5. Grace line.
 6. Top of stem wall must be completely flat to allow monuments to sit plumb.
 7. Anchor bar drilled into existing foundation and installed by Monument Company.
 8. 4" Concrete slab with light broom finish, tool joints as shown. Slope to drain.
 9. 4" min. stone base.
 10. 1/2" exp JK with sealant at joints.

ENDNOTE 3

SCHEDULE OF CENTURY WALK ASSETS
SEE PAGES 34-35

ENDNOTE 4

ARTICLES FEATURING
CENTURY WALK'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Naperville's Century Walk marks 25 years of free public art



By ANNIE ALLEMAN [NAPERVILLE SUN | FEB 10, 2021 AT 9:29 AM](#)

Naperville is home to more than 50 pieces of public art available to view anytime, any day of the year, free of charge.

The Century Walk Corporation, founded in 1996, is a nonprofit organization responsible for the many sculptures, murals and mosaics throughout the city's downtown. The organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

The first piece of public art installed in 1996 is called "Naperville's Own," a relief of the Naperville Municipal Band on the U.S. Bank building at the northeast corner of Washington and Jefferson.

"We have 51 locations and over \$4 million worth of art in place," said Brand Bobosky, president and founder of the Century Walk Corporation and a Naperville attorney.

The pieces are designed for people to stroll around town and visit.



The World's Greatest Artists, located at the Naperville Art League Building at 5th Avenue and Center Street, depicts famous artists throughout history working on well-known pieces. (The Century Walk)

"It's available free to the public 24/7, 365, in the various mediums that we use — mosaics, murals, reliefs, sculptures are all the different ways the art is presented. We call it art with a story. Each of the pieces of art aren't abstract; they have a story behind them."

The most recent addition to the slate of public art is called Ladder of Light, located at Fireman's Memorial Park on Jefferson Street, at the connection of the Naperville Riverwalk and the DuPage River Trail. It's a sculpture honoring fallen firefighters that was dedicated in December. It was unveiled on the 50th anniversary of the day three Naperville firefighters were killed in a crash while on their way to put out a fire.

At night, two large beams of light projected from the base of the statue make it appear that the firefighter is climbing a ladder.

"It's kind of reverse of our other art, where it's beautiful during the day but it loses (something) at night." Bobosky said. "This one here, you can see what he's doing and you get the message (during the day), but at night it's really stellar because the ladder is actually the ladder of light. This memorial honors the firefighters that died in the line of duty."

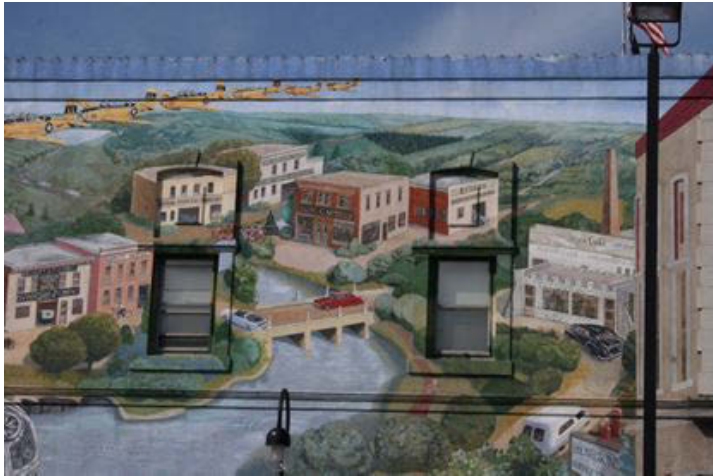
That's just one of several memorials, he said.

"We have a doughboy and a sailor boy from World War 1. We have Veterans' Valor, which has got five people all from Naperville that served in the military."

The Spirit of the American Doughboy by artist E. M. Viquesney is located in Burlington Square Park at North Avenue between Center and Ellsworth streets. It honors those from Naperville who served in World War I. Its companion piece, Viquesney's sculpture, The Spirit of the American Navy, waves from across the park.

Veterans' Valor is a sculpture by artist Shirley McWorter-Moss and is located at Central Park Place in Central Park. The five veterans depicted are based on five Naperville High School graduates who served in different branches of the military during World War II and all returned home safely.

Then there's A City in Transit, which was installed in 1997 at Chicago Avenue and Washington Street. The three-dimensional mural is a testament to the evolution of transportation and includes the DuPage River, Old Plank Road, the railroad and the Lima Lima Flight Team.



A City in Transit, located at Chicago Avenue and Washington Street, shows the evolution on transportation in Naperville. Included is the DuPage River, Old Plank Road and the Lima Lima Flight Team. (MidAmerica Federal Savings Bank)
“When we’re creating a mural, the artist is there every day,” he said. “That wall is his studio and the public can watch the artist create that work. And it becomes theirs.”

