COMMUNITY ART WITHIN THE VANDALIA CORRIDOR

Northside and South Cumminsville
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**Goals of Community Art Within The Vandalia Corridor**

Having my focus for most of the quarter being placed on the social and physical elements associated with art, and in specific community art, I wanted to explore and apply this concentration to one of the neighborhoods within the Great Streets and Gateways project. In particular, a collaborative group of engineers and urban planners all with different interests came together to successfully carry out individual projects within the Vandalia Corridor that encompasses both communities of Northside and South Cumminsville. This projected green/art corridor, estimated to be around 1.5 miles, will be the physical and social connection for the residents of both Northside and South Cumminsville. Previously existing as a rail line, this particular path already has the physical framework for practical development in social, neighborhood, economic, environmental, and transportation. With community art playing as another catalyst for successful economic growth, I found it necessary to not only answer how community art plays a role within these communities, but more importantly, I wanted to achieve a sound and unique approach to something slightly new and abstract within the urban planning realm. By doing so I opened up a door to new ways of thinking.

**Social / Neighborhood Development**

Social Development would be my primary concern of applying art along the corridor and for both communities. Both communities, unique in their own ways, have an interesting character that can be seen throughout the physical and the people within the neighborhoods. I want to capture the character of both communities individually through the implementation of art and establish a physical artistic connection through the projected tunnel underneath the 74-Interstate. By hiring local artists, involving all stakeholders, and incorporating local education into the corridor, the expansion and growth towards social well being will act as a medium for other types of development.

**Economic Development**

Art usually is not the first thing that comes to mind within the spectrum of economic development, however, when used as a tool to aesthetically beautify the corridor and the areas surrounding the corridor local businesses can expect more traffic, housing stock value will slowly rise, and opportunity for new commercial and real-estate development can become one step closer to reality. My goal is not to displace any existing housing or businesses, but rather create the opportunities
for them to thrive and incorporate or associate themselves within and around the new Vandalia Corridor.

Environmental Development

Sustainability and green would be a necessary and vital attribute needed for the success and longevity of the Vandalia Corridor. Also playing as a theme, it is important that green thinking is looked at on all scales and applied to as many physical features and aesthetics along the entire corridor. The goal for this project is not to spend millions of dollars on items out of the area but rather focus on what exists within. By providing opportunities for stakeholders and artists that exist locally, I encourage and insist that they make reference to ideas such as recyclability and re-use. With Northside and South Cumminsville having such a historical background I find it important that the individuals involved within the development of the corridor, research the necessary organizations and businesses that are not only willing to collaborate but also contribute to elements of the art. These elements can be old tires, compost, cans, bottles, metals, wood products, etcetera.

Transportation

Transportation within and surrounding the corridor is deemed important due to the accessibility and connectivity needed for the Vandalia corridor to survive. By improving the surrounding access streets to the corridors it will allow for more traffic and better user experience. The corridor itself will incorporate an elaborate bike path and walking path that hopefully in the future will expand northeast, connect to the Mill Creek, and expand northwest to the projected Wetlands and other future attractions.

Vandalia Corridor

Vision Statement
My vision in creating the Vandalia Corridor is to achieve a sense of connectivity, both socially and physically, between Northside and South Cumminsville through the use of community art, creative streetscape, and programming. The Vandalia Corridor will integrate dynamics that are both organized and organic, and that also encompass the social integrity of the communities, a cordial collaboration between the artists and stakeholders, and sound economic feasibility.

Historical References: In order for the implementation of art within both communities to be seen as relevant and consistent it is extremely important that artists, designers, planners, and architects pay reference and respect to what historically took place within both communities and along the corridor. Even if these future art features and aesthetics go in a whole new direction, the relevance of what can be along the Vandalia Corridor will be obstruct if these creators do not understand the historical context of these areas. The opportunity for art with substance is overwhelming and optimistic in nature if it gives light to the old can building, historical train line, Walley’s, et cetera.
Recyclability, Re-Use, Sustainability: I stated earlier the importance of sustainability through green, recyclability, and sustainability; here is some artistic component ideas and examples that other communities have used. These components range in scale however, the all encompass the importance of sustainability while still holding their own artistic flare. By using sustainable and recyclable features not only can the Vandalia Corridor showcase art elements but be described as a: *An Evolving Art Exhibition That Always Has A Path...*

Vandalia Art Components

*Source Listed on Pictures OR Refer to Project board/CD*
Vandalia Rationale/Implementation/Funding Strategies

Even though the projected Vandalia Corridor intersects Interstate 74, it is still primarily housed in between both Interstate 75 and Interstate 75. The correlation of this development and to the Interstates is small, however the importance of accessibility and visual statements can lead to a future landmark exit. The rationale for the corridor is wrapped all within the need to have a formal, organized, and collaborative Vandalia Arts Organization.

1. Collaborative Organized Committee
   - Administrators
   - Artists
   - Community Representatives
   - Planners / Architects / Designers / Etc.
   - Educational Institutions

   *Having all of these groups represented within a committee will help with the implementation and construction of the Vandalia Corridor. This diverse committee will be the voice and connection between both communities.

   - Cost-Effective
   - Green Thinking
   - Recyclability & Re-Use
   - Sustainability

   *Unique concepts/principles that establish, adapt, and maintain the Vandalia Corridor. These constructive concepts/principles will have to evolve yet uphold a balance with both the social and economic concerns of Northside and South Cumminsville, and the current trends outside of the communities.

3. Management of Public Space
   - Community Art Management
   - Green Management
   - Recreational Management
   - Etc.

   *Having control on all physical aspects of the Vandalia Corridor will lead to the social and economic growth of Northside and South Cumminsville. Just like the concepts and principles, management has to evolve yet maintain a strong grasp on the upkeep of this shared public space between both communities and its visitors.

4. Implementation
   - Phasing of Projects / Activities
   - Cost-Effective
   - Exploration of All Types of Funding
   - “Possible vs. Impossible”

   *Having direct control on the implementation process will be the key to the
success and the future growth of the Vandalia Corridor. Exploring all funding avenues and taking hold of what is available is needed to complete projects. Realistic and cost-effective approaches to implementation will be necessary to achieve social and economic results for both Northside and South Cumminsville.

**Precedent Studies: Dequindre Cut**

**The Dequindre Cut** is located in Detroit, Illinois. This particular greenway/bike path was renovated and created on the existing Grand Truck Railroad line that was abandoned since the 1980s. The greenway features a 20-foot-wide paved pathway, which includes separate lanes for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. It is unique to its urban environment but still has established its identity through community help, urban artwork & graffiti, and green elements.

Source: http://www.detroitriverfront.org/dequindre/