



Bunker Hill Rd

- from 33rd St to 34th St is approximately 330'
- +/- 2,000 car trips per day
- Children walk from Joe's Movement Emporium south on Bunker Hill to access Mount Rainier ES

**Bunker Hill
Art in the
Right of Way**
JUNE 2023

PARTNERS:

the
**Neighborhood
DesignCenter**

MDOT
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
MOTOR VEHICLE
ADMINISTRATION

Maryland
Highway
Safety
Office

Joe's
MOVEMENT
EMPORIUM

Existing Challenges

- speeding on Bunker Hill Rd
- disregarding stop sign at 34th St and Bunker Hill Rd
- quick turns off of 34th St onto Bunker Hill Rd.

Existing view of Bunker Hill from 33rd St.



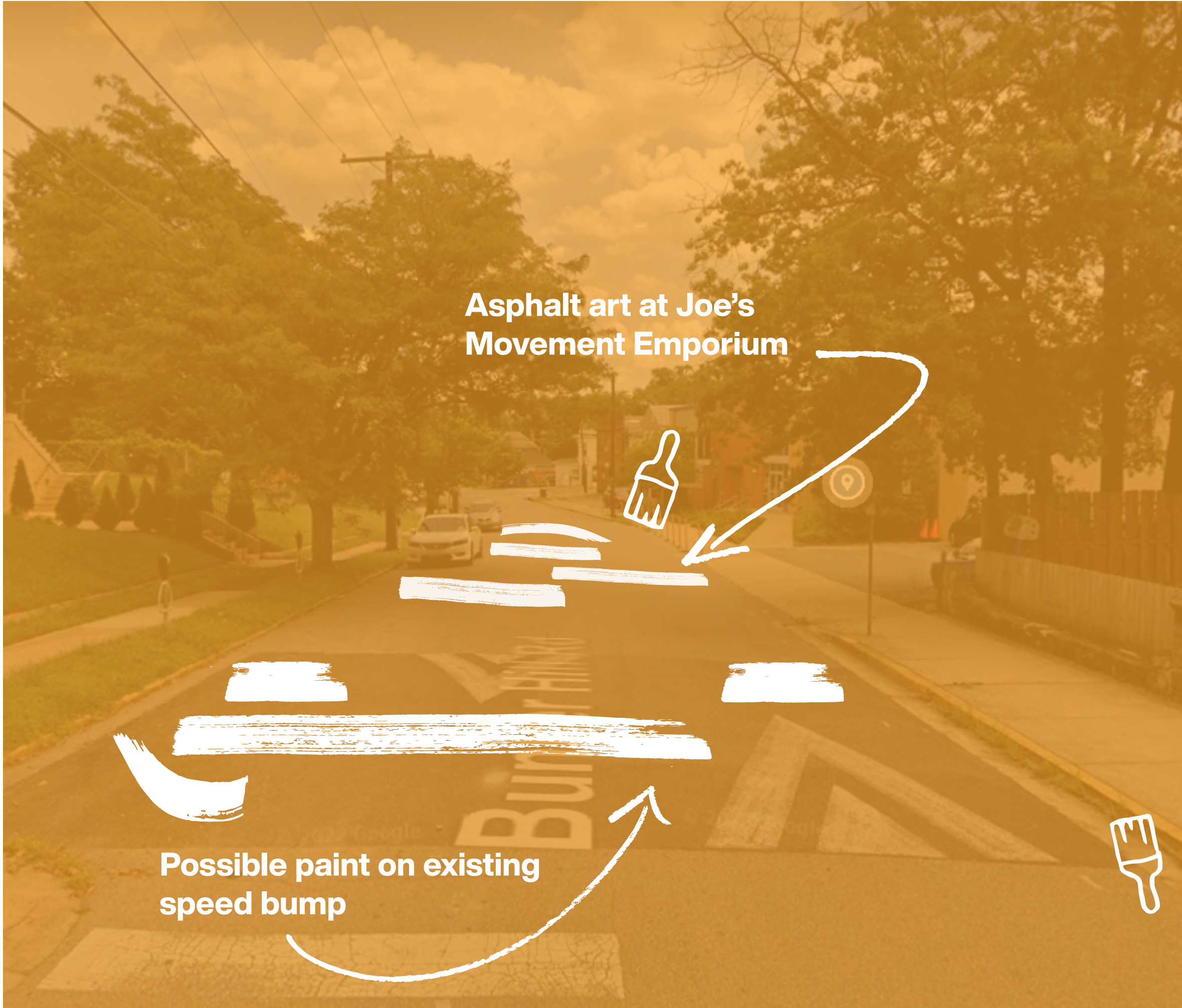
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Themes for the Art