Parade of the Century and Naperville Loves a Parade are located off Main Street between Jackson and Jefferson streets in the Rubin’s Way alley. Parade of the Century features sepia-colored silhouettes representing parades from the year 1900 to the 2000, he said.

“Now if you turn around to the other wall, (the perspective is) you are in the parade and you see the crowd watching. And that’s entitled Naperville Loves a Parade. That is painted in color. There are about 330 faces and over 80 businesses represented there.”

There is more public artwork planned for the future, he said.

“That’s the whole point — it continues,” he said. “There are plenty of places to locate the art and we’ve got a number of artists to draw from. That’s our goal, to keep going.”

He doesn’t have favorites when it comes to the public art.

“I have four kids and 11 grandkids. I have no favorites among anybody,” he said. “I’ve been involved with all of them and there are great stories among them. Because there are different mediums. Like, Naperville Loves a Parade is extremely unique — you just don’t find that kind of art anywhere with that detail and that quality of work and that concept. The Laughing Lincoln is an incredible one. We’ve got a young Abe Lincoln, with no beard, who is laughing. This is when he was a young legislator from Illinois.”

While community response to the art has been largely positive, he finds there is still a challenge when it comes to raising awareness of the works, he said. If you’ve walked past a building-tall mural like The Great Concerto in Central Park without sparing it a second thought, you aren’t alone.

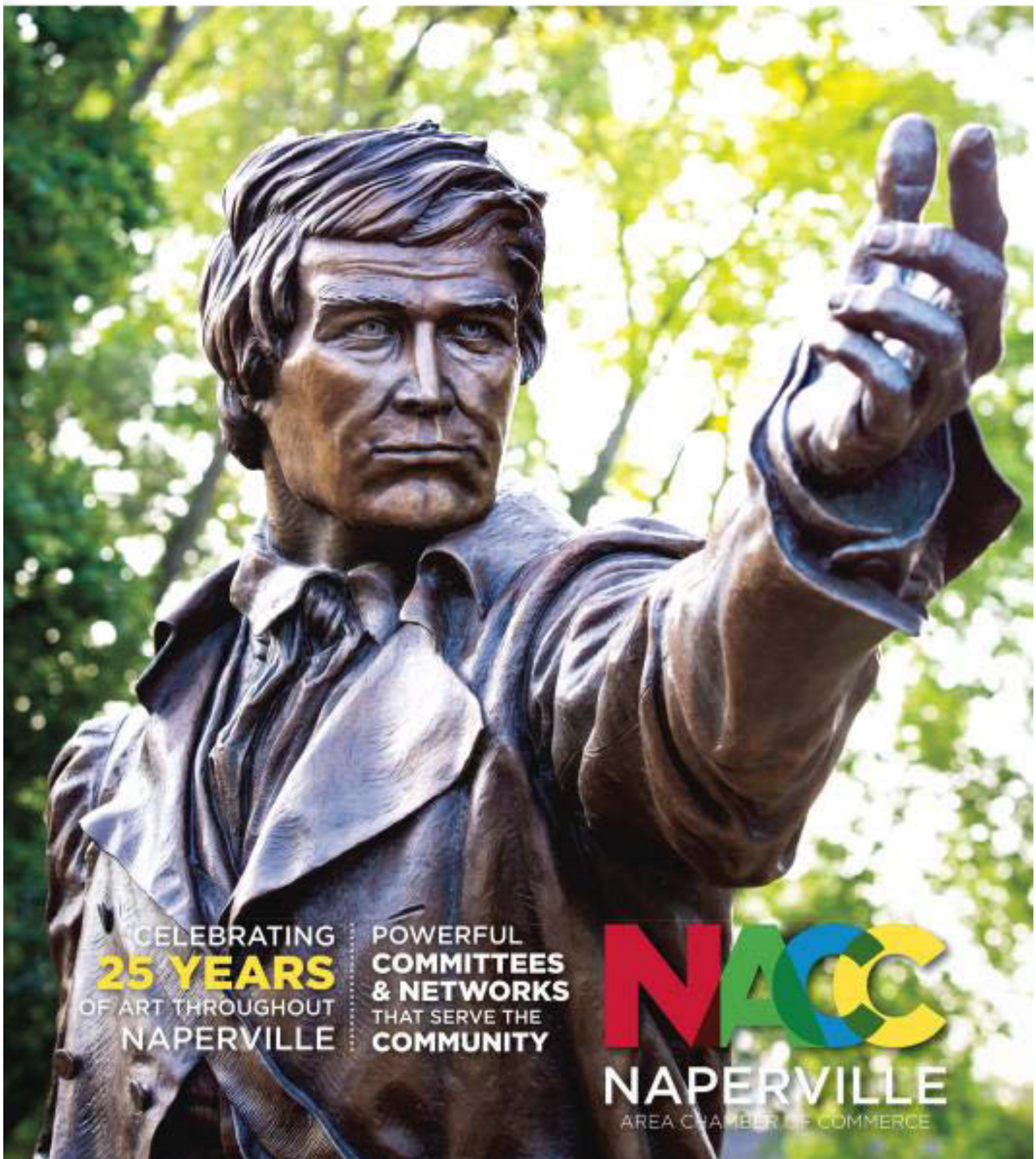
“We will find people that have been here 15, 20 years and when we mention Dick Tracy, they say, ‘That is part of Century Walk? What’s that?’ People see the art, but they don’t connect the dots.”

