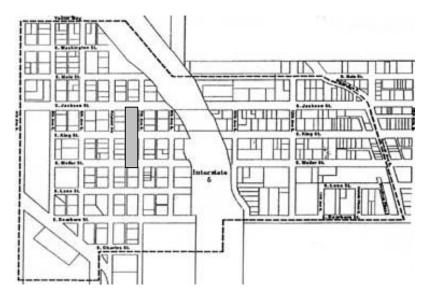


Maynard Artisans' Alley

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- Buildings along Maynard Alley renovated to create studio space for artists
- Alley will be activated to become a community space
- Blocks will be partially enclosed to create variation in different sections of the alley
- Platforms made of black polished granite constructed to provide outdoor spaces for artists to create and sell their art
- Alley paved with a textured black mosaic of river rocks
- Awnings installed to provide shelter and enclose smaller spaces within the alley
- Bed filters installed along sides of alley to collect storm water runoff. Planted with Japanese timber bamboo
- Bamboo nests used to hide dumpsters
- Pillars of varying height installed as a place to sit, or use as tables

 Signs placed on corners of buildings leading into the alley to draw visitors in and provide information about events

Renovated buildings on this stretch of Maynard Alley will create studio spaces for Asian and Asian American artists to live and work in. The alley will function as an extension of their studio spaces and help to create a more livable and community friendly alley in the neighborhood. A place for traditions to be passed on and observed, and for inter-generational friendships to develop, the alley will be transformed by the presence of artists and their creativity. To help foster a sense of place, the blocks are composed of different degrees of enclosure, creating compressions on the end of the blocks and releases in the middle. The intention here is to vary the section of the alley so that different levels of light and texture fill the alley in a rhythmic manner. The alley, through its "bamboo beds" and "bamboo nests," also helps to foster the cyclical and temporal event of harvest: one that is all too rare in an urban neighborhood.

Platforms provide outdoor places for artists to spill outside with their craft. These platforms provide smaller spaces of slightly different sizes for artists to sell their work or practice their craft (throwing pots, making paper, sculpting...). The platforms are flat but vary in width and length, reflecting the form of the awnings in seen in precedent studies of well-used small alleys. The variations in size serve to decrease the width and scale of the alley. The material is smooth black polished granite, which rises out of the highly textured matte black mosaic of river rocks in the alley proper.

Awnings help enclose spaces, provide shelter from the rain, and from the pigeons that sit on the wires above the alley. They create smaller places for artists to use as an extension of their studio spaces. The walls under the awnings are "canvases" for artists to use as installation space. The undersides of the awnings are copperlined and reflect light from a fixture on the wall. Reflected light at a lower level than the existing streetlights is more aesthetically pleasing and safer. It helps eliminate the glare and high contrast shadows of the current lights, and specific facial features become more recognizable.

Bed filters along the sides of the alleys collect storm water runoff and allow water to re-enter the atmosphere via evapotranspiration. Any water that passes through the system leaves filtered and overflow from the beds enters the existing drainage system. They are planted with Japanese timber bamboo, which will be cut down and replanted at intervals. The bamboo with then be available to make the bamboo nests. The primary intent in using these is to create community identity and improve street livability. The audible experience of live bamboo in the alley helps to quiet and soften its starkness. Visually contrasting the red of the brick walls and the black of the mosaic ground, it helps bring the alley into a smaller scale as it engages the senses and physically encloses or compresses space through its tall arching form.

Bamboo Nests, primarily a move to address community identity and street livability, hide the dumpsters. These provide an experience of harvest in the alley, where live bamboo will be cut down, dried, split, and made into huge "nests" throughout the alley. They will be rebuilt at intervals in accordance with the harvesting of the bamboo. They would therefore look different every time the artists in the community rebuild them. A tourist attraction, eye-catcher, or reason to enter the alley, they also allow for a sense of community to begin to evolve and a cyclical event to be established. The tradition and the craft of growing, harvesting, preparing, building and sculpting with bamboo can be passed on, observed, or learned in the community.

Pillars are primarily in the flea market but are also in several places along the alley. These stone benches are simple two feet square pillars of varying heights, allowing for places to sit, gather, or use as tables to sell from or use as an extension of the studio table. Small in dimension and varying in height, their form reflects the awnings and scale found in precedent studies of small alleys.

Signs placed on the corners of the buildings leading into the alley let people realize that it is not a typical alley. These signs are community boards, announcing events occurring in the alley. Notices for classes taught by the artists, demonstrations, sales, or open houses fill these signs. The frame is bamboo twig bundles harvested from the bamboo growing in the alley, and remade in a similar manner as the bamboo nests. Transparencies are places in the

building facades that are opened up. Most of these already structurally exist in the facades but have been boarded up. The intent is to address street livability by opening up the alley in spaces so it does not feel like a canyon. They also serve to draw in visitors, as most of them exist on the corners of the buildings. Transparencies allow opportunities to create more building entries on the alley. With people coming and going, the alley will be enlivened, and will become safer as a result.

