# Old North Community Canvas: 1300-06 Montgomery St.

The Old North Community Canvas will bring an infusion of arts to an underserved area in an unconventional way: by turning a vacant lot into an outdoor art gallery.  Through partnerships with local art museum(s), we will display weatherproof reproductions of the museum's art-works.  The space will encourage community participation in the arts through Community Curators who develop exhibitions, as well as showcases for local artists.  We will ask visitors to explore, spend time, and enjoy the arts within the context of the revitalizing neighborhood.  We want all visitors to think of themselves not merely as consumers, but as *co-creators*—both of the arts and the community as a whole.  The Community Canvas will follow three guiding principles:

1. Promoting **COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP** of and participation in the arts.
2. Celebrating the **DIVERSITY** of the area and the city by creating a space where all feel welcome to  interact with the arts and each other.
3. Serving as an incubator of and outlet for **CREATIVE AND POSITIVE THINKING** about the future of St. Louis, and being a driving force in the development of the area as a **SUSTAINABLE**, **LIVABLE** community.

## Community Showcase

The unique perspectives of Community Curators will further enrich great works of art, and will highlight the important role that art and art institutions play in neighborhoods and lives throughout St. Louis.

## Catalyst

The Canvas is designed to be experienced on foot, leading to further exploration of the nearby arts community and commercial district.  The site can be the "signature" that establishes neighborhood identity as a growing arts district.

## Idea Incubator

The Canvas will feature  a "Community White Board" that will display images of areas in need of creative solutions and invite community members to "leave their mark" by writing and drawing their vision for the future of those areas.

## Envision the *COMMUNITY CANVAS* as...

## Educational Outreach

The Community Canvas will be used to host programs on the appreciation and creation of art. A partnership with a museum will expand the opportunities for education and outreach, at both the lot and the museum.

## Preservation Tool

The Canvas will serve as a "Brick Bank" for the St. Louis area. All built aspects of the canvas will be made from recycled St. Louis bricks, with the idea that they are  a place holder until new ideas are ready to use those bricks.

## Scalable Idea

With this as a blueprint, the neighborhoods of St. Louis could be dotted with "canvases" paying homage to the arts. Possible site ideas include sites solely devoted to sculpture, music, contemporary art, local art, and street art.

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## STL ABC (Art, Bricks, Community):

Paul Monahan and Kevin Murphy are seniors at St. Louis University. Paul is an Economics and Sociology major, while Kevin studies Urban Affairs and Anthropology. Sarah Sims taught art in Kansas City as part of the Teach for America program. She is currently working for The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art as coordinator of the Innovation Lab. Joe Monahan also served with Teach for America, and he continues to teach in Kansas City Public Schools. He is a tireless St. Louis booster, and he is a contributor for the local website NextSTL.com.