There are plaques at each piece and the Century Walk website has audio descriptions on many of the pieces.

“You can make a virtual Century Walk,” Bobosky said.

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

Resource **GUIDE**



CELEBRATING
25 YEARS
OF ART THROUGHOUT
NAPERVILLE

POWERFUL
**COMMITTEES
& NETWORKS**
THAT SERVE THE
COMMUNITY



NAPERVILLE
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Celebrating **25** Years of Public Art

Naperville's Century Walk has created 50 different locations throughout the community that feature murals, reliefs, statues, mosaics and other items of artwork. It has been a major tourism draw for the City and a point of pride for its citizens.

Since its inception in 1996, this lovely outdoor gallery of significant art has both offered the public a glimpse into Naperville's venerable history and into important segments of its changing dynamic. And best of all, it has always been art that is available for no-cost viewing by everyone, all day, every day.

"Think of it like an art museum, but without rooms," explained W. Brand Bobosky, President of the Century Walk Corporation. "We have made public art visual, tangible and placed it where everyone can enjoy it. In fact, if you go to our website, www.centurywalk.org, you can actually take a 'virtual' walk, complete with an oral history."

Over the years, the Century Walk has evolved in terms of its scope. During the early years most of the commissioned artwork focused on elements of Naperville's 20th century history because it was felt that the community's 19th century was ably covered by the Naper Settlement.

Over \$4 million of art of varying types has been equally funded by both the private and public sectors and placed at schools, parks and private properties throughout Naperville in an effort to both honor the past and present as well as to cultivate an appreciation for the visual arts among residents and visitors alike.

You can see adults relaxing on the turn-of-the-century-style mosaic lounges, River Reveries; children playing with the interactive sculpture outside the DuPage Children's Museum; and even old-time, small-town businesses like Soukups on the "The Way We Were" mural.

"Think of it like an art museum, but without rooms."

*W. Brand Bobosky
President of the
Century Walk
Corporation*

Much of the early artwork is on display in the downtown area, but in recent years, more artwork has been distributed to other areas of the community too, like the Naper Boulevard and 95th Street libraries and also Highland and Washington junior high schools.

The range of artists whose work has been included is particularly impressive. Many are talented Illinois artists, of course, but others are internationally renowned artists whose work can be found at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and other notable places around the world.

"In 2021 we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first artwork installation, 'Naperville's Own,' a relief of the 150-year-old Naperville Municipal Band," said Bobosky. The Century Walk Corporation feels that 50 locations of artwork on city, school, park district, library and private properties around Naperville is just a start. "In fact, our next items to be installed will honor Naperville's four fallen firefighters and Naperville's Gold Star families at Veteran's Park."

"Our goal now is to create art that will prompt people to go to sites throughout Naperville — to both see the art first and then notice other things Naperville has to offer," he continued. "The Century Walk Board is committed to preserving Naperville's history, stories and cultural heritage and residents are really thankful for it."

During the summer of 2020, questions arose about whether or not the Century Walk's art aptly represented the diversity of Naperville's citizenry. Activists from within the community, as well as nonresidents, began raising funds to create additional artwork





“**T**he Century Walk Board is committed to preserving Naperville’s history, stories and cultural heritage and residents are really thankful for it.”

*W. Brand Bobosky,
President of the Century Walk Corporation*

they felt better reflected Naperville’s true racial makeup.

“Century Walk has done a really nice job being the gatekeeper to public art in Naperville,” Mayor Steve Chirico told the Chicago Tribune. “Naperville’s history and heritage is one to be proud of, but I’m also proud of who we are today. Our diversity does make us stronger in this community and celebrating that with a piece of artwork is appropriate and timely.”

Bobosky said he believes the Century Walk not only represents the work of nationally known artists of different ethnicities and races, but is dedicated to continuing its mission of “creating culturally significant and diverse public art throughout Naperville in the 21st century,” even as its demographics have changed.

“Most recently, in 2017 we dedicated five ceramic murals titled ‘Streaming History’ at the Water Street District, two of which call attention to diversity as our community has grown,” he said.

“We have constantly involved our populace in our 25 years of creating public art and intend to continue to do so. We understand and respect the richness growing diversity adds to our community. Inclusion of all interests is something we will continue to focus on as we move forward in pursuit of our long-standing mission.”



