



Office of the Mayor • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 USA

Date: 05 March 2025
To: Staff & Council
From: Mayor Anzevino
Subject: Extension of 'Melody' & 365-Day Kindness Rock Garden

Background - Birdsong Project, Melody

In July 2022, the Birdsong project, a unique public art installation, throughout the Gazebo, Clocktower, and South (Ravenna St.) greens received a one-year approval from Council to display 150 small bird sculptures hand-painted by local artists. Resolution 22-88 (19 July 2022). As a part of this project, Melody, a larger bird exhibit, which was adorned with hundreds of small tiles painted by residents of all ages and housed on the Park Lane Green was installed in the Spring of 2023. Melody's stay on the Park Lane green was extended in 2024 to run through the end of April 2025 via Resolution 24-22 and 3 planters filled with painted Kindness rocks were added and dedicated to the community in the Spring of 2024 with Art class students from both Seton and the Hudson City Middle School in attendance.

Expanded Project Scope Locally and with Rome, Italy

While the 150 small birds were removed from the Clocktower, Gazebo and South (Ravenna St.) greens in the Spring of 2024, they have since been on display around the local area. Their first stop was in downtown Cuyahoga Falls, then at the Akron Art Museum and now currently at the Summit County Library. Future locations are being planned with the desire to bring the small birds back to the downtown Hudson greens for their final stop. The Birdsong project has also expanded globally and small, painted, 2D, metal birds have travelled to Rome, Italy and are currently hanging from an ancient magnolia tree in the courtyard of a library, as coordinated by Door2Art and with contributions from local artists in Rome and the nearby suburb of Alatri.

Continued Community Engagement Locally and with Landsberg, Germany

Door2Art would also like to propose a desire for the small, 2D, metal birds to be considered for a collaboration project with Hudson's Sister-City in Landsberg, Germany, with the hope that local artist there could paint and hang the birds in Landsberg as both a further extension of the Birdsong project, but to also continue as a unique way to connect the cities of Hudson Ohio and Landsberg Germany through public art. The cost of the metal birds would be covered by Door2Art, and the Mayor has physical examples available for viewing. The purpose of the 365-Day Kindness rock garden remains as a compliment to Melody and the Birdsong project. All aspects continue to create an increased sense of community and promote acts of kindness. Door2Art would also like to once again, involve Hudson's local merchants to help promote the project and drive more awareness and foot traffic to Hudson's downtown. In addition, Door2Art is supplying plain rocks and all paint supplies during the 2025 Earth Day event, so that residents can decorate and paint rocks to refill the 365-Day Kindness garden.

Financial Impact

The cost to the City of Hudson would be minimal and only for additional rocks to supply the Kindness Garden, which were purchased by the City in the past and then painted both by students from Seton and the Hudson City Schools as well as artists involved with Door2Art.

Return on Investment

With the return of the 150 smaller birds to Hudson in the Spring / Summer of 2026, Door2Art would then like to hold and coordinate an auction of all 150 of the smaller birds and provide those proceeds to either the City, to help fund future public art projects, or a local organization that is involved in community programs and projects focused on the arts in Hudson. With this auction and the promotion of Hudson as well as driving more foot traffic to our downtown, the net impact would be favorable to the City and the community.

Recommendations

As such, the Mayor and Staff wish to extend Melody and the 365-Day Kindness Rock Garden on the Park Lane Green by 18 months and through the Summer of 2026. Additionally, the Mayor is willing to work with Door2Art to coordinate a possible collaboration with Landsberg, Germany. The Mayor will also continue to collaborate with Door2Art and the local schools as necessary to continue to coordinate the painting and refill of Kindness Rocks as needed.