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SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS ARCHITECTURE EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTING FUTURE STREETScape PROJECTS IN GRAND CENTER

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Walking Grand Center: 4 Streetscape Designs*, October 2 - November 21, 2015 in the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 2 from 5 – 7 p.m.** Galleries are open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit the galleries' website at TheSheldon.org. *The exhibition is made possible by Nancy and Kenneth Kranzberg.*



Walking Grand Center: 4 Streetscape Designs exhibits the plans behind future Grand Center District projects including “ArtWalk,” the “Great Streets” project, the “Sheldon Plaza” and the “Public Media Commons” between The Nine Network for Public Media (Channel 9) and St. Louis Public Radio. The exhibition will include drawings, plans, photographs and a large model of the Art Walk component of the Grand Center Plan designed by AxiOme Design.

Located in the heart of St. Louis, Grand Center is an arts and entertainment district with 14,000 theater seats, 17 museums and galleries, schools, public television and radio stations. Grand Center is the site of more than 1,500 cultural events annually and a destination for more than 2 million people who visit each year. Organizations in the district have been working with Grand Center, Inc. to create a nationally recognized art, cultural and entertainment community. Out of a strong collaborative planning process has come a “Great Streets” project with the East-West Gateway Council of Governments to upgrade streetscapes and improve lighting, making the district an even more inviting destination. Another project is “ArtWalk” that will create a lively and engaging pedestrian pathway from Lindell Boulevard, alongside the St. Louis University Museum of Art, across the Scottish Rite parking lot, through the Public Media Commons between The Nine Network and St. Louis Public Radio, alongside the western side of The Sheldon to Washington Boulevard, then west to the Pulitzer and Contemporary Art Museum, and finally north along Spring to the “Burnt Church.”

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The Sheldon has engaged Ben Gilmartin, designer of Public Media Commons, to create its “Sheldon Plaza,” and Grand Center, Inc. has engaged AxiOme, who also designed the new St. Louis Public Radio building, to design the public areas of ArtWalk. Architectural firms involved the Great Streets project are Christner, Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects and Randy Burkett Lighting Design.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries’ spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, jazz art and history and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

Financial Assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Support is provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image caption: Preliminary Design for The Sheldon Plaza, 2013. Benjamin Gilmartin Architect (Design Architect) with Andrew Colopy / Cobalt Office; Fred Powers / Powers Bowersox Associates (Executive Architect); Susanna Drake / Dlandstudio (Landscape Architect).