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June/July 2020 *Naperville Magazine* By Peter Gianopulos

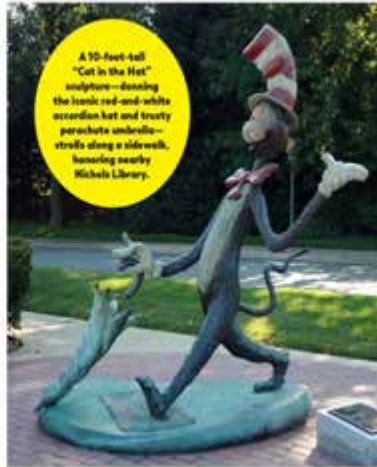


CENTURY WALK, NAPERVILLE

When it comes to outdoor artwork, Naperville is as aesthetically dense as a Richard Scary drawing. There's artwork everywhere.

The more than 50 nooks, squares, and alcoves that house outdoor pieces along the town's Century Walk aren't meant to be mere eye-candy. Each piece of art is meant to tell a story about the history and values of the town. Together, they create a dazzling pop-up

history book like no other.



And there's an interesting origin story hiding within these outdoor storybooks that involves local lawyer Brand Bobosky, without whom none of this would have been possible. In 1994, while he was paging through a Smithsonian magazine, Bobosky came across a

story about a struggling lumber mill town in British Columbia called Chemainus, which attempted to boost its sagging spirits with outdoor artwork.

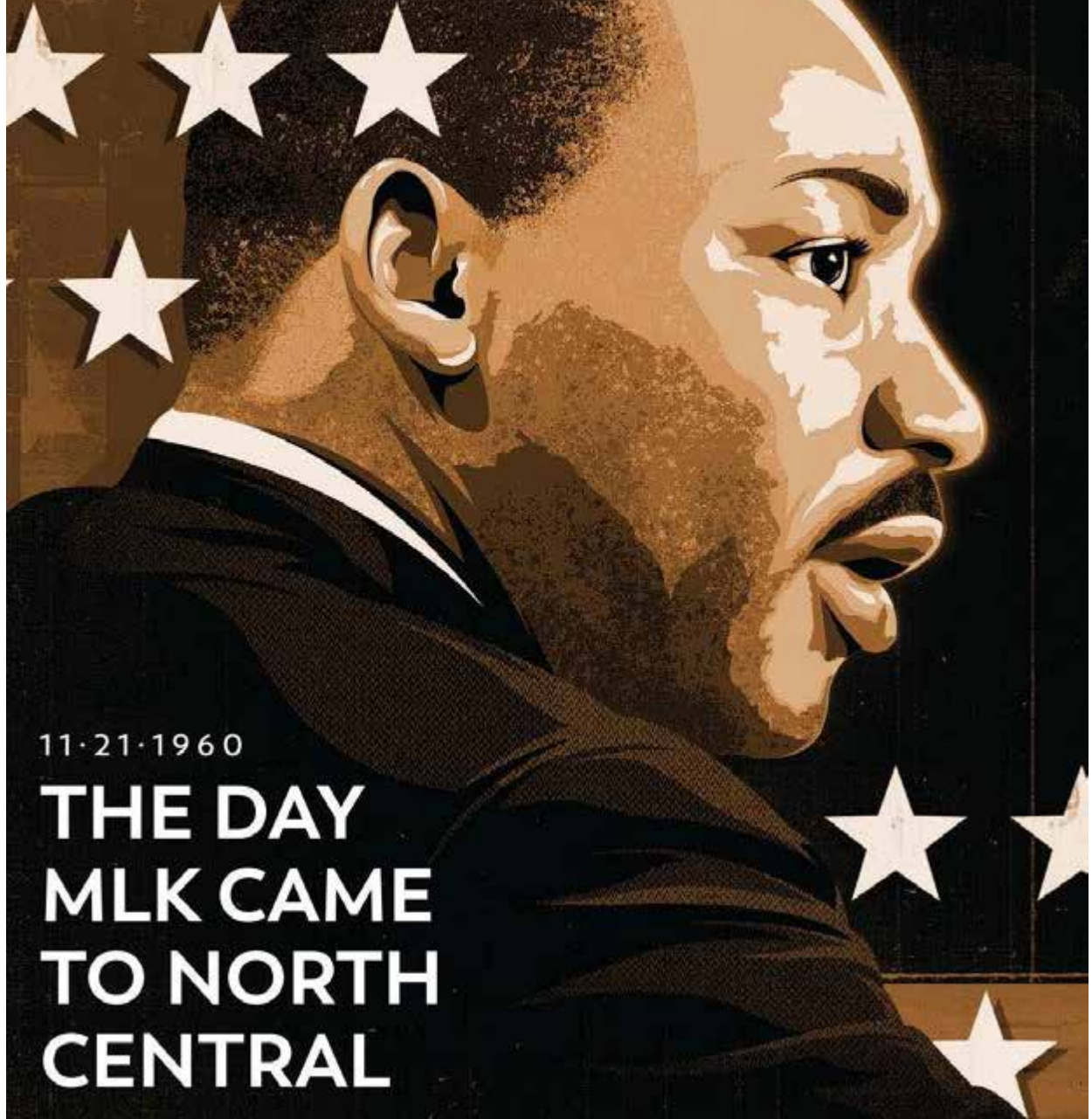
Long intrigued by the intersection of art and history, Bobosky launched a one-man crusade to launch a similar initiative for his beloved Naperville. Soon, Abe Lincoln sculptures were taking up bench space in breeze-swept parks and a giant mural depicting a local parade brightened up an often-overlooked brick alleyway.

