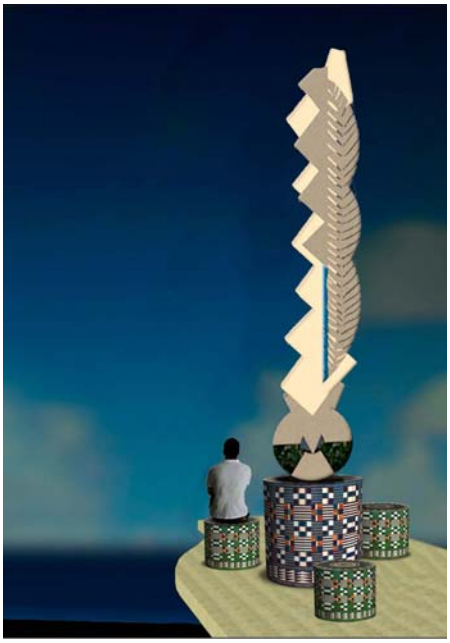
PUBLIC ART FOR 23rd AVENUE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Office of Arts & Culture's public art program works with city departments, including Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to incorporate artwork into projects throughout the city.

Washington, DC artist **Martha Jackson Jarvis** is working with project design consultants, SDOT staff and community members develop a proposal for permanent public artwork for the 23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements project in the Central Area.



Artwork Proposal: *Union*
23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements Project
2016

Artwork Proposal
Martha Jackson Jarvis' proposal includes a sculptural seating arrangement with forms based on West African and Native American symbols. Multi-color mosaic will cover the sculpture's base and seating elements. The artwork will be located in a new curb bulb on the SE corner of 23rd Avenue and Union Street, providing a marker for entry in the neighborhood. SDOT considerations regarding sightlines and pedestrian and vehicular visibility rendered this the most appropriate location.

The artwork will be installed in 2016 as part of the construction process for the 23rd Avenue Improvement Project.

Selection process:
Working with SDOT, Department of Neighborhoods (DON), and Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD), the Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) issued a national call for artists seeking an artist to develop permanent public art along the alignment of the 23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements project in the Central Area.

A selection panel of arts professionals, advised by city staff from SDOT, OPCD and DON, as well as community members from the Advisory Core Team (ACT) reviewed the submissions of 210 artists from around the country, and interviewed four finalists.

Martha Jackson Jarvis was selected because of her extensive history of community engaged work and demonstrated experience creating artworks for streetscape environments using durable materials. Both community member advisors and city staff supported this decision.

The scope of work
The artist was asked to investigate the concept of "place," highlighting historically relevant narratives of the neighborhood and the people who have lived or created significant impact here, paying attention to the changing and widening demographics of this area of the city, and other shaping factors such as geography, topography and environment. The artist was asked to consider integrating artwork in the ground plane and/or vertical streetscape elements that could also act as functional street furniture. Artwork features will be durable and consider maintenance impacts. The artist was asked to

focus on the intersections/junctures of Union Street, Cherry Street and Jackson Street.

Design Process
Martha Jackson Jarvis reached out to community members including those from the ACT in March and April of 2014. She made initial site visits, walking along 23rd Avenue with community members. In May and June 2014, the artist continued to meet with SDOT and ACT members to inform her design. She met with residents and business owners, who identified the need for the artwork to:

- provide a gateway or identifier for their neighborhood,
- serve a gathering place

Artist's Bio:
Martha Jackson Jarvis' sculptures have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout the United States and abroad, including the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; the Studio Museum of Harlem, N.Y.; Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, N.C.; and the Tretyakov Gallery Moscow, Russia. Her numerous awards include a Creative Capital Grant, Virginia Groot Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, The Penny McCall Foundation Grant, and Lila Wallace Arts International Travel Grant.

Martha Jackson Jarvis grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and currently lives and works in Washington, D.C. She studied at Howard University and received a BFA degree from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University and a MFA from Antioch University. Jackson Jarvis also studied mosaic techniques and stone cutting in Ravenna, Italy. Jackson Jarvis has undertaken public and corporate art commissions for the Philip Morris corporation in Washington, D.C.; Merck Company in Pennsylvania; Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C.; Washington Metro Transit Authority, Anacostia Station; New York Transit Authority, Mount Vernon; South Carolina Botanical Gardens in Clemson; Prince George's County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro, Md.; Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C.; and MS/HS 368 Bronx, New York.

The funding for this project comes from Seattle Department of Transportation 1% for Art funds.

More information about the artist's work can be found at http://marthajacksonjarvis.com/

For more information about the artwork, contact Ruri Yampolsky, (206) 684-7309 or ruri.yampolsky@seattle.gov.

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