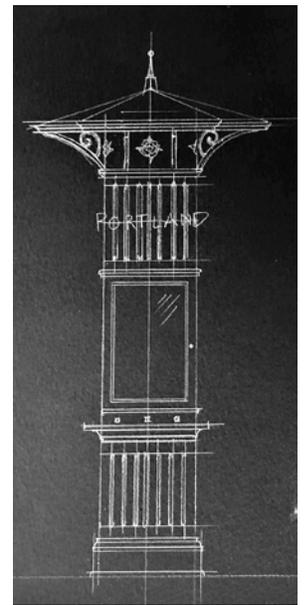


# The Portland Kiosk Project

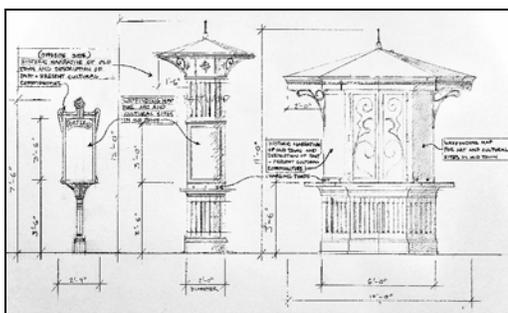
**PROJECT OVERVIEW** | The Portland Main Streets Design Initiative (PDX Main Streets) is proposing a cultural placemaking project for the Old Town/ Chinatown district by creating a multi-sided art, history and cultural wayfinding kiosk. This kiosk is anticipated as both a stand-alone project and as one ultimately part of a series that can be scaled to the place and need/function/culture of different communities. Working with local partners below and drawing on the success seen in many other cities with the reintroduction of kiosk, we are requesting support from Prosper Portland's Livability Grant.

We hope to build on this interest and excitement (the joy/fun factor) as well as their valued functionality to enhance the aesthetics and identity of Old Town, to highlight the history, distinctive architecture, and the many cultural communities that exist within it. Importantly, the kiosk would provide a wayfinding and orientation map to the many artistic, cultural, and architectural sites in Old Town, filling a gap in navigating and accessing the many artistic and cultural resources that exist in Old Town yet are unseen by both visitors and locals because there is no centralized map. By creating an informative and beautiful knowledge-sharing center, **these kiosks improve the community's awareness of people and place, both past and present.**



**PRECEDENTS** | Kiosks in a variety of functions and sizes have been used for centuries as newsstands, information booths, cafe stands, wayfinding posts and more. We have drawn inspiration from the from kiosks locally and internationally including Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Lisbon, Paris, New York, Scandinavia and Italy. The kiosk has a long history as a community-serving urban design feature and has been making a resurgence as an innovative placemaking element. More and more cities are recognizing their value and are bringing them back in force. For example, Lisbon has revived their traditional art nouveau small horchata/coffee kiosks and added more than 50 octagonal new cafes with integrated bathrooms as permanent food stands in their parks providing space for small businesses to create successful startups and as had huge success in activating previously underused and unsafe parks into dynamic and vibrant well-loved and well used spaces (see article linked below). Paris is rolling out a series of 300+ new newsstand kiosks designed to match the old, yet with more function upgrades (see article linked below).

**DESIGN, LOCATION** | Locations might include the Portland Train Station, Saturday Market area, or other community preferred locations identified through public involvement with the neighborhood and business associations, as well as community liaisons including RACC and PBOT. We also aim to build on the timeless architecture and design of Old Town (e.g. Train Station Canopy, cast iron facades of Old Town, historic lamps and street furnishings), while also incorporating design elements that emphasize Portland unique identity (e.g the rose, chinatown gate/lamps) depending on the location. We are exploring the possibility of a solar component with an integrated battery to avoid needing a utility connection, and to power any illumination and an integrated phone charging station.



At left is a variety of concept typologies that draw from precedents noted above and Old Town design. At top is a preliminary concept for what would be proposed in Old Town. Design priorities that would need to be considered include universal design, maintaining accessibility, minimizing competing with other street furnishings or other existing art (e.g. cairns, drinking fountains, etc. at Train Station).