"I think public art should reflect the fiber and character of a community," says Bobosky. "It can tell interesting stories: These people were here, they built this place. And now they won't be forgotten."

COVERING CHICAGO'S WEST SUBURBS

naperville

NOVEMBER 2020



11·21·1960

**THE DAY
MLK CAME
TO NORTH
CENTRAL**

LIVING LEGACY: THE DAY MLK CAME TO NAPERVILLE

Naperville Magazine November 2020

Story by Dave Hoekstra | Illustrations by Taylor Callery

This month marks the 60th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech to the North Central College community, a pivotal event in the ongoing work of Naperville residents at the forefront of the city's civil rights crusade



The city of Naperville was ready to take off in 1960. More than 1,500 acres were annexed that year, marking the largest physical expansion in Naperville's history. The city was beginning its shift from rural town to large suburb, both in geography and in mentality.

"I have thought about you and the North Central College community since I visited there some months ago. I will always remember the rewarding experience that was mine at that time."
Martin Luther King Jr.

Harper Lee's social justice novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* was released in 1960 at the same time locals were flocking to Cock Robin for a milkshake.

Change was in the air. How would entrenched small-town minds respond?

On November 21, 1960, Martin Luther King Jr. visited Naperville at the invitation of North Central College's chaplain. King had just been named co-pastor of his family's Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and was president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Black minister-based organization that was at the forefront of the civil rights movement. He was a moral compass beginning to point north.

The invitation to speak was extended by Rev. George St. Angelo (1921–2012). Chapel service at North Central is no longer mandatory, but in the '60s attendance was required, and St. Angelo arranged a variety of speakers at the services, including King.

The day began with a prayer breakfast. King, who was 31, was picked up from his Chicago hotel by George and his wife, Betty. While driving, St. Angelo told King about his school's commitment to service and justice. King responded with a telling question: Would his children be admitted to North Central College?

King's North Central speech was titled "Stride Toward Freedom," and contained excerpts from his 1958 book of the same name in which he honored the nonviolent teachings of Gandhi and emphasized that Blacks be treated as equal citizens in the United States. Both the book and the speech were based on King's experiences with the 1955–56 bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.

King spoke at an 11 a.m. prayer breakfast, then networked with North Central students in the afternoon. He delivered a second speech in the early evening at Pfeiffer Hall—a historic venue that still houses the podium from which King spoke. Another artifact from that day—a picture of King meeting the new North Central College president, Arlo Schilling—still hangs in the entrance of the school library.

Despite that documentation, Ann Durkin Keating, author and professor of history at North Central College, says there's no archive of King's speech at the school. "It was at the end of the term, and we don't have a record of it," she says. "We surmise [the speech] was for freedom. Martin Luther King is visiting white suburbia across the North in 1960–61, looking for support. And he's getting it. It's really King introducing the Southern civil rights movement. And he's not [yet] well known."

But King was known well enough that his visit to Naperville carried controversy with it. The college received threats about King's appearance, including a letter from the Ku Klux Klan, but Schilling did not bow to public pressure. In a 2010 North Central historical retrospective, St. Angelo talked of the heightened awareness of the Naperville Police Department.

"They guarded the place where [King] took a nap, and when my wife and I drove Dr. King back into Chicago, they gave us a police escort all the way to Hinsdale. The point I'm making is, I don't think they wanted [MLK] to come."

Despite these circumstances, King remembered his visit fondly. Almost a year later, on September 6, 1961, King wrote a letter to Schilling. In part, he wrote, "I have thought about you and the North Central College community since I visited there some months ago. I will always remember the rewarding experience that was mine at that time."



Historic venue Pfeiffer Hall houses the podium from which King spoke at North Central in 1960. **To understand the motivation of St. Angelo** to bring Martin Luther King Jr. to Naperville, one first must understand St. Angelo's background, as explained by Tina St. Angelo Wetzel—the middle of the reverend's three children. George was a native of quaint Huntingburg, Indiana, where his father owned a men's clothing store and was active in the local chamber of commerce. Brother Gordon (1927–2011), who also attended North Central College, was the chair of the Indiana Democratic

Party and an early supporter of John F. Kennedy, then a senator. "The trajectory of what

happened to Dad in his life started all this,” Wetzel says, referring to her father’s work. “His parents were involved in civil rights. When he was a boy his family had a cross burned on their lawn by the KKK.”

