

Artist's Statement, Neal McDonald, April 2012

Lee Boot, the Associate Director of UMBC's Imaging Research Center, is the leader of this project, for which I have made an augmented reality app, primarily for iPads, that displays a panoramic image of a particular architectural mural. It will be delivered to a federal agency in January 2013.

Lee manages with a light touch, and I have had a great deal of influence on defining the behavior and feel of the object: the modelessness of it, its emphasis on delivering a tactile experience to the user, and all the specifics of implementation.

The crosshair in the middle, when touched to a symbol on the mural, selects it. Selection makes available a larger image of that symbol, and an explanatory text.

The small image on the right margin is a thumbnail of the selected symbol; touching it displays the closeup shot. The white rectangle at the bottom is for displaying the accompanying text—"Keeping Things Whole" is the placeholder text, an old poem by Mark Strand. Touching either of the inset rectangles causes them to alternately enlarge and move to the center, then shrink and move back to the side.

Professor Dan Bailey took the pictures and made the panoramic image that is the root of the experience, and, in addition to Lee, Abby Salvo and Mark Jarzynski, also at the IRC, have contributed to the project's design.

The project is not done, and it is not public, so, more than this, I will not say.