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Mesa Prototyping Project selects proposals for 2020 event

Arts-based neighborhood projects to be installed during Mesa Prototyping Festival
March 21, 2020

October 18, 2019 (Mesa, AZ) – Following a series of artist-led feedback sessions, neighborhood walks and community residencies in the areas southeast of downtown Mesa, key locations in two neighborhoods were identified as offering opportunities for improvement, intervention or creative enhancement. Through a public request for ideas, ten proposals for creative projects that respond directly to community needs were selected for this phase of the Mesa Prototyping Project.

Selected projects receive a budget of \$3,000 (depending on costs) to realize temporary prototype/project for a one-day event March 21, 2020, to test concepts and gather feedback from residents. The project is part of an ongoing effort in Mesa led by Mesa Arts Center that asks, *how does a community design itself?* Answers to the question are explored through a series of events that utilize arts-based tools for community development.

Two community engagement sessions will be held for the prototype makers to further connect and gather feedback from area residents. Those interested in informing or helping to guide the development of these projects are encouraged to attend. Sessions will be held Tuesday, Nov. 12, 6-8 p.m. at Catholic Charities Care Campus and Thursday, Nov. 21, 6-8 p.m. at Mesa Urban Garden.

The Mesa Prototyping Project looks at where creative intervention might be used to enhance aesthetics, safety, walkability, or gathering spaces, or to address other needs/opportunities identified by the residents.

Selected projects are listed below.

Canal Eleven

Tanner Christensen, Tempe, AZ

Proposed location: 1st Avenue between Pomeroy & Hibbert

Canal Eleven will create a usable gathering space outside the community garden to cater to community events and everyday use.

Pause and Play 3.0

Milagros Zingoni, Tempe, AZ

Proposed location: Hibbert between 1st & 2nd Avenue

Pause and Play 3.0 will be a participatory collaboration with youth in the community exploring

play.

ABNR Functional Signage (solar-powered)

Nik Ridley, Phoenix, AZ

Proposed location: Pomeroy between 1st & 2nd Avenue

ABNR combines function, form, art, and sustainable lighting elements for the benefit of the Mesa community.

Cloudy Sunday Morning

Tim Boyle, Mesa, AZ

Proposed location: Serrine & 2nd Avenue

Cloudy Sunday Morning is overhead solar smart panels intended to respond to pedestrian movement with shade on a sunny day, sunlight on a cool day, and light at night.

Flowering Intersection

Tara Kosciukiewicz, Apache Junction, AZ

Proposed location: Hobson & Marilyn

The Flowering Intersection intends to calm traffic and invite community members to participate in designing their community.

hello holla

Justin Azevedo, Tempe, AZ

Proposed location: Serrine & 1st Avenue

Hello Holla is a welcome landmark for Mesa Arts Center and adjacent neighborhoods exemplifying the similarities and unity within the cultural makeup of the community.

Story Paths Café/Camino de Cuentos Cafe

Johanna Richards, Mesa, AZ

Proposed location: Broadway between Pioneer & Lesueur

Story Paths Cafe/Camino de Cuentos Cafe connects people and community through visual storytelling and an interactive cafe setting with unique lighting/seating where participants stories are added to the larger community story.

Piecing Together Mesa

Chrystal McConnell, Oro Valley, AZ

Proposed location: Marilyn between Bellview & Horne

This project is a life-sized jigsaw puzzle that will help complete the sidewalk in the neighborhood.

Shady Lady

Catie Raya, Mesa, AZ

Proposed location: 3rd Avenue & Pomeroy

Shady Lady is a garden trellis shade structure featuring interactive wind chimes and the Lady Banks rose.

Bridging Broadway: Shadow Play/Juega en sombra

David Crummey, Mesa, AZ

Proposed location: Bellview & Broadway

Bridging Broadway: Shadow Play / Juega en sombra focuses on creating interactive connections that cross Broadway more easily than pedestrians and address one of the community's most expressed needs: shade!

This phase of the Mesa Prototyping Project follows the Main Street Prototyping Festival in 2017, the installation of 2nd generation prototypes in spring 2019, and two community residencies in the neighborhoods southeast of downtown Mesa. The Mesa Prototyping Project is generously supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

Mesa Prototyping Project Acknowledgements:

Sponsored by: CORE Construction, Sunbelt Holdings, LISC

Mesa Prototyping Project Partners: Mesa Urban Garden (MUG), Artspace, Catholic Charities Care Campus

Supported by: National Endowment for the Arts