



Lafayette's Art on the Street Curriculum Guide

Objective:

To introduce students to Lafayette's public art installations. To engage students in reaction to the art, reflection on the meaning of the art, connection of the art to the community, connection of the art to self, study of the art: materials, tools, techniques.

Materials:

Journal or paper

Pen or pencil

Sketch pad (optional)

Colored pencils (optional)

Writing/discussion Prompts – Use the prompts below for writing or discussion about the sculptures. On your walking tour of Art on the Street answer the following questions about each sculpture. If you aren't able to walk the tour, photos of all sculptures are online at www.lafayetteco.gov/aots.

Literacy

- What is your first reaction to this piece?
- What's the story? Tell a story about the object in this sculpture.
- What title would you give this sculpture?
- Why do you think the artist made this sculpture?
- List adjectives that describe the sculpture. What is the feeling/texture/size/color, etc?
- How would you describe this sculpture to a person who could not see it?
- Which piece is your favorite? Why?

Community

- What does this piece of art tell about the artist?
- This artist is part of a community. What message are they trying to tell their community members with this sculpture?
- Why is art in public places important?
- List other places you see art? What are the art pieces?
- Does this art tell a story? Is the artist a storyteller? What story does it tell?

Art Content

- What do you think this sculpture is made out of? How do you think the artist made this sculpture?
- What questions would you ask the artist about this work if the artist were here?
- What do you think is good about this sculpture? What is not so good? Explain why for both of your answers.
- Why do you think other people should come to see this sculpture?
- If you recreated this piece, what would you do differently?
- What if some people do not like a work of public art, should it be removed? Explain your reasoning.

Ideas for Activities:

- **Examining Public Art:** Some art is on display in private homes, galleries, or museums, and some art is on display in public. What are some differences between displaying art in private spaces versus displaying it in public? Write a list of pros and cons about private versus public art.
- **Posing:** Imagine that an artist asked you to pose for a sculpture. How would you pose, and why would you pose that way? Does the pose communicate a message or tell a story? Discuss it, act it out, draw it, or write about it.
- **Sculpture Design Dream:** Sculpture can be made out of many things. Brainstorm all the things that you could use to make an outdoor sculpture. Sculpture can be made to look like almost anything. Brainstorm all the things you could make a sculpture look like. Write about or draw a sculpture you would make for an outdoor sculpture garden.
- **Art Critic:** Become an art critic and write a review of the sculpture walk. Include information about one or more of the sculptures or artists. Write your article as if you were a newspaper reporter. Include as many specific details as you can to support your critique.
- **Letter to the Artist:** Choose your favorite piece of artwork. What questions do you have for the artist? What would you tell the artist about your feelings about their sculpture? Write a letter to the artist.
- **Art Poetry:** Choose one of the sculptures and write a cinquain pattern poem about the piece. A cinquain can follow word count or syllable count.

Syllable-Count Cinquain

Line 1 2 Syllable
Line 2 4 Syllable
Line 3 6 Syllable
Line 4 8 Syllable
Line 5 2 Syllable

Sample:

*Mona
Smiling slightly
Rugged landscape behind
Hands folded in a calm repose
Lisa*

Word-Count Cinquain

Line 1 1 Word (title)
Line 2 2 Words (describes title)
Line 3 3 Words (action)
Line 4 4 Word (feeling)
Line 5 1 Word (refers to title)

Sample:

*Art
Visual expression
Paint, sculpt, draw
An outlet for expression
Create*

More Ideas for Activities:

