

## New Downtown Renton Art Installations Add Beauty, History

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**RENTON:** The City of Renton's Community and Economic Development department, Renton History Museum, and Renton Municipal Arts Commission (RMAC) have collaborated on three new art and heritage displays recently installed in downtown.



The most recent addition is a traffic signal cabinet at South 3rd Street and Williams Avenue South that has been wrapped with historic photos of buildings located at that intersection. The historic photos, from the 1910s, 1940s and 1960s, are from the Renton History Museum collection, and are strategically placed to contrast the current site in the background. This project is the second traffic signal cabinet that the city has wrapped with a special graffiti-resistant film that adds beautification as well as protection.



Just south of this installation, the Renton History Museum has placed a window display in the vacant storefront at 306 Williams Avenue South containing a narrative and pictorial review of "Renton's Changing Identity." The display compares and contrasts the physical differences between downtown Renton and The Landing. It also includes residents' perceptions of each area and the role each play in the city's larger landscape as a business district. The museum's youth advisory council, the RenTeens, designed and developed the display.

One block east of that location, the RMAC has installed an art garden within a vacant landscape strip near 309 Wells Avenue South. The project was designed by Marsha Rollinger and consists of planters decorated with playful faces, plants, and white rock intermingled with colorful broken tiles. The rock and tiles form a "river of light" that is illuminated at night via a solar power source. The art garden was assembled by members of the RMAC and other volunteers in December 2015.

These installations are clustered to collectively highlight the downtown area as a center of arts and history within the community. The city's Community and Economic Development Department is working with the downtown community and the RMAC to explore opportunities for additional art installations. For more information or to become involved in future projects, please contact [arts@rentonwa.gov](mailto:arts@rentonwa.gov) or 425.430.6589.