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Jackie Bertolette came to work Monday to find someone had stolen one of the more than 20 permanent art sculptures on Vine Street over the weekend.

The discovery not only disappointed the co-owner of My Song Boutique, but saddened the artist of the sculpture, called “3 Goddesses,” which displayed a burnt reddish, orange circle and two crescent moons facing outward on each side of it.

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“This particular artist worked his little patootie off,” Bertolette said. “It’s so sad. It was just a very nice piece — they’re all nice pieces — but it was just a beautiful, beautiful piece. We’re so disappointed.”

Bertolette said a police report has been filed, and she asks that anyone who may know anything or happens to see the piece, which was in front of Spray U Tan and done by one of its owners, to contact the Willoughby Police Department.

“It was taken sometime after we closed Saturday night, between then and Monday, so we’re assuming in the middle of the night Saturday or Sunday,” Bertolette said.

“We would really like to have it back, not only for the artist who worked so hard on it, but also for the citizens of Willoughby and beyond. It was such a beautiful thing for the city and we just hope people respect the rest of the art that remains and any future stuff we put up.”

The DiVine District — which includes My Song Boutique, Spray U Tan, Schultz Upholstery, Genis Woodworking and Design and Body 4 U Personal Training — recently kicked off its initiative to spruce up Vine Street and create a larger presence in the city by hosting an artwalk Sept. 3.

With the help of the city, it permanently installed the modern art sculptures, many from recycled local material, on Vine Street between Erie and Skiff streets.

Prior to the artwalk, many of the businesses on the street were proactive by rejuvenating their frontage with flowers, banners and renovations, according to the district.

While the district still plans to have an “ArtStock” event from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 15, the stolen piece of art puts a dent in things, Bertolette said.

“It’s just a shame,” she added.

However, the group will continue its efforts, not only with “ArtStock” — a free event for both artists and the public, in which the artists will do their crafts in a creative assembly and allow folks to enjoy, ask questions and participate — but

also with an artwalk event each year.



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