(Kiosk Concept Design by Heather Flint Chatto, Forage Design + Planning, Illustration by Patrick Hilton, Architectural Artist). View larger at: [www.pdxmainstreets.org/kioskdesign](http://www.pdxmainstreets.org/kioskdesign)

**COLLABORATORS + COMMUNITY PARTNERS** | The Portland Main Streets Design Initiative brings together architects, designers, planners and community leaders to develop design tools, create placemaking, foster design literacy, and engage communities around how design and planning can help shape our psychology of place, our ability to feel safe, comfortable, seen, connected and inspired. As project sponsored under SE Uplift, PDX Main Streets would manage the project. We would engage a variety of partners including Forage Design + Planning, a certified

WBE/ESB Oregon woman-owned emerging small business and sustainable design firm. Forage Design would be the lead designer in partnership with other colleagues and designers at PDX Main Streets. Our team would include Laquida Landford of Diaspora Designs, a woman-owned consulting business and resident of Old Town as a paid consultant to assist with research and writing of the permanent historical and cultural narrative component. Callie Jones is a local graphic designer and design instructor who has taught both graphic design and wayfinding maps.

These maps would draw upon any existing art and wayfinding maps that RACC and others have already developed as well. See an example from the Black Williams art project in the Precedents (attached). We also propose to work with local partners including RACC and the Architectural Heritage Center, with BPS and PBOT to align with codes and local Old Town/Chinatown design guidelines, leverage student involvement through a design class with University of Oregon Architecture Department, and coordinate on the content, design and placement. Additionally, we would aim to find local, diverse representation for the fabrication and installation of the kiosks and use art as a process of engagement throughout. Public engagement, art and community service are core goals of our organization, our team and we bring decades of experience and expertise to the project. For the soft services like public engagement (not fundable in the grant) PDX Main Streets would donate our time. Learn more about PDX Main Streets at [www.pdxmainstreets.org](http://www.pdxmainstreets.org). An example of an art and engagement project is the [Your Voice Matters Project](#).



**PROJECT FUNDING + ONGOING MAINTENANCE |** We understand that siting the project in the community right-of-way would need a revocable right of way encroachment permit and have planned for costs associated with this. Further, because we understand maintenance is a key issue not fundable through Prosper Portland grants, we would look for outside resources from partners and grants and propose to leverage the design of the art map as a piece of art itself which might be sold as a poster available online, in local shops, at the train stations, Travel Portland, etc with a portion of proceeds going to help fund the ongoing care and maintenance as well as operations. This art and culture wayfinding map would further emphasize the beauty of Old Town, its unique identity and be a piece of dynamic visual art map that could be valued by visitors and locals alike.

**IMPACT + REPLICABILITY |** Although this is a pilot, we intend to seek funding to develop a series of kiosks in a variety of typologies and functions with funding from additional sources such as 2% for Art, RACC grants, local agencies such as PBOT Placemaking funding and grants from local foundations like the Oregon Community Foundation. Given current plans for union station and the Broadway Corridor, this is an opportunity to both integrate more dynamic streetscape furnishings with an artistic architectural and cultural approach.

Similar to the Portland Loo Project, which began as a pilot with PBOT, we believe that this prototype could be an innovative model of typologies for an urban amenity that could be highly replicable with alternatives to customize design features to fit the culture and location. As seen in other cities noted above, these kiosks are an eye-catching architectural feature that would help create greater unity to streetscape design, and draw attention to the history of Old Town and its many diverse communities. Highlighting the art and local cultural sites in Old Town, such as the Chinese Gardens, Japanese cultural center, Golden West Hotel's cultural importance and artistic black narrative along with many others would also support local businesses, tourism, and greater awareness of Old Town's many resources. It would also create a welcoming interpretive design feature to all who visit Portland and foster greater awareness and access to art and culture for all users.

