



DIA+Plymouth Partners in Public Art Sculpture  
*Plymouth, City At The Crossroads* by Vito J. Valdez 2019-2021

Materials, Symbols & Imagery [www.plymoutharts.com](http://www.plymoutharts.com)

This public art piece is situated on a piece of City-owned property directly in line with the fountain in the center of Kellogg Park. The sculpture's circular foundation and fencing mirror the footprint of our new fountain and the surrounding benches. The fencing around the sculpture was a gift of the Wilcox Foundation and fabricated by Disenos Ornamental Ironwork in Detroit. The motifs on the fence were inspired by the historical gate and ironwork that tops the brick wall around the Markham/Wilcox House just north and behind the sculpture.

The living vine in the copper urn, created by artist Kristyn Koth is a unique and defining feature of this piece. It represents our community which will continue to grow and change each season and every year with the foundations of Plymouth firmly established beneath it. The copper urn will also change each year, developing a beautiful patina. The urn is supported by a pipe that goes 4 feet into the ground underneath the sculpture, returning rain water to the earth. This is environmentally important to the site, eliminating excess runoff over the sides of the elevated container preventing overflow from damaging the art elements of the sculpture over time.

### ELEMENTS TO NOTICE....

\* The Plymouth Preservation Network provided original bricks from at least three phases of construction of the Daisy Factory originally located on Union Street. Some have exterior paint on them, others are marked JSH (locally John S. Haggerty manufactured). Historically correct methods of masonry construction by Dann Finn from Dan's Custom Brickwork add to the significance of this colorful brick foundation.



\* A white target symbolizes the Daisy Air Rifle Factory, a place of employment for many Plymouth residents back in the day! A historical vignette, complete with BBs in the wood floor boards can be seen in our museum on Main Street.

\* Native stone and rocks were all sourced from Plymouth park creek beds. Imagine what they would say if they could talk!

\* Animal ceramic tiles and dimensional pieces, many shown in family units and pairs - you will find leopard frog, robins, heron, bluebirds, fox, trout, salmon and more. They were created in this way to symbolize growth and continuity, nurturing and focus on diverse family units. A canine companion represents the first responders in our community.

\* The carved stone fish emphasizes the importance of protecting our Michigan waterways and therefore the creatures who rely on them.



\* Indigenous people - Members of the Potawatami tribe were the first residents of this area and are still active in SE Michigan. Carved tiles and "four seasons" symbol were included by the artist as part of the focus on our native people.

\* Plymouth historic pieces include glass marbles found in our old Plymouth Fairground behind Maple and Fairground Street.

\* Leaf and tree ceramics - Plymouth is known as the City of Trees, thus the impressions for these art tiles were made with leaves from Plymouth trees. Oaks, elms, maples, black walnut, pines, and more continue to provide beauty, shade, shelter, and consumer products.

\* A ceramic model of the AlterCar and an assembly-line nod to the greater automobile manufacturing industry; a Plymouth hood ornament tops the sculpture off. See one of the original Alter Cars in the Plymouth Historical Museum.

\* Railroad tracks form the trellis for the living vine with railroad spikes and ore at the base, found at our (many!) Plymouth crossings. The train ceramic model represent the Pere Marquette line - the Crossroads in the sculpture title.



\* Black and white figures on the east side of the sculpture represent those we lost during the CoVid-19 pandemic, which became a significant factor in our project, both personally and globally.