

Development Activities Meeting Report (Version: 02/20/2026)

This report created by the Neighborhood Planner and included with staff reports to City Boards and/or Commissions.

Logistics	Stakeholders
Project Name/Address: Downtown University Line Public Art	Groups Represented (e.g., specific organizations, residents, employees, etc. where this is evident): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) - RCO - Downtown Neighbors Alliance (DNA) - RCO - Downtown residents - Applicant team
Parcel Number(s): NA	
Building & Development Application Number: NA	
Meeting Location: Zoom	
Date: February 12, 2026	
Meeting Start Time: 5:30pm	
Applicant: Marsha Rollinger	Approx. Number of Attendees: 18
Boards and/or Commissions Request(s): Public Art & Civic Design Commission – art in the public right-of-way	

How did the meeting inform the community about the development project?

<p>The project team detailed the Downtown portion of the Pittsburgh Regional Transit University Line public art project, which features a cohesive series of bird-themed artworks acting as neighborhood "messengers." Slated for installation by September 2026, Downtown will receive six of the project's twenty pieces, distributed across light poles, utility boxes, and a ground sculpture. Directly informed by local feedback, these specific designs will feature birds, such as the Bluebird and Kingfisher, to celebrate the district's vibrant events, historic architecture, and rich culinary scene. To further engage the community, the installations will function as an interactive scavenger hunt, complete with hidden icons and QR codes linking to the unique stories behind each piece</p> <p>Community engagement to-date: The artist provided a detailed account of their grassroots outreach. This included an online survey on the city's Engage page, distributing physical materials (flyers, posters, business cards), hosting tabling events, speaking with people directly on the street in various neighborhoods, and utilizing social media groups. The artist explicitly showed how this engagement generated the project's core descriptive words.</p> <p>Location and history of the site: The project's location was clearly defined as the PRT University Line route, looping from Downtown (up 6th Street), through Uptown to Oakland (via Forbes Avenue), and back (via 5th Avenue). The meeting heavily emphasized history, explaining that the art is specifically designed to reflect the past of these locations.</p> <p>Building materials: The artist was highly specific about the materials to alleviate potential community concerns about maintenance and safety. They detailed the use of lightweight, powder-coated aluminum for light pole attachments; durable 3M material with a 10-year graffiti-resistant laminate for utility box wraps; and secure bolting mechanisms for the ground sculptures.</p>

Discussion

Topic / Issue	Recap
Density of pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comment/concern raised:</i> There was a wish the project had more funding to install more pieces along the University Line. There was concern that 20 pieces spread across the entire transit loop might not provide enough density to make a major visual impact on the corridor. • <i>Who raised it:</i> Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership • <i>Applicant response:</i> Funds are limited to only do 20 pieces. • <i>Outcome/follow-up needed:</i> None
Ground Sculpture Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comment/concern raised:</i> For the ground piece at the Wood Street Station at 6th and Liberty, since the sculpture is only 3 feet tall, it might get lost at a busy T station, be viewed as clutter, or be improperly used (leaned against or hang things from). It was asked if the openings could be made bigger to make it more functional and have it stand out as a sculpture. • <i>Who raised it:</i> Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership • <i>Applicant response:</i> The artist explained that the proposed locations are relatively open to avoid having it be considered clutter. There have also been talks about ADA compliance, especially for the visually impaired, which might require the sculptures to be raised a bit from the sidewalk. They are looking into all options, including making sure they are sturdy enough to withstand a variety sidewalk activity. • <i>Outcome/follow-up needed:</i> The artist is currently coordinating with the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) to determine the exact site plans and finalize the physical installation options.
Promoting Public Art elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comment/concern raised:</i> A local business owner asked if there was a plan to promote the artwork in different areas, maybe as the airport or other large venues in the city. • <i>Who raised it:</i> Resident/Business owner • <i>Applicant response:</i> The artist expressed enthusiasm for the idea and stated she would be happy to partner to bring awareness to the project. • <i>Outcome/follow-up needed:</i> The participant agreed to connect to discuss further.
Support for project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comment/concern raised:</i> Expressed support for the project and mentioned that they were very impressed by the homework the artist did. There was agreement that more money needs to be found to get more of the art installed along the University Line. • <i>Who raised it:</i> Downtown Neighbors Alliance • <i>Applicant response:</i> NA • <i>Outcome/follow-up needed:</i> None

Planner completing report: Chuck Alcorn