

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2019**

## MISSION / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rockland County’s *Percent for Art* program was established through Local Law #6 of 1986 introduced by legislators Harriet Cornell and Bruce Levine. Under guidelines approved by the County Legislature on March 7, 2006, its mission is “to enhance the quality of life in Rockland County through Public Art.” Now in its 32st year AIPP has installed more than 50 artworks at accessible county sites. It has also restored valuable county public artworks, as well as a collection of WPA paintings entrusted to the county, in perpetuity, by the Federal government.

AIPP functions under the guidance of the AIPP committee. Members include: Chairman Dan Sherman (Sparkill), Erin Martin (Monsey), Ken Linsner (Sloatsburg), Shari Fischberg (Upper Nyack), Emily Harvey (Garnerville), Pat Hickman (Haverstraw), Carl Opalek (New City), Judy Esterow (Suffern), Dan White (Nyack), Lisa D’Amico (Bardonia) and Debbie Silberburg (Valley Cottage).

Represented areas of their expertise include: fine arts, photography, graphic design, art history, art education, curatorial, art appraisal, conservation, restoration, landscape architecture, technology, social media, art publishing, illustration and arts marketing.

The committee works cooperatively with Rockland’s County Executive,

Ed Day, who has supported new projects throughout the year.

AIPP functions under Rockland County’s Department of General Services lead by Robert H. Gruffi, Director of Facilities Management. Bob provides AIPP with technical advice and installation support for its projects and helps AIPP work efficiently with the various branches of county government including the County Legislature, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, the Parks Department, the Highway Department and the Drainage Department.

Rockland Center for the Arts administers all aspects of the AIPP program**.**

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**2019 COMPLETED PROJECTs**

**Demarest Kill Park Sculptures**

**New City, New York**

Sculptor Tom Holmes’ design for a multi-part, interactive installation was installed on the grassy triangle at the front of the park adjacent to the parking lot and New Hempstead Road. A striking orange sculpture is the focal point with additional elements of three Japanese -inspired light towers, two bluestone benches and a stone chess table with facing bench seats. Solar lighting is planned for the light towers. The subcommittee for this project is Pat Hickman, (Chair); Dan White and Erin Martin with assistance from Dan Sherman.

**2020 PROJECT PLANNING**

Lighting is planned for the Waves of Change sculpture in front of the County Office Building in New City, and for the Demarest Kill Park light towers. In addition, planning will commence for two new projects at the Yeager Health Center complex in Pomona.

**CONSERVATION OF EXISTING PUBLIC ARTWORK**

Over the years, public artwork can

deteriorate and require restoration.

Maintaining county-owned public artwork respects the integrity of the artwork, preserves the intent of the artist, honors the viewing public, and preserves the value of objects that are a part of the county’s asset base.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REVIEW AND REPORTING**

Members of AIPP’s Conservation subcommittee, led by appraiser and conservator, Ken Linsner, conduct semi-annual reviews of existing AIPP-commissioned artworks and issue condition reports with recommendations for any conservation work needed. AIPP arranges for the restorations or repairs using project funds held back for maintenance needs on the original project. Dan White, Emily Harvey and Erin Martin worked on this subcommittee in 2019.

A new subcommittee was formed to develop a written policy on the disposition of artworks that are no longer viable due to severe deterioration.

The. Antonakos neon sculpture at RCC

was repaired and is now restored.

**CONNECTING TO THE PUBLIC:**

**AIPP ONLINE AND AIPP SOCIAL MEDIA**

**AIPP Website**

**www.aipprockland.org**

AIPP updated and migrated its website in-house to be able to include timely information for artists and the public. The website announces calls for entry for upcoming projects, features an archive of completed projects with photos and descriptions, and a clickable site map with directions. A video featuring many projects and the history of the program is posted online for public viewing. Managed by Lisa D’Amico, beginning 2020, the website will announce upcoming committee meetings and archive the Minutes of past meetings.

# Social Media

AIPP committee member, Lisa D’Amico, designed and administers AIPP Facebook and Instagram pages that feature new up-to-date news and studio-based video interviews with AIPP commissioned artists. In 2019, the sites had reached a milestone of 1000 users.

# 2019 AIPP ORGANIZATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**New Library-Based Enrichment Classes.**

Commencing in 2020, an Introduction to Public Art in Rockland County for Grades 1 to 5 will be offered at libraries throughout the county. Conceived and designed by Lisa D’Amico, Lisa will lead the classes with assistance from Shari Fischberg and Debbie Silberburg who joined the Education Committee. Home Depot in West Nyack and Nanuet are donating materials for the classes. Libraries in Nanuet, Palisades, Spring Valley, Suffern, Tappan and West Nyack have confirmed interest.

**New Braille Signage**

Debbie Silberburg is researching the addition of Braille signage at AIPP public art sites.

## Aipp PR and Photo Archive

The AIPP Committee maintains an archive of video, photos and press coverage of AIPP installations and artworks. Committee member Judy Esterow chairs the PR committee, prepares press releases on completed projects and coordinates dedication ceremonies and their associated print and electronic news media releases.

# AIPP PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH ROCA

# [www.rocklandartcenter.org](http://www.rocklandartcenter.org)

New projects, committee vacancies, public notices of dedications and new installations are also posted through RoCA’s email notification system. RFQ replies are processed at RoCA into a format viewable for selection by the AIPP Committee members.

# A COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS

Since the mid-19th Century, Rockland County has attracted world class artists who chose to make their home in this beautiful region in the lower Hudson Valley. With such a rich cultural past and present, it is fitting that Rockland became the first County in New York State outside New York City to pass a Percent for Art Law that marks its place among those enlightened communities and states that support and display works of publicly accessible art. Today, through AIPP, Rockland residents can find significant artwork throughout their county.

To date, 80% of commissions have been awarded to Rockland County artists, Other projects have brought to the county the work of accomplished artists from beyond our borders. This open exchange of creativity encourages our own artists, who, in turn, seek public art commissions elsewhere. In addition, these projects provide opportunities for local vendors to perform ancillary work, beautify the environment in which we live and work, attract the attention of visitors, enhance the reputation of the county and tie the community to both the national and international art world.

Report prepared by

***Julianne Ramos, AIPP Administrator December 1, 2019***

**Logo:**

AIPP logo designed by Carl Opalek.