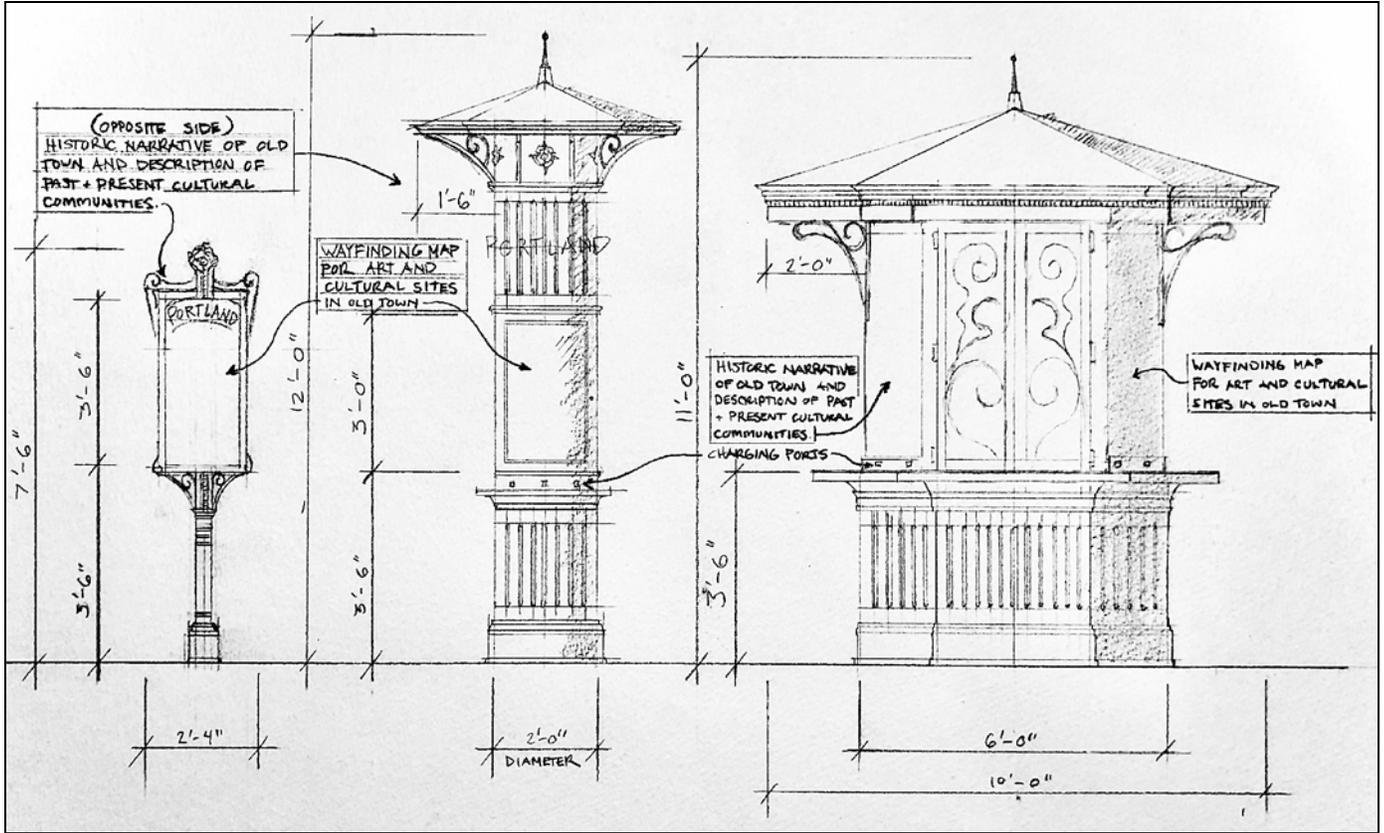


#### FURTHER READING |

- [thespaces.com/once-obsolete-these-staples-of-city-life-are-making-a-comeback](https://thespaces.com/once-obsolete-these-staples-of-city-life-are-making-a-comeback)
- [thelocal.fr/20170314/iconic-newsstands-in-paris-to-get-modern-makeover](http://thelocal.fr/20170314/iconic-newsstands-in-paris-to-get-modern-makeover)

#### CONTACT:

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Forage Design + Planning | Portland Main Streets Design Initiative



**Kiosk Concept Design** by Heather Flint Chatto, Forage Design + Planning  
 Illustration by Patrick Hilton, Architectural Artist



Vintage Stamps in Portugal illustrating a variety of styles of kiosks. The resurgence of kiosks as cafes, news stands and displays to active urban spaces in new ways today was a key inspiration for the designer.

## KIOSK PRECEDENT LIST

By Tehniyat Naveed, PDX Main Streets Intern

LISBON | Kiosks, such as the one pictured here, are prevalent all throughout Portugal's capital city, Lisbon. Their unique singular architecture marries both oriental and art nouveau styles to create structures which end up playing an essential role in animated the capital's street life. In 2009, a local businesswoman Catarina Portas teamed up with architect João Regal to restore these kiosks in five different locations. Consequently, the restoration of this particular kiosk (*Quiosque de Refresco, Largo de Camões*) led to a wave of revival acts across the city. (Source: <https://thespaces.com/once-obsolete-these-staples-of-city-life-are-making-a-comeback>)