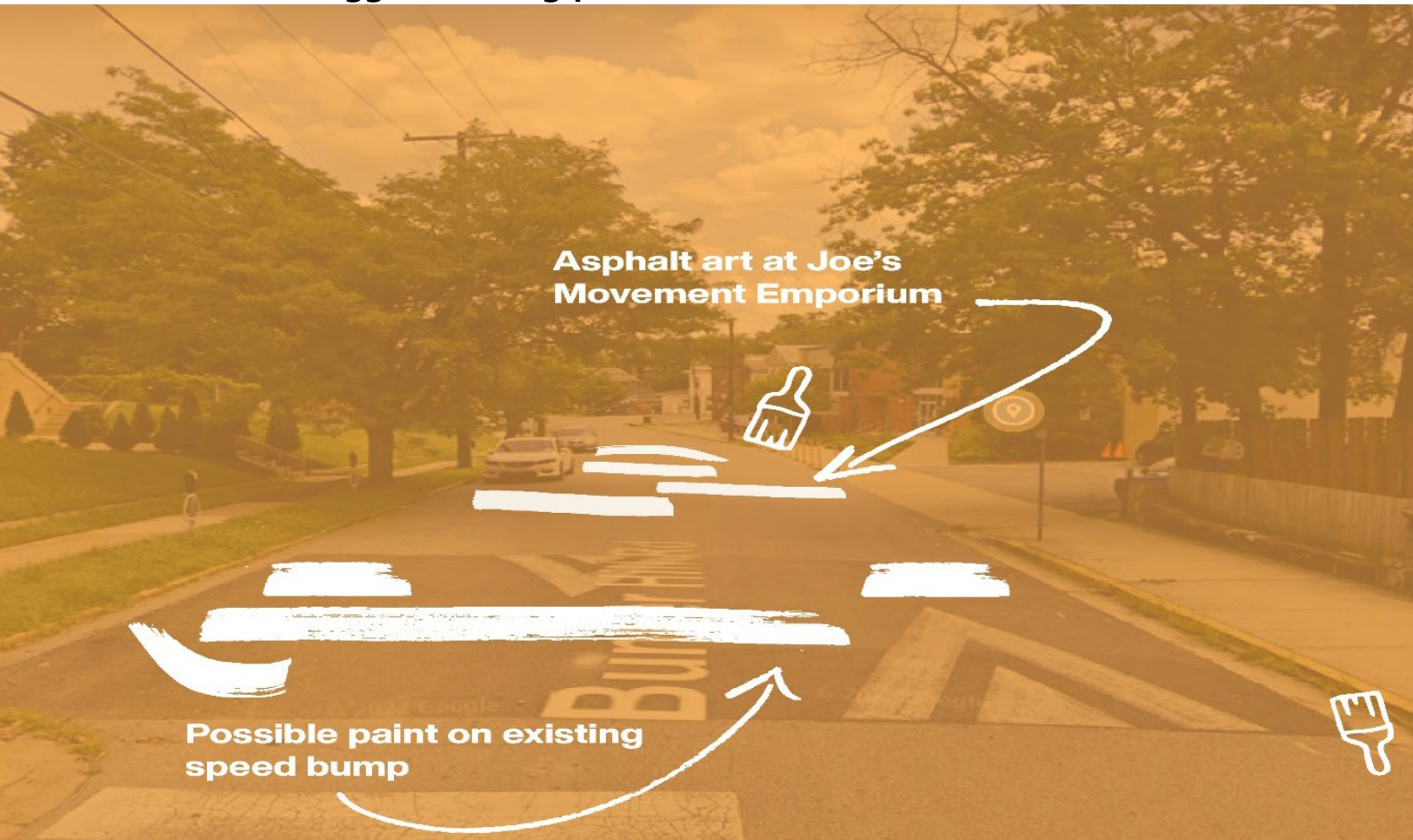
- art
- native plants
- roots
- music
- dance / dance steps

Next Steps

- Collect baseline data through intercept surveys about pedestrian perceptions of safety, protection, and vehicular speed
- Plan a pop-up event in August to prototype the art in spray chalk
- Identify funding and an artist to curate community-chosen themes for the art



