

BLANK WALLS:

Seeking a concept

The task

During the June 24, 2022 planning meeting of the Advisory Committee, the members determined that public art in the downtown area could be enriched by expanding the wall art beyond that which already existed.

The Committee concluded that a “concept” - a theme - would provide a cohesive narrative. A narrative would provide the basis for marketing the art to the tourism trade; thus drawing visitors downtown to view the art. The ancillary benefit to the local businesses would be increased foot traffic.

The Committee supported member Prisca Campbell’s suggestion that she create a visual inventory of the existing wall art as well as blank walls that could become art spaces. That inventory is presented in this document.

Cautions

- There is no guarantee that the wall owners will permit art to be applied to the blank spaces; negotiation will be necessary
- No thought during the inventory was given to the suitability of the space, based on lighting, construction material, size etc.

Observation

Prisca notes that there is currently an absence of indigenous art or storytelling. In keeping with the tenets of Truth and Reconciliation this oversight should be addressed in the final concept.

The Inventory in pictures



Looking from left to right

- Round roof of former Melanie's store (Q: Is that building supposed to be demolished and replaced?)
- Side and front of Shopper's Drug Mart and Pizza Hut (Stretches right across the photo)



South side of Shopper's Building (The large left hand blank wall is Pizza Hut.)



Former Melanie's building with curved roof.



Long tall blank wall that faces St. Mary Walk. (Sliver of a lake view)



Blank wall on the end of the employment building.



Partial blank wall.



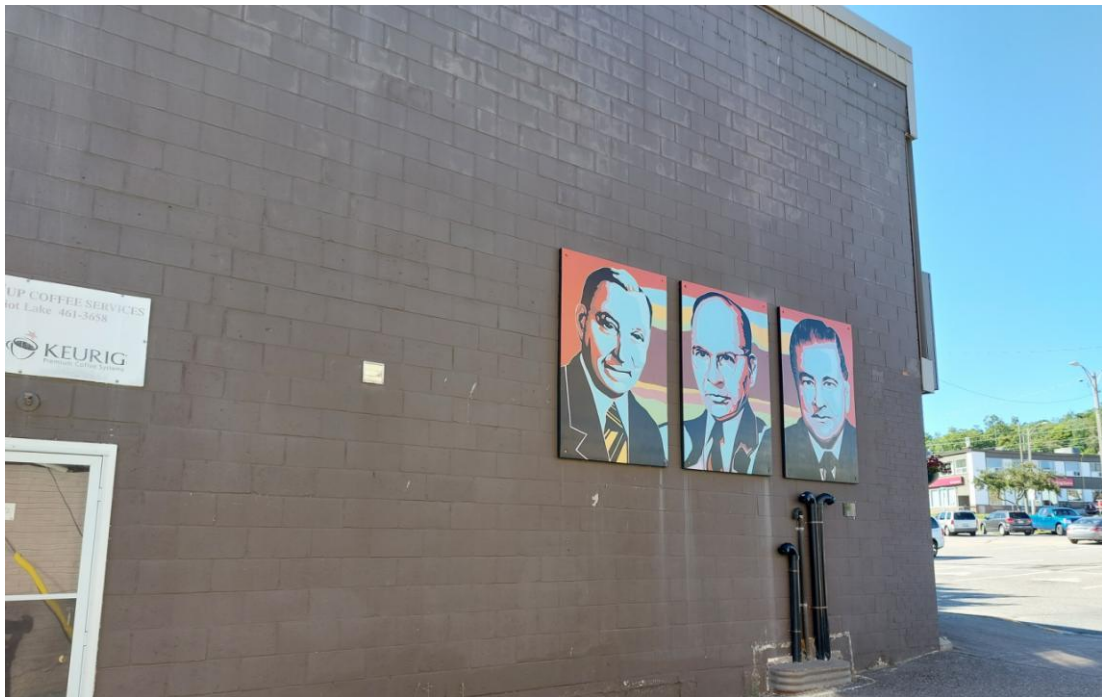
Partial blank wall in the pedestrian area near the LCBO



Partial blank wall on the BHP building (Note previous partial blank wall is to the right; this creates a corner blank space)



This is a partial blank wall. The frieze like band separates the window area from the blank space below.



The three "founders".



Not exactly a blank wall. However there is space enough to create something; and the art work could hide the mechanical bits.



Shoppers dominates the skyline from the lower plaza area.



There is one blank area between these two buildings. (The view is from the store and restaurant fronts that include an outside eating area in the summer months.)



Looking back toward the lower plaza. (Note that the wall shown in a previous photo with the mechanicals visible could be a significant space in the overall scheme.)



The float plane art (The alley was incredibly untidy.)



At the top of the alley is another blank space that could tie the top end of downtown to the art in the lower part of town.



Admittedly not a “blank” wall. But is a significant stretch of plain brick along the stair case from the upper part of town to the lower part of town.



This wall could accommodate two pieces of art on either side of the business sign. (Leaving a margin large enough on either side not to obstruct the sign, of course)



A canvas waiting for art.



Foodland - the wall that runs from the back of the building to the front on the north side.



Retaining wall between the plaza and Canadian Tire



East side of Dollarama



The rock...note the screen to protect people and cars from rock fall.