



## **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** **Town of Erie, Colorado** **Series of Sculptural Artworks along a Pedestrian Loop**

Issue Date: June 17, 2024

Due Date: July 29, 2024 by 3pm MST

### **PROJECT PURPOSE AND SITE**

The Town of Erie, Colorado is seeking an artist or artist teams working in all sculpture mediums to conceptualize, fabricate, and install a series of sculptures along a 15 minute, mixed-modality, pedestrian loop through urban and recreational settings. The selected artist(s) and community stakeholders will determine artwork placement along the “loop” [Map provided in Exhibit A]. This project will be a loop of reimagined canaries connected by a common theme, approach, design, and/or perspective. It is expected that at least three (3) 3-dimensional sculptural forms be created. This series of small sculptures will serve to promote exploration and engagement around the Town of Erie.

A budget of \$75,000.00 has been allocated to the series of small-scale sculptures. A stipend of \$1,000.00 will be provided for up to three finalists for the development of concepts. Please see the budget section below for details.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Town will have a staff committee as well as an Artist Selection Panel of community members that will review proposals and make recommendations to Town Council. In addition to working with these groups, the selected artist will need to review community preferences that have been gathered during development of the Town of Erie Art & Placemaking Plan. During the RFP process, the artist will be expected to describe their community engagement plan. Once an artist is selected, they will work with the staff committee to develop an event, attend a planned event, or design a creative way to gather community input specific to this particular art installation.

### **DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS**

A canary is the unofficial emblem to represent the Town’s connections to nature, community history, and beyond.

This series of small, three-dimensional sculptural forms should repeat the form of a canary throughout the loop. While each sculpture should assume the form of canary, the motif or themes applied to each canary's form may vary, as long as a unifying idea is present. Artists are encouraged to consider the following design objectives:

- Deliver iconic imagery that results in a series of pedestrian-scale pieces along the proposed loop
- Create a memorable experience for visitors
- Create a "breadcrumb" loop to sustain pedestrian engagement
- Each sculptural form should be "human-scale"—no smaller than 3 feet in height, but no larger than 7 feet in height

Motifs or themes for the each canary's treatment could be one or more of the following:

- Town of Erie history, capturing the idea of "past to present"
- Themes of resilience and adaptation
- The relationship between humans and nature
- Whimsy, History, Tradition, and/or Hand-Craftedness
- Natural History
- Plains Lifestyle
- Recreation & Play
- Family
- Diverse & Representational Stories

Additionally, the following materials are desired for this series of small sculptural forms, but they must also be appropriate for an outdoor setting:

- Brushed Metals
- Waxed & Stained Wood
- Woven Fabrics
- Metal (painted, raw, or Cor-Ten)
- Gold Leaf
- Wallpaper, Textiles & Fabric
- Vibrant Painted Metals
- Colored Glass

Please refer to Exhibit B (Erie Public Art and Placemaking Plan, excerpted pages) for more information about community preferences, input, and public art placement strategies.

### **Who May Apply**

Visual, craft or design artists (or artist teams), in all media, including landscape architects and interior designers, at least 18 years of age and legal residents of the United States

are eligible to apply. Town of Erie staff, Artist Selection Committee members and their family members are not eligible to apply.

## **SUBMISSION PROCESS AND GUIDELINES**

- All application materials below are required for submission of this RFQ.
- Submittal materials will not be returned and incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please ***do not*** send artwork proposals in response to this RFQ. Please send the following:

- Cover Letter (1 page)
  - Contact Information
  - Statement of interest
- Artist(s) Qualifications (1 to 3 pages)
  - Participating artist(s)
  - Lead artist(s) profile
  - Relevant project experience with large-scale public art
  - No fewer than three professional references
- Up to 10 Images of Past Work (As many pages as needed), including examples of work similar to the scope of this project.
  - The following information should be included for each image:
    - Title of the Work
    - Location of the Work
    - Year Completed
    - Cost of project, if details are available

### **Submission Format**

Responses shall be submitted as a single PDF file via email to Anna Talarico [anna@designinglocal.com](mailto:anna@designinglocal.com). An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent upon submission. If the items are too large for email, please contact Anna for Google Drive Transmittal. Files may also be zipped and reduced so that the email attachments are no larger than 15MB. The selection committee may reach out to request higher resolution images.