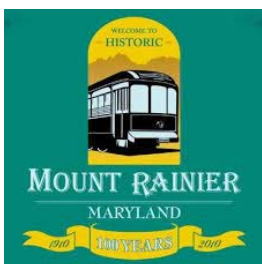
POP UP EVENT – ART IN THE RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN 33RD AND 34TH STREET ON BUNKER HILL ROAD



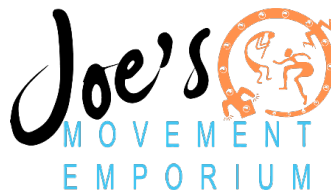
The City of Mount Rainier recently applied for a Bloomberg Asphalt Art Grant to put art on roughly 330 feet of pavement near its downtown 34th street business area.

Join the City of Mount Rainier, Neighborhood Design Center, Joe's Movement Emporium, Gateway Community Development Corporation and the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area for a FUN pop-up art event to explore what themes or artwork might be in this location.

- WHAT:** Fun pop-up community art event to determine themes for artwork
WHEN: Sunday, August 27 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
WHERE: Bunker Hill Road from 33rd to 34th Street



the
Neighborhood
DesignCenter





CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER ASPHALT ART PROJECT #1
Project Name: Artwork on Bunker Hill and Beyond
6.11.23

ABSTRACT

The City of Mount Rainier is the historic Route 1 gateway community from Prince George's County to Washington, DC at the District's northeastern boundary. The City is approximately 1.7 square miles with a population of about 8,500. Mount Rainier is primarily a residential community with 1,100 single family homes and three large apartment developments (Kaywood Gardens, Queens Manor, and Queenstown) constructed in the 1940s.

The City of Mount Rainier is also in the heart of the Gateway Arts District – an area designated by the state and county for revitalization through development of arts and entertainment-oriented businesses. Home to myriad artists and working-class families, local pride is high – people enjoy being part of an active civic process. People choose to live here for its convenient location, affordable middle-class housing, accessible transportation systems, and tree-lined residential streets. Our pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, however, needs to be addressed. And urgently. Art is central to this community and is the highest form of hope and good design is key to the roots of justice.

As the first City on the Route 1 Corridor in Prince George's County, over 20,000 cars pass through Rhode Island Avenue, according to the State of Maryland's AADT

data [LINK:

<https://data.imap.maryland.gov/datasets/3f4b959826c34480be3e4740e4ee025f/explore?location=38.951827%2C-76.950142%2C11.00>]

Rhode Island Avenue intersects with 34th street at a traffic circle, and this area constitutes the main business thoroughfare, with new and old businesses alike. This includes The Glut, the Waterhole, Oscar's Flowers and Gifts, Nisey's Boutique, Hands on Barber, Sandra's Hair Salon, Adinkra Cultural Arts Studio, and many more diverse, locally-owned businesses. This business destination on 34th Street then intersects with Bunker Hill Road (characterized by the Maryland State Highway Administration as a "major collector"). On Bunker Hill Road between 33rd Street and 34th Street sits Joe's Movement Emporium – a part of the nonprofit arts organization World Arts Focus. This location also sits across from Mount Rainier Elementary School, a Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Certified Green School and a Church with many regular attendees.

Joe's Movement Emporium hosts many signature programs and community events that attract more than 70,000 people annually, including an after-school program attended by students from local schools, Club Joe's, with daily pick up from local families.

This asphalt art project would cover roughly 330 feet between 33rd Street and 34th Street along Bunker Hill Road in the City of Mount Rainier. It is estimated over 2,000 cars travel this section of the Road on a daily basis. The AADT does not even take into account the number of people who walk, bike, or scoot through this area of Mount Rainier.

This project can help the City address a streetscape that needs improvement. For example, the bollards in front of Joe's are not sufficient to make cars traveling past "feel safe."

The City of Mount Rainier intends to reduce this scary vehicular and pedestrian engagement. We intend further to connect art with the pedestrian and bike culture of Mount Rainier and to slow some cars as children, seniors, and families regularly attend events, walk, bike, and scoot to the downtown business area.

Art that captures our community, installed in this location, should make a good statement that we can create the world we imagine. But, to do that, we need to show how art can form our purpose. Intention can follow in the form of leverage for this project – and others.

For example, there's another business district in Mount Rainier on Varnum Street. If successful here, we can replicate that success in the business area too.

