



# International Ave Public Art, Phase 2

Report Back- Location Engagement: What we Heard/What we Did

November, 2019

## Project overview

As part of the BRT MAX Purple line transit project, The City committed to an investment in public art along International Avenue (17 Ave S.E.).

**Phase One of the public art (2018)** involved displaying 24 artworks by artists with a connection to International Avenue in the transit shelters along the MAX Purple line.

This is **Phase Two of the public art (2019)**. It includes up to six opportunities for artists or artist teams with ties to the area to create work along International Avenue. This will involve two types of engagement with the community. Part one engagement will help us determine the best locations for these site-specific art installations (location engagement). Part Two engagement will happen with the artists so we can hear from community members on artistic themes.

## Engagement overview

This report is for Location Engagement (2019) and includes the engagement that occurred in July and August 2019. While the artist selection process was underway, we asked where you would like to see this new art along International Avenue near the MAX Purple transit line.

The initial list of potential locations was created by community members who live and work in the International Avenue area. These ten locations were confirmed by The City to be feasible potential locations for new artworks.

We attended the July 11 Stampede Breakfast and were on-location August 20 & 21 to hear from transit commuters and pedestrians at 17 Ave and 36 Street S.E. and at Forest Lawn Library and Clifford Manor on August 26 to collect the input of additional community members. Online engagement was open from August 16 to September 2, 2019. We shared this through street signs, a public engagement board and social media advertisements/posts. In-person we reached over 300 people and we had 407 visits to the website. From this we got 226 ideas from about 105 people.

## What we asked

We asked you to tell us which three of the ten locations you thought were the best places for art to enhance International Avenue. Some people told us their top three in order and some just told us which three they liked best, but not in any order. We also asked you to tell us why you felt these locations with some options or the chance to write in your own reason.



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### What we heard

Three locations were selected most often and were picked significantly more often than the other locations. These were:

- (F) 36 Street South east corner – was also identified as *first* choice most often (17 times)
- (H) 44 – 45 Street open space
- (A) 26 St South side – was also identified very often as *first* choice (11 times)

For all locations, the reasons why you said picked your preferences were you liked locations that:

- **Connected the Community**
- are **Easy to Access** (or is a place you go frequently)
- are **Close to other Amenities**

Some people wrote in **Other** reasons which were:

- sharing a feature that makes that location particularly good (lighting, seats, trees, etc.);
- general comment that art is or isn't a priority;
- suggested ideas of what kind of art you'd like to see;
- the location is well-suited for experiencing art (enjoying, seeing or interacting with);
- it's a first impression or entry/exit for the community;
- would enhance the location compared to what it is currently like;
- safety (including: the art is safe from vandalism, safe to look at it or drivers aren't distracted by it, making sure the art doesn't become a place where crimes more easily occur); and
- location is good or equitable in relation to the other locations.

For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section.

For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.



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## What we heard, what we did

Based on what you said about locations and why you liked certain ones, the City staff have considered all this information along with other information including availability of land and technical feasibility. As such, a number of locations were added for consideration, and some were removed. Final locations will be determined in collaboration with the artists and in public engagement Part 2.

What we heard	What we did
<b>F, H &amp; A</b> were the most preferred locations	The City has worked closely with the International Avenue BRZ to share this information and explore the feasibility of all three of these locations in greater detail. Location F is currently an empty lot that has been listed for sale. As a result, this space is no longer feasible for art as there is a chance it will be purchased in the near future. H continues to be a feasible location and will be offered to the artists as a potential location for artwork. A is also a feasible location for art.
<b>D and E</b> were picked often but not clear favourites	Both these locations are options for artwork and will be presented to artists as potential opportunities.
<b>C and K</b> were not picked as often but some people really liked them	Both these locations are options for artwork and will be presented to artists as potential opportunities.
<b>People really wanted</b> locations that would <b>Connect the Community</b>	The City has discussed this feedback with the International Avenue BRZ, and has identified a number of walls and fences along the Avenue that could be used for a continuous theme or idea that extends along the entire Avenue and connects one end to the other. This will be explored further with the artists.
<b>People also wanted</b> locations that are <b>Easy to Access</b>	The artists will be encouraged to develop artworks that are accessible to pedestrians and help create a sense of place on The Avenue. This will be explored further with the artists.
<b>People also wanted</b> locations that are <b>Close to other Amenities</b>	All potential locations are near amenities such as retailers, restaurants and green spaces
<b>Suggesting types of art</b>	This will be Part 2 of engagement in December 2019 when the Artists are part of the process. They need to be part of these conversations with the community members.
A location <b>well-suited to experiencing art</b>	The City has worked with the International Avenue BRZ to ensure all potential locations are thoughtfully selected, technically feasible and provide opportunities for the art to be enjoyed by the community. An opportunity at the Mini Park has been added in response to this.
<b>First impression</b> of the community (entry/exit)	The International Avenue BRZ is in the process of fabricating signage that will be installed along the Avenue to welcome people into the area.
<b>Enhance the space</b> that is currently there	The City works with artists and the BRZ to ensure the artwork will enhance any space in which it is located.