Due Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 by 3pm MST

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A selection committee has been assembled for RFQ review. The selection committee is a staff team with representation from multiple Town departments, including Parks & Recreation and Economic Development, among others.

The following criteria will be used in the RFQ selection process:

- Submittal of all required application materials as outlined in this RFQ.
- Artistic Excellence: The aesthetic quality of the artwork, including distinctive qualities in the work and the overall visual impact of the artist's or artist group's practice.
- Evidence of quality and craftsmanship of product as exhibited by past work.
- Public safety, and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Evidence of technical Feasibility: The artist must provide convincing evidence of their ability to complete the artwork as proposed.
- Past Performance: The Selection Committee will consider the artist's performance under previous contracts including success in meeting established timelines and budgets.

### **Selection Process and Timeline**

The timeline for the full process is below (timeline is subject to change):

June 17, 2024	RFQ released
July 29, 2024	RFQ submissions due
Early Aug. 2024	Town of Erie Staff Review 3 Finalists Selected and Notified
August 5, 2024	RFP circulated to 3 finalists
Sept. 30, 2024	Finalist Proposals due
Early Oct. 2024	Finalists present concepts to Selection Committee
Mid-Oct. 2024	Artist Identified
Oct/Nov. 2024	Contract Negotiations
December 10, 2024	Selection Committee forwards final artist/design recommendation to the Town Council for approval
Winter 2025	Community Engagement Artwork Fabrication
Spring 2025	Artwork Installation

## **Budget**

The selected 3 Finalists will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 each for their proposals.

The budget for this project is \$75,000 and is inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including but not limited to: artist expenses/honorarium, community engagement event(s), administration, sub-consultants, travel/lodging, artwork fabrication (including materials, details and specifications), site preparation, artwork crating, storage, transportation and installation, related permits, licenses, taxes and insurance. Any expenses that exceed the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility.

## **Questions?**

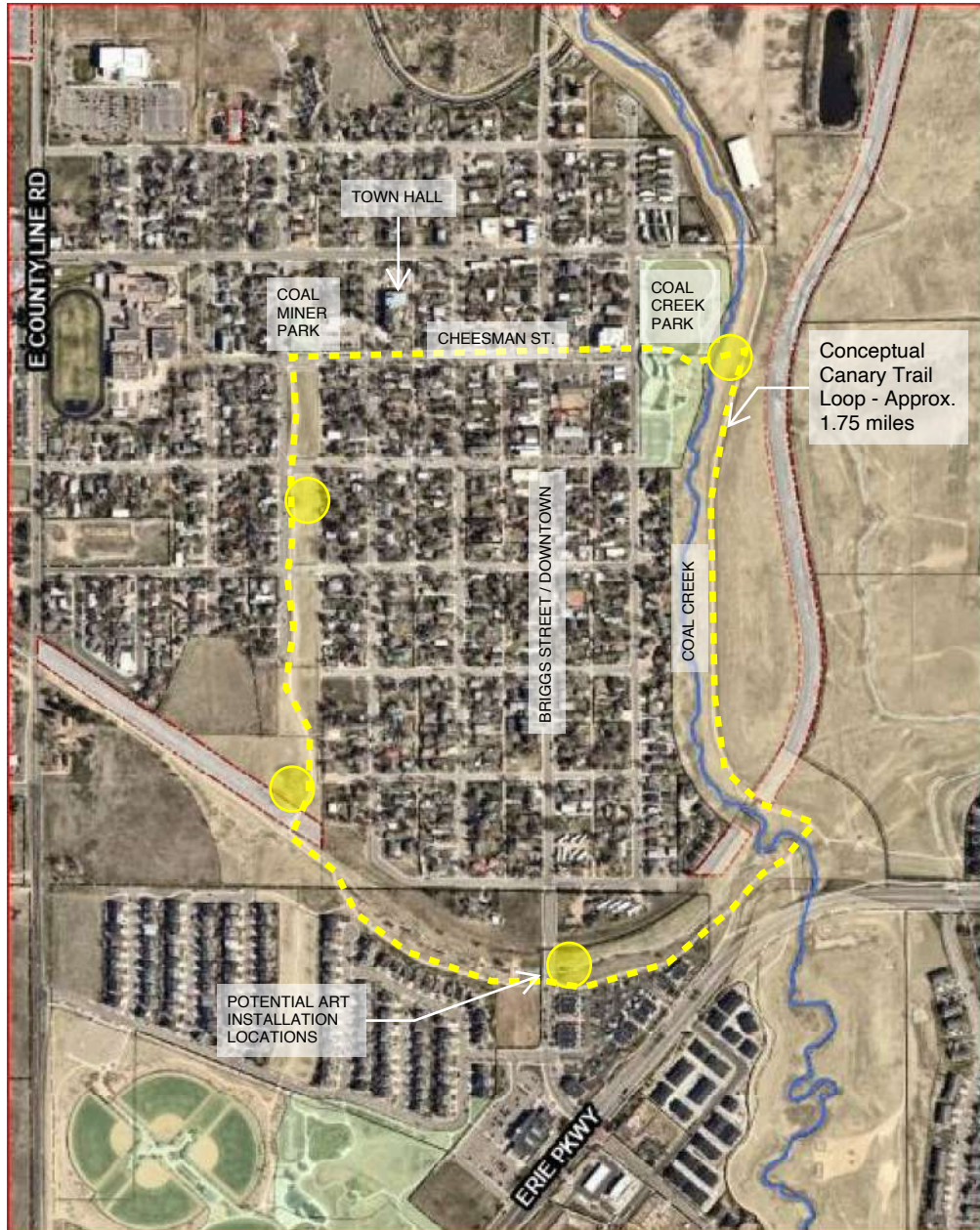
Inquiries about the program or the project should be made by sending an email to:

