

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Don Tanner – 1-248-762-1533
dtanner@tannerfriedman.com

**MOUNT CLEMENS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, ANTON ART CENTER, and
MOUNT CLEMENS DDA COLLABORATE TO RESTORE ART HISTORY**
Initial Funding Secured from America250MI for nearly \$50,000 City-Wide Project

Mount Clemens, Mich. – Public art is a powerful community tool, cultural asset, and reflection of its place and time. Recognizing a responsibility to maintain local art works that have fallen into disrepair due to weather and age, Anton Art Center, with the Mount Clemens DDA and Mount Clemens Historical Commission, have formed a partnership, *Art Renewed: Restoring Public Art* to recondition and repair several significant city sculptures that tell the story of Mount Clemens and Macomb County.

With a project budget of \$47,300 to restore three outdoor art pieces, the partnership has just secured a grant for \$36,000 from America250MI, an official committee designed to engage Michiganders through programs and grants leading to the nation's 250th anniversary next year. Additionally, \$6,000 has been committed through the Mount Clemens DDA. With those funds in place, \$5,300 remains to be raised for completion of the initiative.

The three projects being restored as part of *Art Renewed* through art assessment, cleaning, structural reinforcement, fabricating, repainting and refinishing include:

- *Cecil* – a whimsical sea serpent bicycle rack that has become a beloved landmark located in front of the Anton Art Center
- *Galileo's Night Vision* – a striking sculpture that invites contemplation of science and discovery located at the corner of Main Street and Market Street
- *Conceptual Seats* – an interactive work that encourages public engagement through form and function located at the corner of Pine Street and Macomb Place. Artist Lois Teicher is actively involved in the initiative.

“As we coordinate project management, community outreach and engagement for this initiative, we are gratified to play an integral role in reaffirming the commitment to cultural enrichment and public expression by the city, county and state of Michigan,” said Matt Matthews, executive director, Anton Art Center.

“Through Art Renewed these classic works will remain accessible and meaningful to current and future generations, helping to preserve our City's legacy as a cultural hub of Macomb County,” said Phil Gilchrist, Chair, Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority.

Brian Tingley, Community Development Director and Mount Clemens Historical Commission Liaison: "By restoring these sculptures, we aim to foster a deeper appreciation for the role of public art in community identity, civic pride and public memory. The City of Mount Clemens has a long history of supporting public art and we are proud to carry on this tradition into the future."

Donations are being accepted at <https://www.theartcenter.org/restoration> It is the goal of the partnership to complete its work by EARLY 2026.

America250MI is Michigan's statewide committee tasked with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the American Revolution's role in Michigan's history and the impact that these, and various historical venues, have had on the people of Michigan's past, present and future.

The Anton Art Center (AAC) was founded in 1969 in the historic Carnegie Library building in walkable downtown Mount Clemens, Michigan. For more information visit: www.theartcenter.org or call 586-469-8666.

"The Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority (DDA) provides support to the downtown district by ensuring economic vitality, preventing historic property deterioration, and encouraging visitors and residents to enjoy all that the downtown has to offer."

"The City of Mount Clemens Historical Commission is responsible for preserving, protecting, and promoting the city's historical and cultural heritage. It advises the city on matters related to historic preservation and works to increase public awareness of Mount Clemens' rich history through projects, events, and educational initiatives."

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