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Safe and <b>safety</b>	The City will work with the artists as throughout the development of their artwork to ensure it is safe for the public realm.
All locations are <b>equitably distributed in the area</b> and are <b>good in relation to each other</b>	Distribution of art, and where it is located along the Avenue will be considered throughout the planning process. Through discussions with the International Avenue BRZ, some additional potential locations were added for consideration to create a more equitable distribution of art along the Avenue. These include the addition of a potential location on 17 Avenue and 34 Street SE, as well as a number of potential opportunities for a distribution of artwork by using retaining walls, murals and fencing.

## Next steps

- Feedback from this engagement will be shared with each of the artists, prior to them beginning work on International Avenue. It has also been shared and discussed by the Public Art team with members of The City’s Transportation Department and the International Avenue BRZ .
- Engagement Part 2: the next phase of community engagement will be in collaboration with the artists. Watch for opportunities to meet the artists and talk to them about art for International Avenue starting in December 2019.
- Based on this engagement, some new potential locations for artwork are being investigated, including the possibility of using wall and fence space along the Avenue. In addition, some locations were removed from consideration because they either were no longer feasible, or did not resonate with the public.
  - Location E was been removed due to lack of interest from the public
  - Location B was popular, but only because people felt it would be a good spot for a gateway feature into the community. This will be accomplished through the BRZ’s signage initiative, so this location will also be removed from consideration for other art.
  - Location F was popular with the public, but has been removed as it is no longer viable (due to the potential sale of the land).
  - Location A will likely be the site of a different community-based art project, but will not be included in this project.
  - A number of new locations were identified based on resident input about enhancing the current space, accessibility and connection/continuity along the Avenue. These will be explored in more detail with the artists.
- Once the artists have been selected this information along with other updates and opportunities for input in Part 2 will be available online at [www.engage.calgary.ca/InternationalAvePublicArt](http://www.engage.calgary.ca/InternationalAvePublicArt)

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## Summary of Input

**Question 1: Please put these locations in order of which you think are the best new places for art. You can choose up to three options.**

Below, all ten locations are in order of the number of times they were picked. The location at the top of the table was the one picked most often and the one at the bottom was picked the least number of times.

<u>Location</u> (all are on 17 Ave S.E. Each name shows where it is on International Ave.)	<u>Notes</u>
 <p data-bbox="305 976 748 1010"><b>(F) 36 Street (south east corner)</b></p>	<p data-bbox="950 688 1523 793">This was also identified as people's <i>first</i> choice most often (17 times). It was also picked as <i>second</i> the most often (9 times).</p>
 <p data-bbox="240 1297 813 1331"><b>(H) 44- 45 Street (open space, south side)</b></p>	<p data-bbox="950 1010 1523 1077">(H) was selected as <i>first</i> 7 times and as <i>second</i> 9 times.</p>
 <p data-bbox="354 1619 699 1652"><b>(A) 26 Street (south side)</b></p>	<p data-bbox="950 1331 1523 1398">This was identified next most often after (F) as <i>first</i> choice (11 times).</p>

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 <p><b>(D) 31 – 33 Street (north side)</b></p>	<p>(D) was picked as <i>first</i> choice 5 times.</p>
 <p><b>(E) 33 Street (south east corner)</b></p>	<p>This location was not picked as <i>first</i> choice by anyone.</p>
 <p><b>(C) 26 Street (northwest corner)</b>      &amp;      <b>(K) 53 Street/Hubalta Rd (north side)</b></p>	<p>These two tied in total number of times picked.</p> <p>(K) was picked more often as first (8 times) and (C) was picked as first 4 times.</p>
 <p><b>(B) 26 Street (north east corner)</b></p>	