Anna Talarico, Public Art Coordinator  
Designing Local  
[anna@designinglocal.com](mailto:anna@designinglocal.com)  
704-999-9795

## **Attached**

Exhibit A - "loop" for the Canary trail, exact artwork placement tbd  
Exhibit B - Erie Public Art and Placemaking Plan, excerpted pages

# CANARY TRAIL CONCEPT MAP





# ERIE

## PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING

PLAN SPRING 2024

FOR THE TOWN OF ERIE,  
COLORADO



# PLACEMAKING

## AS THE NEXT INVESTMENT IN ERIE'S IDENTITY

### WHY PLACEMAKING & PUBLIC ART

Placemaking is the physical embodiment of what a community is and strives to be, and how people want their spaces to be experienced and understood. Through placemaking, communities infuse their built environment with soul and vibrancy, underlining their shared values and fostering a sense of identity that all who experience the space can feel and understand. Placemaking can be fun, tactical, creative, and utilitarian; it knits a place's built environment together and encourages people to use and experience spaces in new ways. Placemaking can include everything from community programming to site fixtures and furnishing to large-scale public art, with all interventions intended to create beacons for activity in public spaces.

### ERIE AS A DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE

Erie residents love that Erie is:

- Welcoming and accepting to all
- Family-friendly
- Immersed in natural beauty
- Rich in recreational amenities
- An active community
- Steeped in history

The recommendations in this plan strategically build upon these beloved characteristics to improve positive feelings of Erie and its overall desirability.

### WHY PLACEMAKING IS THE NEXT STEP

As a growing town, Erie should take the next step to establish its identity through placemaking. This will provide a more unifying experience for community members and create a platform to storytell the unique qualities of what makes Erie, Erie. Through the implementation of this plan, Erie will declare itself a unique place to live and visit, with its own sense of place among the plains communities, its own stories to tell, and entirely unique spaces to experience.

### HOW PUBLIC ART CAN BE A TOOL

Public art can be a powerful tool in placemaking efforts. Though it comes in many forms, all public art has one thing in common — it is available to be seen, heard, and/or felt by everyone. Art can be completely unique to a place and representative of a community. The Town of Erie has chosen to create this plan to support placemaking across its community. Three investment areas were chosen for this document to address with additional recommendations for Erie to continue to support public art and placemaking efforts alongside general recommendations for parks and trails.





# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

## COMMUNITY VISION FOR PLACEMAKING

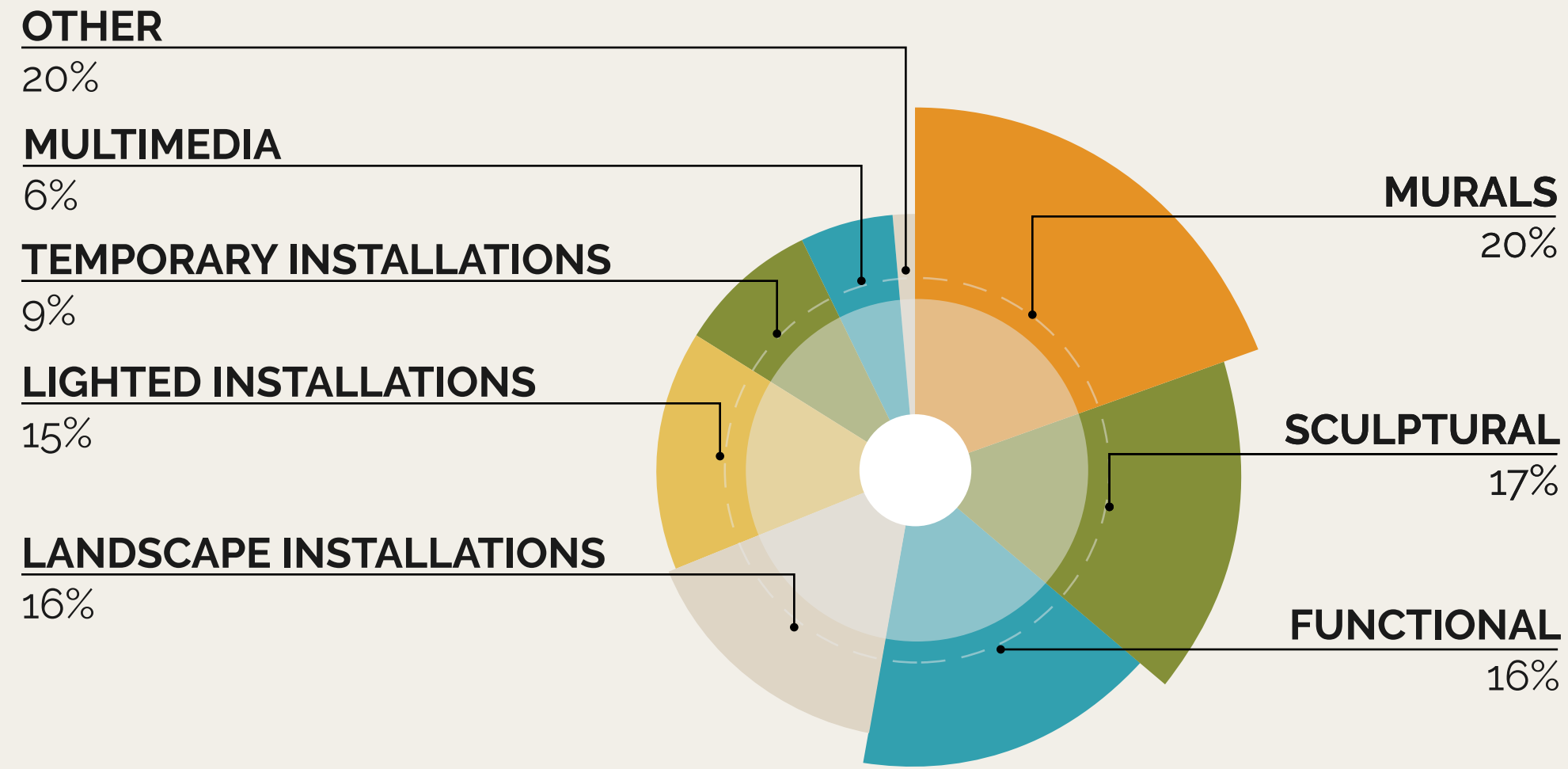
Community conversation participants and stakeholder survey respondents overwhelmingly communicated that the best part of Erie is its people. They are welcoming, fun, and cherish living in a growing community with a small-town feel. Erie residents united by the “Erie way” of building their community and committed to foster a unique identity within the plains region. Their vision for Erie’s future is grounded in its beautiful natural surroundings and distinct history, and leans into its small-town charm. The future of Erie is bright, playful, and true to itself. Placemaking elements will creatively integrate all that makes this place so special to community members.