- **Map It:** Create a map of the art walk. Include landmarks, sculpture sites, and a legend. Use detail and color so someone new to the area could follow the map to view the sculpture.
- **Tell a Story:** Choose one of the sculptures you saw on the sculpture walk. Imagine it could see and hear. What would it see from its location? What would it hear? Write a story from the perspective of the sculpture. Add events and dialogue to give the sculpture an interesting view of its world.
- **Be the Artist:** Imagine you are a public artist. Choose a location for your artwork. Where is that location? Describe your artwork. What is it? How large is it? What is it made of? What does it represent, what is its story?
- **Suggested projects** -These projects may be done individually
 - Create a collage representing your public art piece.
 - Take photos of public spaces and design a work of art for those places.
 - Create a three-dimensional model of your public art piece.
 - Create drawings of your public art piece in its location.
 - Combine any or all of these approaches and create a mixed media assemblage of your public art idea.
- **All Class Project** - Design and build a public art piece for your school.
 - Design process - What will you make? What's the intention/message of this artwork for the community? Where will the project be located?
 - Proposal process - Present sketches and models to school community.
 - Preparation Process - Gathering materials and tools, planning the operation.
 - Fabrication & Installation - Building the project.
 - Celebration - Official presentation of project to the community, opening reception.

Relevant Vocabulary

Abstract - in art: a non-representational work of art. The artist focuses on formal aspects of art, emphasizing elements such as line, color, form as they relate to each other with little or no attempt at creating a realistic image.

Armature - a skeleton-like framework to give rigid internal support to a modeled/assembled sculpture

Carving - a subtractive sculpture process. Starting with a solid block, the sculptor removes material using chisels and other tools to 'reveal' the finished form. Traditional carving materials include stone, especially marble, and fine-grained woods.

Casting - a method of producing one or more copies of a sculpture. An original sculpture is created and covered with a mold material that sets hard when dry. The mold is separated to release the original sculpture. The mold is reassembled, and casting material is poured into the void and left to set. When the cast sculpture has cooled, or cured, the mold is separated to release it. The mold may be reassembled to cast the next copy.

Forge - a special fireplace, hearth, or furnace in which metal is heated before shaping

Form - element of art that is three-dimensional (height, width, and depth) and encloses volume. For example, a triangle, which is two-dimensional, is a shape, but a pyramid, which is three dimensional, is a form.

Found object, found material, or found image - an object, material, or image, not originally intended as a work of art, which is obtained, selected, and used by an artist

Foundry - a workplace where metal is melted and poured into molds. Also see cast, forge, and lost-wax casting.

Horizontal

- 1: of or relating to the horizon
- 2: parallel to the horizon
- 3: being on the same level

Icon - a sign, image, or thing regarded as a representative symbol of something mythological or religious

Kinetic art - art that contains moving parts or depends on motion for its effect. Wind, a motor or the observer generally powers the moving parts.

Lost-wax casting - a casting process for which a sculptor first produces a sculpture in wax. A mold of heat resistant materials is made around the original. When the mold is heated, the wax melts away, so that molten metal can replace it, reproducing exactly the original wax sculpture.

Maquette - a small-scale model for a finished sculpture used to visualize and test shapes and ideas for a full-scale sculpture

Medium - is the material or technique used by an artist to produce a work of art

Modeling - an additive sculpting process in which material is built up to produce the finished form. Unlike carving, the sculptor may correct mistakes or make changes by removing or reshaping material. Modeling requires a soft, workable material that is later cured or fired to set it hard. Typical modeling materials include clay, wax, plaster, and papier-mâché.

Mold - a mold is a reversed impression of a sculpture, which is used to cast replica sculptures. The material used to construct the mold needs to accurately reproduce the surface detail of the original sculpture and also be strong enough to keep its shape during casting and resilient enough to retain detail after multiple castings.

Monumental

1: of or relating to a monument

2: serving as or resembling a monument: **MASSIVE**; also: highly significant: **OUTSTANDING**

Public Art - a work of art created by an artist specifically for a public space, artwork in public space

Realistic - representing what is real, naturalistic

Representational - in art: artwork that depicts objects, figures, or places as seen

Scale - a proportion/ratio used in determining the dimensional relationship between a representation to that which it represents, its actual size

Scaling Up - a method of copying a small sculpture on a larger scale by increasing all the measurements proportionately

Three-Dimensional - having or appearing to have length, width, and depth, giving the appearance of depth or varying distances

Two-Dimensional - having or appearing to have length and width but no depth

Vertical

1: directly overhead

2: going straight up or down from a level surface

Weld - to unite or fuse pieces of metal together by the use of heat or pressure or both