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**(G) 43 – 44 Street (south side)**



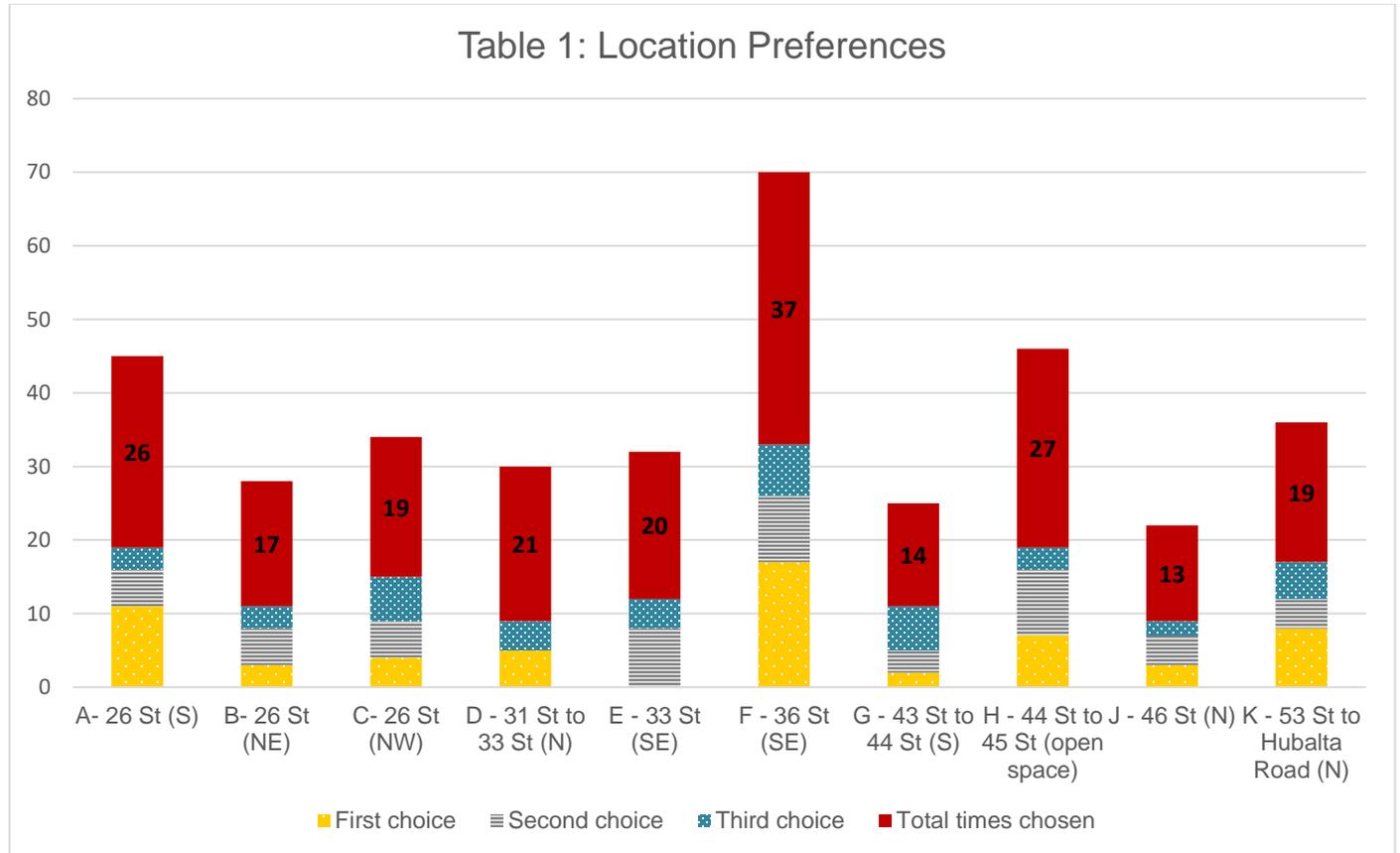
**(J) 46 Street (north side)**



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To easily compare these responses in a table see *Table 1: Location Preferences* below.





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**Question 2: Please tell us why you picked these locations.** Select all that apply or tell us why.