## COMMUNITY PLACEMAKING MAP

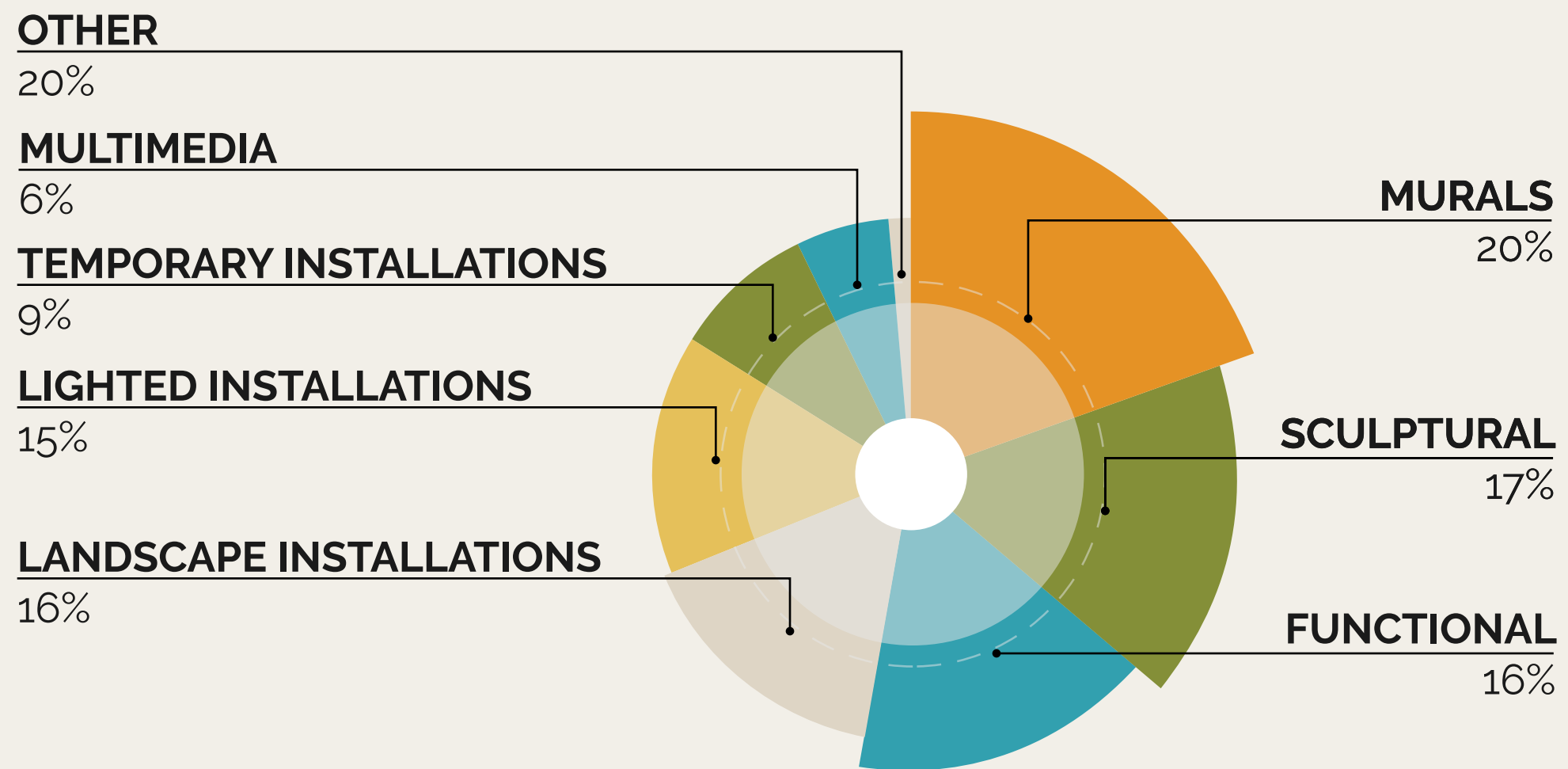
As part of the engagement portion of the planning process community members were asked to map different placemaking tones around town, the results of which are captured in this section, serving to provide direction for material choices in the Areas for Investment plan chapter.