Unpredictable moments with more weight also changed Reverend St. Angelo’s life.

He joined the United States Army after graduating from North Central. St. Angelo was trained as a German translator in the Signal Intelligence Corps and was assigned to the 1945 liberation of the Dachau concentration camp, where he interrogated Nazi guards and administered medical care to survivors. Approximately 10,000 of the 30,000 prisoners were sick at the time of liberation.

“When he saw what he saw ... ,” says Wetzel, as her voice trailed off, “... it totally changed his life. That’s when he went into the ministry.”

Reverend St. Angelo was ordained at North Central College in 1949, the same year he married his wife, Betty, after meeting her in the college’s library. Betty’s father was also a minister. After serving in northwest Indiana and Indianapolis, St. Angelo was named the first chaplain at the college in 1955. At the time, every North Central College student was required to take religion classes, and this commitment to spiritual teaching—including issues of justice—resonated with King. Up until his 1966 retirement from the ministry, St. Angelo invited others such as Henry Kissinger and journalists Eric Sevareid and Howard K. Smith to talk about social justice. Referring to these initiatives, Tina says, “North Central stuck their neck out.”

The Work that St. Angelo did at the college was singularly important, but perhaps even more impactful was the lasting legacy that he grew outside of campus—in Naperville, and in the surrounding communities.

Rev. Bob Burkhart was in attendance the morning of Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech at North Central. “It was impressive in terms of the spirit of dealing with injustice,” says Burkhart, now 81 and retired in Morton Grove. “It changed my life. My ministry was being shaped in his justice commitments that remain with me, but even stronger in these days of hatred and division. His spirit is with me.” During the 1960s, Burkhart participated in demonstrations as part of an ecumenical group advocating for justice in Lincoln Park. Between 1987 and 2007 he was pastor at Central United Methodist Church in Skokie.

King’s visit upset social norms in Naperville in more ways than one. In 1960 Naperville’s population was 12,000, and “it was overwhelmingly white,” says Keating. “There was no place in Naperville for him to stay.” In her 2018 story on MLK’s visit, Susanne Baker, a reporter for the Naperville Sun (a publication owned by Tribune Publishing, the publisher of Naperville magazine) wrote that King was chauffeured to a hotel in Chicago—he was not welcome to stay in Naperville, despite his invitation to speak there.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Naperville Sun columnist Genevieve Towsley (1907–95), a friend of the St. Angelos, wrote about race issues like these.



According to the 2008 book *Naperville's Genevieve (A Daughter's Memoir)* by Caryl Towsley Moy, the first column her mother wrote for the *Naperville Sun* in 1954 led to the integration of Centennial Beach. North Central hosted a conference that included free swimming sessions for participants, but Black conference participants were not allowed to swim at Centennial Beach at the time. Moy, who died in 2010, wrote, "The conference director called Mother to tell her about the situation. He asked if she had known about this policy. She had not, and was outraged." Towsley contacted church pastors to attend a steamy City Council meeting in September 1954 about the policy. Moy wrote, "One member voiced his disgust that this *Sun* writer had the gall to tell Naperville government what to do." But since no one in Naperville could produce a policy that prohibited Blacks at Centennial Beach, people of all colors were suddenly welcome to swim at the park district facility.

A statue of journalist Genevieve Towsley sits outside the Barnes & Noble in Naperville

Historian Keating further explained Towsley's influence: "Genevieve was forceful in writing about what students faced. There were African American students in the 1950s and 1960s. And they had a great deal of trouble in town. They had a great deal of trouble on campus. King's visit somewhat tied into the transition of [North Central] presidents. The new president was interested in civil rights and Schilling supports Reverend St. Angelo. But he's also working alongside people at the seminary. The college also begins to work for the first time with the pastor at St. Peter and Paul [Catholic Church]. Naperville then had a group of clergy who got together and began to address the fact there were no people of color living in Naperville."

John Turpin was one of North Central's Black students at the time, and is now a member of the North Central College Athletics Hall of Fame. A 1961 graduate, Turpin was a running back who was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings. A story headlined "Discrimination: An Unsolved Problem in Relationships of North Central, Town" appeared in the May 18, 1961, edition of the college newspaper. As one of a few Blacks on campus, Turpin told the newspaper, "If you are Negro, you can be anything you want as long as you keep your hands in your pockets."

"It changed my life. My ministry was being shaped in his justice commitments that remain with me, but even stronger in these days of hatred and division. His spirit is with me."
Rev. Bob Burkart

As a student-athlete attending a college at the forefront of civil rights discussions, Turpin and others were in uncharted waters. After an injury ended his professional football career, Turpin

worked in television before receiving a master's degree in economics from Stanford University in 1972. His career in the entertainment business included a stint as international tour manager for Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation tour from 1990 to 1992, a testament to his success despite racial obstacles.