Pre-set options for “why” were – Easy Access; Close to Other Amenities; Social Significance; Connects the Community; Personal Connection; Other.

Sometimes when “Other” was selected the comment that was written in was very close to one of the pre-set options and so it was counted there. If the written comment was different it is included *below in italics*.

Location in order of how often they were selected (see pages 6-8)	Reasons why you picked this option
<b>(F)</b> 36 Street (southeast corner)	<b>Easy Access (19)</b> ; Close to Amenities (10); Social Significance (6); Connects the Community (18); Personal Connection (5); <i>General support of location/art; Better use/enhances space; location is well-suited for experiencing art; good/equitable location in relation with other locations; good exposure for artists</i>
<b>(H)</b> 44 – 45 Street (open space)	<b>Easy Access (8)</b> ; <b>Close to Amenities (8)</b> ; Social Significance (2); Connects the Community (7); Personal Connection (1); <i>General support of location/art; location is well-suited for experiencing art; type of art preferred</i>
<b>(A)</b> 26 Street (south side)	Easy Access (13); Close to Amenities (9); Social Significance (4); <b>Connects the Community (14)</b> ; Personal Connection (4); <i>General support of location/art; Good first impression/entry/exit to community</i>
<b>(D)</b> 31 – 33 Street (north side)	Easy Access (6); Close to Amenities (4); Social Significance (2); <b>Connects the Community (8)</b> ; <i>good/equitable location in relation with other locations; location is well-suited for experiencing art</i>
<b>(E)</b> 33 Street (southeast corner)	<b>Easy Access (9)</b> ; Close to Amenities (4); Social Significance (1); Connects the Community (7); Personal Connection (1)
<b>(C)</b> 26 Street (northwest corner) <i>tied with K</i>	Easy Access (8); Close to Amenities (4); Social Significance (5); <b>Connects the Community (13)</b> ; Personal Connection (2); <i>General comment art is/isn't a priority; Good first impression/entry/exit to community</i>
<b>(K)</b> 53 Street/Hubalta Road (north side) <i>tied with C</i>	Easy Access (5); Close to Amenities (1); <b>Connects the Community (7)</b> ; Personal Connection (3); <i>safety (vandalism, crimes); general support of location/art</i>
<b>(B)</b> 26 Street (northeast corner)	Easy Access (5); Close to Amenities (3); Social Significance (2); <b>Connects the Community (6)</b> ; Personal Connection (1); <i>General comment art is/isn't a priority</i>
<b>(G)</b> 43 – 44 Street (south side)	<b>Easy Access (4)</b> ; <b>Close to Amenities (4)</b> ; Social Significance (1); <b>Connects the Community (4)</b> ; Personal Connection (2); <i>location is well-suited for experiencing art</i>
<b>(J)</b> 46 Street (north side)	<b>Easy Access (6)</b> ; Close to Amenities (2); Social Significance (1); <i>type of art preferred; safety (distracted drivers)</i>



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## Verbatim Comments

Verbatim comments presented include all of the suggestions, comments and messages that were collected in-person or online in the “other” sections.

Offensive words and personally identifying information have been removed and replaced with either, [removed] or [personal information removed]; otherwise, comments are completely un-edited.

<b>GENERAL</b> (not connected to a location option)
Yes to Public Art :)
Blank spot! Don't leave vacant.
Kid Friendly
Vacant lot, Something similar to chairs on 36 street
I would appreciate art on 8th Ave S.E.
Empty lots!
36 St and 17 Ave is good - north side
something similar to chairs on 36 st
something kid-friendly, G-rated and educational because it's near a school
Blank spot - don't leave it vacant
Art here because I walk around here.
Put art everywhere!
No Art PLEASE!!! It is a total waste of money, rather see it go to a community project.
<b>LOCATION A</b>
Lots of people drive by here every day
Close by
First thing you see entering International Avenue
Main entry point to the community from the rest of Calgary.
Its the main “entrance” to international ace when people walk up, bike up, or drive up 17th ave. Art can make it more welcoming, intriguing and beautiful as people Enter international ave.
Why is there no option to pick no art? i very much do not want the city to pay for more public art.
Makes sense
Appreciate art
This location acts as a gateway/welcome to the community for foot, transit, bike/scooter and car traffic entering the community from the rest of Calgary. Also, this site is located near one of the busiest intersections in the community, which allows for more exposure.
It shows the beginning of International Avenue adventure
<b>LOCATION B</b>
26th is just a good spot
Close by