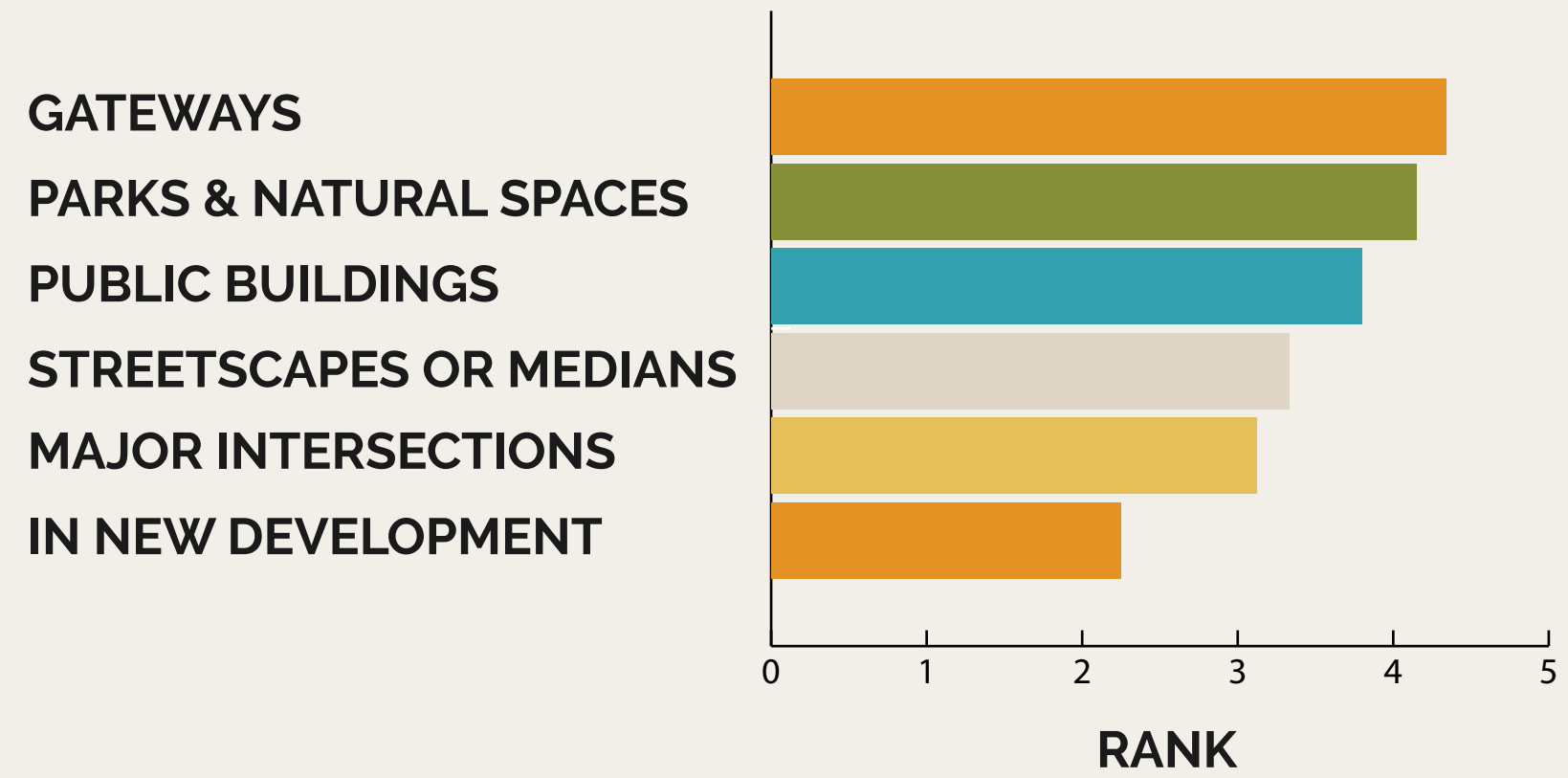
### WHAT TYPES OF PUBLIC ART WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN ERIE?