Keating said, "From the late 1950s until 1965, George St. Angelo is really critical to this story. He encourages other people from Naperville to move into civil rights and join across the metropolitan area with others."

A cultural pivot point for Naperville was the 1965 appearance of Freedom Ride organizer and Congress of Racial Equality director James Farmer at North Central College. Two weeks after his appearance, three busloads of students and Naperville-area residents left the college for Selma, Alabama, to support civil rights leaders in protesting voter discrimination. The road trip took place in the after-effects of the March 7 "Bloody Sunday," when police attacked civil rights demonstrators with billy clubs and tear gas on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

In the March 26 edition of the North Central college newspaper the *Chronicle*, student Cathy George quoted Farmer's Naperville speech as the reason she jumped on the bus: "One can't be neutral today ... if you are a bystander you are not innocent ... the greatest crime of all is the crime of silence."

Wetzel said her father kept in touch with King occasionally, and he briefly spoke with him while in Selma. "Dad always said when he came to North Central the world was not on his shoulders yet," she recalled in a conversation at a restaurant near campus. "When they met up in Selma in 1965, Dad said he was a changed person. He was not relaxed. People had high expectations for him."

Reverend St. Angelo and the Naperville-area social justice warriors went to Selma and back in 48 hours. "They had to come back to school," his daughter says. "In Selma, the FBI found Dad and said someone wanted to put a hit on him. But they still crossed the Pettus bridge." The bridge was named after Edmund Pettus, a U.S. senator from Alabama and a leader in the Alabama Ku Klux Klan, according to *Smithsonian Magazine*.

Back in Naperville, St. Angelo gave a sermon on March 25, 1965, in the North Central College Chapel about the group's experiences in Selma. He concluded, "One of our students was sitting on the ground as we were waiting for our buses to come home. A little girl came to him and asked if he was leaving. He rather shamefully said, 'Yes, we have to go to Chicago, back to school.' The little girl patted his head and said, 'Thanks for coming,' and leaned down and kissed him on the cheek. Joy abounds where love abounds. I don't believe there is a superior race—but if there was one in Selma last Sunday, it was not white."



Shoes worn by an NCC student in Selma were included in Naper Settlement's 2017 exhibition Freedom: A History of U.S.

The St. Angelos did not confine King's dream of equality to the college campus. In January 1964, Betty and George St. Angelo, Rev. Richard Tholin (dean at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston), and Dick Eastman (a North Central College English teacher) met to establish a Fair Housing Commission in Naperville. The commission was established in 1965 and by April 1968—the same month of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination—a Fair Housing ordinance was sent to the Naperville City Council. It was voted down 3 to 2.

Shoes worn by an NCC student in Selma were included in Naper Settlement's 2017 exhibition Freedom: A History of U.S.

The committee's work not only lacked city support—the members were threatened as well. “We had a swastika and the words ‘n—lover’ spray painted on our garage,” Wetzel says. Tholin became part of a group of seven plaintiffs who sued DuPage County for promoting racial discrimination in housing, which resulted in Naperville becoming one of the earliest Chicago suburbs to create a fair housing ordinance. “I remember Mom and Dad going into Chicago all the time for NAACP meetings,” Wetzel says.

“I’ll never forget the day I saw a young Black boy riding his bicycle in Naperville with a little white girl on the handlebars. You’ll never know how happy that made me.”

Rev. George St. Angelo

Tina's mother, Betty, played a pivotal role in this work, in both her home and community. Reverend St. Angelo was an avid reader who never learned to use a computer, so he wrote in longhand. Betty would type up manuscripts when needed. Her skills also benefited generations of Naperville high school students who knew her. She began work in 1968 as a secretary in the English department at Naperville Central, and in 1977 she moved to Naperville North, where she spent 20 years as secretary to the principal. She died in 2015 at the age of 91.

Because of their work here in the Chicago area, the St. Angelos' vision of the civil rights movement became known across America. When North Central College hosted a 50th anniversary commemoration of King's visit in 2010, acclaimed activist-author Cornel West spoke to a packed Pfeiffer Hall—just two years prior to Reverend St. Angelo's death. Between 1994 and 2014 Rev. Lynn Pries was college chaplain. He declared the West appearance as one of the best moments in his years of ministry. “Cornel said it was an honor to be in the same room as Dr. King had been,” Pries said. “And it was an honor to be in the presence of the chaplain [who] invited Dr. King. The audience voiced their appreciation with loud applause. George was beaming.”

After being introduced, West knelt on the stage to shake the hand of Reverend St. Angelo, who was sitting in the front row with his family. “He said, ‘This man had the courage and the vision,’ ” Wetzels recalls. “[Her husband] Steve and I got Dad up. The students and faculty paid for West to come. A group of girls sitting next to Dad shouted, ‘We didn’t know this was him!’ Do people know all this happened in Naperville?” St. Angelo quickly answered her question: “No, I truly believe that.”