PARIS | In Paris, more than 58,000 people signed a petition to save kiosks that became an integral part of the city's historic architecture. In 2019, 360 19th century kiosks-inspired new kiosks were created, and 40 of them were renovated. New kiosks also offer online ticketing sales, charging ports for smartphones, digital screens, bathrooms. This kiosk features a game library with a pop up childcare area with tables, umbrellas, and staffed monitors for childcare. Source: [www.thelocal.fr/20170314/iconic-newsstands-in-paris-to-get-modern-makeover](http://www.thelocal.fr/20170314/iconic-newsstands-in-paris-to-get-modern-makeover))



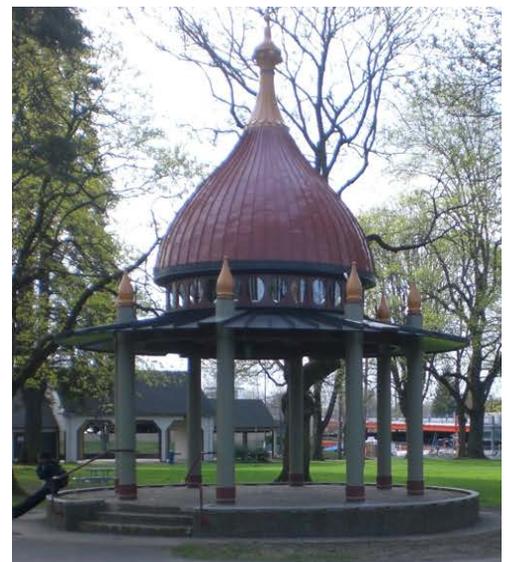
SAN FRANCISCO | The City of San Francisco arranged for 113 French Kiosks in the 1990's to be installed around the San Francisco Financial District and Union Square. Through a collaborative effort with HOK architectural firm and kiosk manufacturer JCDcaux Community Arts International had five of the kiosk around Union Square modified for mini street museums (as shown at right). In 2013 they launched the first show which featured puppets and has been followed up by vintage toys, teapots, banks, masks, game boards and an exhibit about San Francisco Department Stores.



(Source: <https://www.streetartsf.com/blog/kiosk-museum-sf/>)

PORTLAND | Pictured on the right is the Dawson Park Gazebo, located on N Williams Ave in Portland, Oregon. The park was restored as a community gathering space in 2007. Urban Renewal funds were used to restore the 120 year old dome salvaged from the Hill Block Building: a cornerstone of historical significance in the old Alberta commercial district.

(Source: (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/54478>))



## ART & WAYFINDING

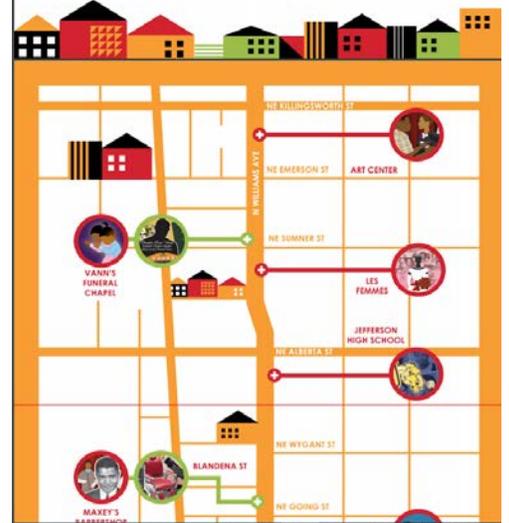
Alberta Main Street applied for and was awarded grant funding for Equitable Alberta Street, a project that expands AMS' ability to address issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion. AMS began a placemaking project that would create historical and cultural markers within the district to honor the rich history of the Black community on Alberta Street. These placemakers are each measuring seven feet tall, appearing along Alberta between 11th and 24th avenues. Each placemaker will stand as a tribute to the neighborhood's Black heritage and history in the face of gentrification. The installations are permanent and earthquake-safe.

(Source: [www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/287](http://www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/287))

[64-two-local-artists-set-tone-for-alberta-street-historical-markers-project](http://www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/287))

The Historic Black Williams Project details the history of Williams Avenue from the early twentieth century to the present. They remember this history through tangible public art that incorporates photographs and other historically accurate representations, the written and/or spoken word, and music to convey stories and the complex dimensions of this history.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS PROJECT** | Another project that this proposal draws from is the Envision Division Art Installations by PDX Main Streets in Partnership with Architecture for Humanity. These custom built art installations (old radios, printing press, bee boxes, bike wheels) were used to engage local businesses and gather community input on the community's design vision for Division to inform planning and policy making for the future growth of Division. Given that the installations were strategically placed, they also encouraged pedestrians to stroll along the street and discover all of the installations.