The outcome as a whole will be that it will be safer and easier for people and vehicles to negotiate important public spaces.

1. Description of location of the art. (Ideally include info arguing this will be seen by many people.)

Rhode Island Avenue intersects with 34th street at a traffic circle, and this area constitutes the main business thoroughfare, with new and old businesses alike. This includes The Glut, the Waterhole, Oscar's Flowers and Gifts, Nisey's Boutique, Hands on Barber, Sandra's Hair Salon, Adinkra Cultural Arts Studio, and many more locally owned and diverse businesses. This business destination on 34th Street then intersects with Bunker Hill Road. Bunker Hill Road is a road which is characterized by the Maryland State Highway Administration as a "major collector." At the intersection of Bunker Hill Road between 33rd Street and 34th Street sits Joe's Movement Emporium – a part of a nonprofit arts organization called World Arts Focus. This location also is across from Mount Rainier Elementary School, a Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Certified Green School.

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2. Plan for maintenance of the artwork for the duration of its installation, as well as a plan for repair, removal, or replacement when the artwork begins to age.

The City of Mount Rainier, together with its volunteer-based committees, will work through a process via its Arts Commission, Green Team, Tree Commission, and the Gateway Community Development Corporation to ensure that a request for proposals comes out with specifics for maintenance during and after installation. This will include information on repair, removal, replacement as well.

3. How this will improve road safety, and how we will measure the success.

Adding art to a major roadway in Mount Rainier, especially one that sits at the nexus of art, business, culture, and sustainability, is critical to highlighting the needs of our community.

The City of Mount Rainier recently completed a Vision Zero plan as part of a street and sidewalk plan for major improvements and rehabilitation of our roads so that they are safer, more ADA compliant, and easier to navigate for people of all ages.

The study and plan have recommendations for curbs and streets, and we are chasing federal infrastructure funding for improvements. However, we need to make sure that high-traffic areas near our business districts and our arts and entertainment areas are beautiful and inviting.

Adding art to the asphalt between 33rd Street and 34th Street along Bunker Hill Road shows we are committed to public safety, arts, our environment, and healthy people.

We intend to measure our success as follows:

- Increased pedestrian and bike usage in this area as people feel safer;
- Reduced car traffic from over 2,000 average daily trips down in the next 5 years as people find walking and cycling to be more attractive alternatives;
- Amount of funds we can leverage with a bold art statement on our ground as a result of this investment;
- Number of social media posts mentioning the City of Mount Rainier’s excellent arts culture
- Number of artists who participate in the design, painting and more

4. Budget – “Competitive proposals will include in-kind support from the municipality, particularly from the engineering or transportation department (e.g., permitting, repaving, engineering drawings, signs and markings, planters or traffic barriers, traffic control during installation, and/or maintenance). Proposals may also make use of additional funding or in-kind support from outside sources, if applicable.” (Note: maximum grant is \$25k)

This is a City-owned and maintained street. The City will provide in-kind support to the grant via traffic control during the installation, maintenance of the roadway (art will be separately maintained), and communications about the project.

There are funds to leverage this grant funding through County Programs that, if awarded, the City of Mount Rainier or its partners at the Gateway Community Development Corporation, Joe’s Movement Emporium, Neighborhood Design Center or other partners can apply to boost the work.

It is anticipated that the

Budget:

Revenue

\$25,000	Bloomberg Asphalt Art grant
\$10,000	In-Kind City staff time for installation, communications
\$50,000	Leveraged funds from other sources for this location, and potentially others?

Bloomberg Asphalt Art Grant Expense

\$5,000	Design
\$15,000	Installation (labor and supplies)
\$5,000	Artist fee
\$10,000	In-Kind City support for installation, communications
\$50,000	Leveraged funds from other sources

5. Content of the artwork. (Must not include obscenity, hate speech, political messages, religious content, commercial advertisements, or depict illegal activity.)

The artwork installed will celebrate community and be derivative of all the various ways Mount Rainier is a special place to live, work, visit, play, sustain. We will seek artwork that showcases initiatives in sustainability, such as work that the Tree Commission is doing, the Green Team's efforts, the two local Elementary Schools that serve our community, and more.

All the artwork will conform to the requirements of this grant and will not include obscenity, hate speech, political messages, religious content, commercial advertisements, or depictions of illegal activity. Our intention is that this art will be non-controversial and will be viewed by all as a celebration of the joys shared by everyone in Mount Rainier.