### WHICH PLACEMAKING STYLE BEST FITS ERIE?



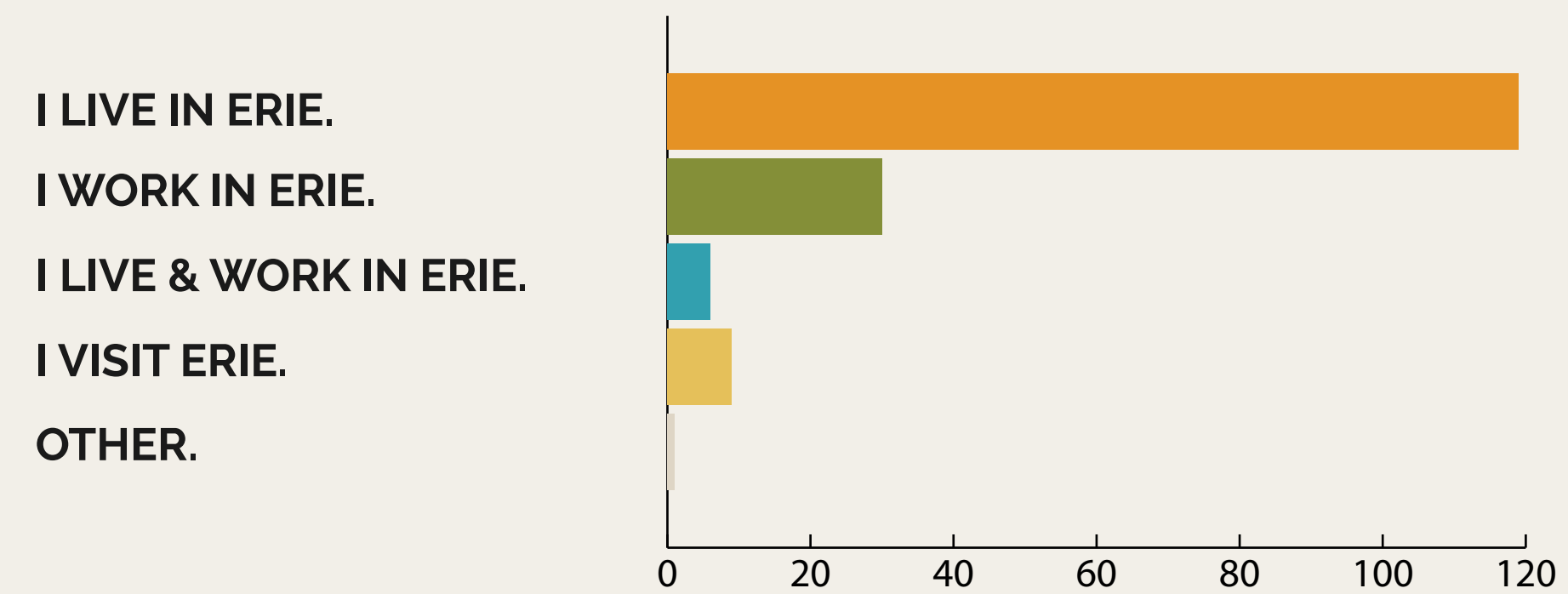
### WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE PUBLIC ART?