“Dad was an optimist,” Wetzels continues. “At the 50th anniversary reception my Dad said, ‘I’ll never forget the day I saw a young Black boy riding his bicycle in Naperville with a little white girl on the handlebars.’ He said, ‘You’ll never know how happy that made me.’” Every meaningful journey takes time.

A new path for Naperville was made in 1960. And today there is a renewed effort to find a place for everyone on a road where all dreams can take flight.

Money Magazine ranks Naperville as top place to live

By GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER

NAPERVILLE SUN |

SEP 20, 2016 AT 5:35 PM



Public art in downtown Naperville, such as the Dandelion Fountain that anchors the Riverwalk at Jackson Avenue and Webster Street, are among the factors commonly cited in polls that declare the city among the country's more desirable communities. (Susan Frick Carlman / Naperville Sun)

Naperville was ranked in Money Magazine's recently released list of "Best Places to Live 2016."

Naperville came in 10th in the list of 50 U.S. cities, according to the magazine. Factors considered included taxes, education and health care, among other criteria, according to a news release. The rankings were released Monday.

The top-ranked city was Columbia, Md. Hoffman Estates joined Naperville as the only other Illinois city on the list, ranking No. 27.

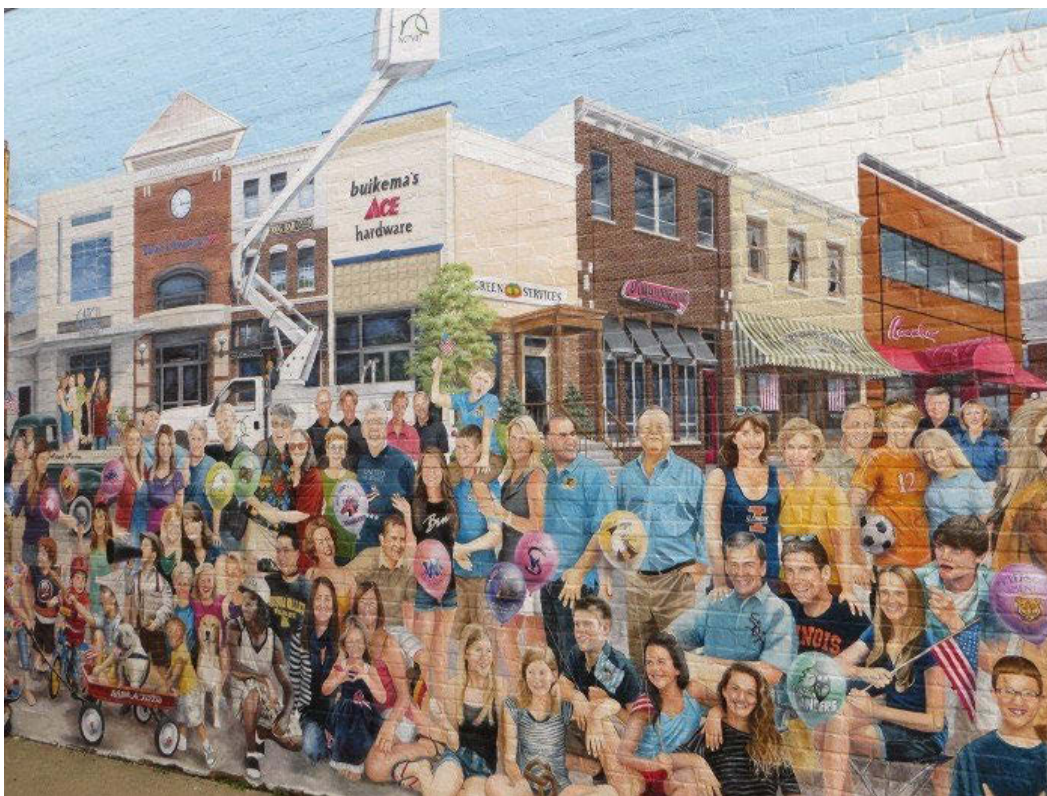
The magazine called Naperville a "windy city suburb that's got charm, and jobs, to spare." The city's riverwalk, public art and easy access to Chicago also were mentioned. "Inclusion on this prestigious annual list shows the world that Naperville truly is the greatest place to live, work and retire," said Mayor Steve Chirico in a news release.

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The Best City In America Is Actually Right Here In Illinois

America is full of loads of great cities. But the best city in all of America is actually right here in Illinois: Naperville. At just under 150,000 residents, Naperville is certainly not a small town. It is a large city that attracts many with excellent employment opportunities, great neighborhoods, stellar schools, and nice amenities. Here are some reasons why Naperville is the best city in America.

Beautiful murals grace some buildings in the downtown area.



There are plenty of statues to look at.



And art scattered throughout the city makes it fun to explore.