**DIVISION STREETScape PUBLIC ART WALKING TOUR**

A Project Titled: **THIS ALL HAPPENED MORE OR LESS**  
Artists: Crystal Schenk & Shelby Davis  
Website: [www.crashstudioart.com](http://www.crashstudioart.com)

- A. SE 36th AVENUE
- B. SE 32nd AVENUE
- C. SE 30th AVENUE
- D. SE 28th AVENUE
- E. SE 24th AVENUE
- F. SE 20th AVENUE
- G. SE 18th AVENUE
- H. FOOD BUILDING ENTRANCE

Regional Arts & Culture Council  
City of Portland's Public Art Collection administered by the Regional Arts & Culture Council

**ENVISION DIVISION SUGGESTION BOX ART INSTALLATIONS WALKING TOUR**

1. 327th - "Explore Flight"
2. 301st - "Chart your Course"
3. 241st - "Get the Heave Ho"
4. 20th - "Time to Now"
5. 27th - "Unlock the Issues"
6. 22nd - "Create (A) Movement"
7. 10th - "Open Up"
8. 19th - "What's Old is New"
9. 23rd - "Nature as Design Inspiration"
10. 10th - "Explore Alternative Modes"
11. 11th - "Project Your Voice"

Presented by: Division Design Initiative | Oct 14  
Learn more at: [www.divisiondesigninitiative.org](http://www.divisiondesigninitiative.org)

### DIVISION DESIGN INITIATIVE

RESEARCH | COMMUNITY INPUT | DESIGN RESOURCES | NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING TOOLS

The Division Design Initiative is an entirely grassroots organization advocating for a greater community voice in shaping design and development on Division.

We are conducting important research on community preferences and design goals, identifying priorities for preservation of special buildings, and advocating for improved notification and improvements to design policy.

We are currently working on developing important tools and resources including design guidelines for Division and a Toolkit for Neighborhood Design that can help other communities facing major changes in their neighborhoods as well.

To learn more visit: [www.DivisionDesignInitiative.org](http://www.DivisionDesignInitiative.org)  
Talk to us! Email: [love@divisiondesign.org](mailto:love@divisiondesign.org)

**HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF AN EVOLVING DIVISION?**

**THANK YOU TO SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES**

THE DIVISIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	EDDIE'S ENVIRONMENTAL	DIVISION HARDWARE
HONORIO-ABANDAYO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	ARCHITECTURE FOR HUMANITY	ATLAS PIZZA
REINFORCED ASSOCIATION	MADAME MARGARET KITCHEN & HOME	ROMAN LINDEN
RNA	RENT HONORARE	ROMAN CANOLES BAKERY
D-STREET VILLAGE	NEW VISIONS MARKET	

### ENVISION DIVISION SUGGESTION BOX ART INSTALLATIONS

The Envision Division project is a collaboration between Architecture For Humanity PDX and the Division Design Initiative. The goal of this community engagement effort is to gather input to be used to articulate community priorities and design preferences for Division Street.

This feedback will inform planning, policy and design recommendations that will influence the future growth and design of Division. Your survey responses will be collected, documented and analyzed for key themes and priority recommendations, then shared with the City of Portland.

### DIVISION STREETScape PUBLIC ART

**THIS ALL HAPPENED MORE OR LESS**  
Artists: Crystal Schenk & Shelby Davis  
Website: [www.crashstudioart.com](http://www.crashstudioart.com)

Eight art installations are strategically placed along the street between 10th and 30th Avenues, and feature large dolomite boulders with small bronze characters created by the artists and inspired by their observations of activity along Division. The scale of these bronze figures can draw a viewer in close enough to imagine a story behind each of the figures that vary from active to inactive.

The artists are suggesting stories and want people to "draw their own conclusions, to fill in all of the details, and to follow their imaginations." With the multiple locations, the artists hope to encourage pedestrians to stroll along the street and discover all of the sculptures.

The boxes were so successful we received over 450 vision cards at over 10 locations. This brochure highlights both the vision boxes and the art recently placed on Division at a major street opening event. Learn More: [View Art Installations Walking Tour Map](#)