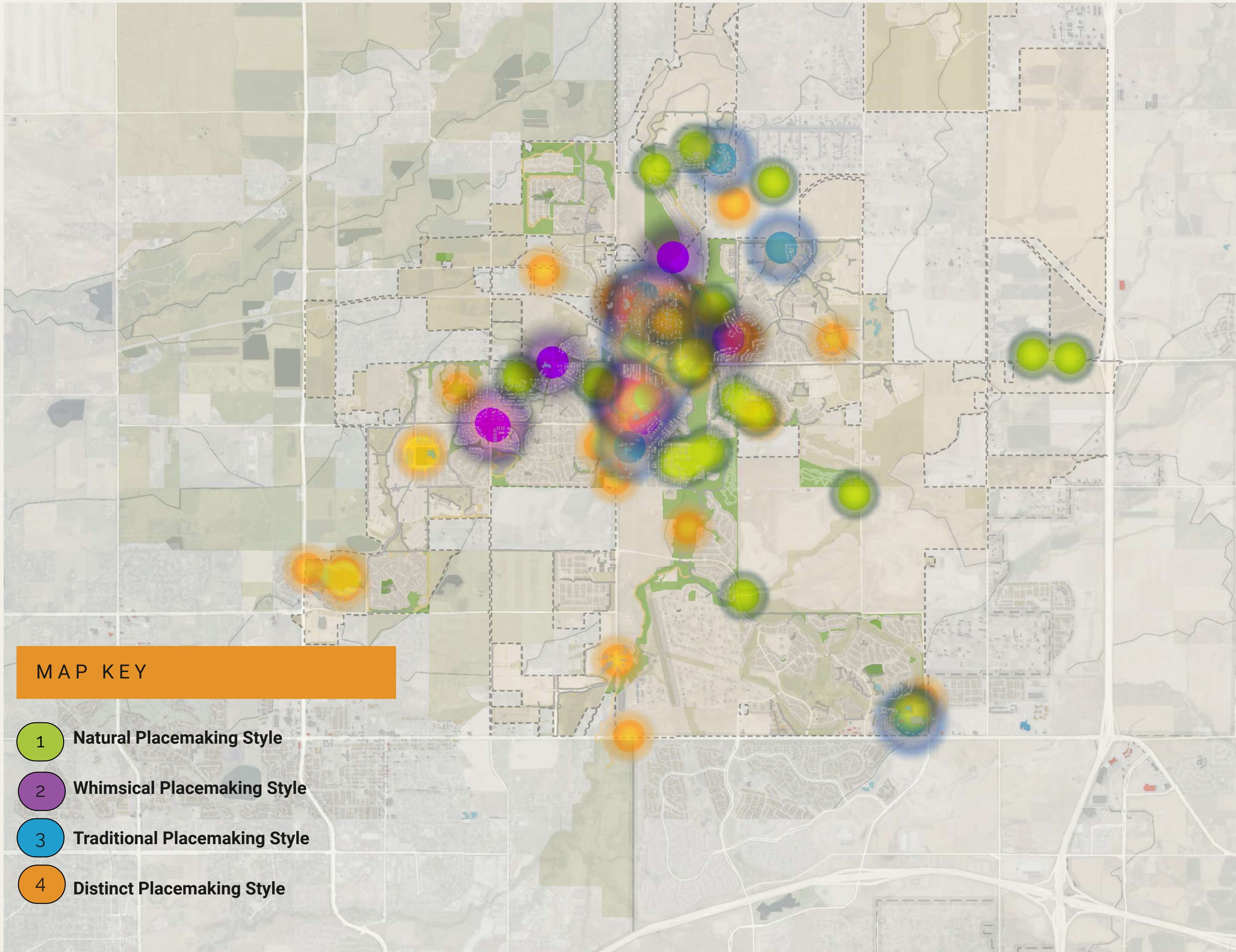


### SHOULD ERIE TRY TO STAND OUT, OR BLEND IN WITH ITS NEIGHBORS?



### WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO ERIE?





MAP KEY

- 1 Natural Placemaking Style
- 2 Whimsical Placemaking Style
- 3 Traditional Placemaking Style
- 4 Distinct Placemaking Style



Natural Materials & Tone



Whimsical Materials & Tone



Traditional Materials & Tone



Distinct Materials & Tone