

Art All Around: Public Comments 2008

41 comments collected from the audience of the August 12 (South Portland) & August 14 (Rockland) finalists' public presentations. Participants' feedback will be shown to the jurors charged with making the final decision. The artist's made presentations in this order: #1, Catherine Callahan & Bret LeBlue (aerial maps abstracted); #2 Jaime Gili (colorful triangle shapes, abstractions); #3, Nicole Langille (ribbons of color); #4, Holger Friese (digital faces); #5, Sara Lambert Bloom and Bo Newsome (musicians proposed collaboration idea)

Loved the Portland water front/ Casco Bay Islands (1st presentation)

Pixels Very Good/ Last presentation too inaccessible.

#1 and #2

Ohio Girl Rocks!

Great Range of Finalists.

Favor the pixel images entry.

Enjoyed the links of art and place developed by all the artists

Music, Art, Children

5 pulls a huge group together

#2 very good needs no explaining!!

The images of the coastline to the urban geometry of streets were great. Now how to tie the image to what people are seeing?

I loved Catherine and Bret's because I love the map concept and the Maine connection!

I also loved Sarah and Bo also a Maine connection and music and children. Both first and last entries were my favorite!

Bo & Sarah's proposal will bring the greatest attention to Portland. It is a well thought out collaboration involving children (our future) and multi media attention. Unfortunately I felt the visual images were weak. Visually I was enthralled with Nicole's work & love the Arial views of Holger's images.

So Po, Faces, Music

The oboists combine music and art for a true representation of Maine

I thought Bret and Catharine's design was extraordinary!

The oboists design was truly inspirational and a great way to involve the community. A clear winner!

I was especially attracted to Pixels and the impact from highway and air. While not distracting as driving you 'might' catch sight of an image!

The "Tunes of Portland" Sara Lambert Bloom, presentation had great energy and execution. I love the complexity of the story behind the designs and how that would add to the depth of Portland.

The topographical images of Maine through Callahan/LeBlue were most true to the spirit of Maine.

Whatever the message it will need to register with viewers between 5-8 seconds. Keep it simple.

Newsome/Bloom resonates on so many levels! True collaboration of community and many arts! This one really speaks (and sings!) to the people of Maine!

I was very impressed with all the artists. I feel that we do need color during several months of the year. Contestant 2, Jaime Gili of London, has a great concept for overall color presentation and design.

Nicole Langille – Has a wonderful feel for color and space.

All artists were exceptional with very individual perspectives - tying in the painted ships with the tanks by Nicole was wonderful. Maine will benefit by any of these designs.

Catherine and Bret's design was interesting with the maps of Maine.

Bo and Sara's presentation was great. I loved the design with the music connection.

The Maine there is, of course, very appealing. However, the Gili design is dynamic and interesting. The pixel photo presentation was fascinating, but does not fit as well to the landscape. Nicole's presentation was interesting and usually fun and dynamic – the music based design seemed to require too much explanation, although the community outreach was interesting. All are so creative. Congratulations – a tough decision.

Fascinating project. Delighted it is getting off the ground. You have 5 great and very creative submissions. Keep up the process!

4 of the 5 selections shared graphic similarity and lack of non-geometric elements—where is nature? NO reference to OIL?

Thanks. I found the digital imaging most interesting.

Nicole Langille's concepts and imagery speaks so well to the movement along the highway and to the imagery associated with subtle and vibrant "movement" within and surrounding Portland.

The music-based proposal is fascinating, but the imagery did not feel musical. Instead it felt molecular. Its formal elements were not pleasing, nor did they enhance the environment of the tanks. The portrait-based digitized images are not very reflective of Maine. Do we really want to see portraits along the highway as symbolic of Maine's Environment? Missing the NATURAL connection to this beautiful place, Maine, through imagery, shape, or color.

I personally enjoyed Nicole's presentation and idea. I like visually how it isn't offensive to the eye and also how it becomes more vibrant as you move closer towards Portland. The second best for me was Jamie's, although I found some of his brownish-greens a bit drab.

Thank you FairPoint.

Glad I don't have to choose – I hope care will be given to the notion of "living with" the designs as well as how it will age and wear and what's to be done or not done about that.

I'd be happy with any of them and proud to show them off.

(Any chance to post the designs up or the PowerPoint presentation on a website or blog?)

Portland tune towers of Maine is an excellent example of the collaboration of art and music so important to the arts of our state. BRAVO!

Callahan and LeBleu's presentation uses images of Maine to appreciate Maine – taking the aerial images to new uses and awareness. BRAVO!

Newsome and Bloom presented an extremely well thought out proposal that takes in every aspect of creativity. It was the most sensitive to the state of Maine as well. It gets my total vote!

Bloom and Newsome – most creative, collaborative, community art concept – Maine sings! YES.

I loved Nicole Langille's thoughtful presentation explaining what's behind her choice of images – the colors were inspiring – her consideration of the cemetery environment and all the surrounding features earns my vote!

And –

Gili's colors are also very exciting.

No doubt that we need something that represents Maine and only one finalist hit that mark.

I was late so didn't see everything, but I thought the music idea was brilliant.

I thought all of the ideas were fantastic. My favorites were those that tried to incorporate Maine directly into the design. Nicole Langille did a good job of this, but using Maine history, as well as its environment. My second favorite was the pixel pictures, which used historical figures, both nationally and locally. My third favorite was Jaime's because of its boldness. Overall, they were all awesome, and I do not envy the difficult decision the jurors will have to make.

Semifinalist #1 should be selected!

Nicole's was both conceptually (for those informed of her intention) and also formally (for those who will see it without background/context). Color scheme and directionality is also sophisticated.

The Newsome/Bloom proposal is inspiring visually and in its depiction of music – creativity across domains! With opportunity for community input, and potentially the chance to broadcast the music via radio or kiosk – brilliant. My second favorite is the Callahan/LeBleu design – very place-centered and celebratory of the Maine we love.

All of the designs are great but I found Holger Friese's design to be the most intriguing.

In this order: 1. Gili 2. Langille 3. Friese

Callahan/LeBleu really captured the spirit of Maine without cliché. And it's beautiful. My #1 choice.

BUT!

ALL were jaw-droppingly creative and inspiring.

I liked the more abstract images from Jaime Gili and Nicole Langille. Thanks!

I enjoyed the presentation thanks! Your art had lots of colors.

[child handwriting]

#3 artist, Nicole; loved her presentation.

I liked Nicole's the best! Her long lines and sweeps of color and big shapes were well suited to the scale and dimensions of the canvas. The concept and execution I think reflect Portland's "placefulness" the best of these finalists.

#5 (Sara and Bo) gets my vote! I love the idea of involving the children of Maine and the 21 songs which represent all aspects of our Maine heritage.

All the presentations were exciting. My favorite was Jaime Gili's project. It is big, bold and makes an impact right away. It can be

appreciated at 60 mph. Even 70 mph. I like it because it is not complicated, it is beautiful.