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Why is there no option to pick no art? i very much do not want the city to pay for more public art.
Similar to my feedback for my first choice location.
Appreciate art
<b>LOCATION C</b>
There's nothing going on here. Great entry way to the area.
Close to a transit stop!
It's at the main entrance to 17 ave and near the intersection of several roads. That seems fitting to represent communities coming together. It's also high up and can be seen from many angles.
It's less far away and I won't have to see people vandalize it
Why is there no option to pick no art? i very much do not want the city to pay for more public art.
This location acts as a gateway/welcome to the community for foot, transit, bike/scooter and car traffic entering the community from the rest of Calgary. Also, this site is located near one of the busiest intersections in the community, which allows for more exposure. This site or site B compliment site A as the "gateway" to Int. Ave.
This spot shows the end of an International Avenue adventure, welcoming you back.
<b>LOCATION D</b>
So many people use this space. Great meet up location
Meeting place
Older folks congregate here
Park
High pedestrian and vehicle traffic
It away from my house and won't have to see when stupid people vandalize it.
In the middle is good to be fair
Busy.
I like to have and see variety which is nice when you have to do something like errands like grocery shopping
<b>LOCATION E</b>
I live close
Populated area
<b>LOCATION F</b>
Stereotypical look of what people think Forest Lawn is - the corner needs improvement
This is an important intersection - lots of traffic
High traffic
Busy intersection 100% needs some art!
Lots of buses and people come by to see it
Busy spot for buses and would give something to look at. The concrete barriers behind each station are a great opportunity and everyone could enjoy while walking and driving by
On the north side would be better because theres nothing there and its not next to the bar
Easy to see from all directions
Anywhere you put it would be appreciated, but it would spice up this corner



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Close to where I am and is where I enter the community
Rotating sculpture garden like Toronto would be good here. Good opportunity for artists.
Big lot and busy
Central
High pedestrian and vehicle traffic
Central location along the route, intersecting with a major road that cuts through the middle.
It's an empty space right now. Very central to the all communities.
This the most active intersection along Int. Ave. and as such this location acts a hub for locals moving about the area as well as those from other communities. Also located on a busy intersection which benefits exposure.
It's the closest so I will have to see people vandalize it
A meeting place that needs some colour and vibe.
<b>LOCATION G</b>
I walk here sometimes
Art should go where people walk and sit
Close to bus
This is a good idea because when people are waiting for the bus they have something nice to look at
Concrete barriers behind the max stations are great opportunities for art
Walk here sometimes
<b>LOCATION H</b>
Cool to have a place to sit and hang out
walk here sometimes
nice place to sit here
Attractive spot where people can sit and have coffee
Lots of people use this space
Nice spot! Greenery!
Sitting here you can take time and enjoy the art
Busy and seating is good
Lots of traffic and people there. Plants
Plaza space is good
I would like to see native art. It is colorful, depicts earth & animals & we never see any of it here in Calgary.
<b>LOCATION J</b>
Put art near the donuts, people hang out here!
More youth generated art
Please don't put them in a place that distracts drivers from concentrating on the road. Select artists that live in the area or that do art work with groups in the area (like Antx and Fuse 33) to decorate International Ave since they know their community the best). Make sure sidewalks remain clear and accessible for all to use.



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Be aware of parking and if we bring more people to an area need thrm to be able to park or take a bus or walk
Lots of people gather there
Labyrinth and plants or video art that changes
I would like to see native art. It is colorful, depicts earth & animals & we never see any of it here in Calgary.
<b>LOCATION K</b>
Close by
Not near too many shrubs, make sure it's safe to look at the art and doesn't create spaces for crimes to happen.
Need tot put public art in unexpected areas
May be less vandalized
I know this place and there is lots of space.
Appreciate art
Grass and trees are nice places and may be quiet so people can enjoy the art
Nice aesthetic touch
Put them in a place that doesn't distract drivers from paying attention to the road and that doesn't make sidewalks inaccessible to all pedestrians
Primary access point to the community from the east side of Calgary.
I would like to see native art. It is colorful, depicts earth & animals & we never see any of it here in Calgary.