

Art for All
Fort Wayne Public Art Master Plan
Stakeholder Report: March 19, 2019

Stakeholder Groups Engaged

The following people and organizations were invited to participate in one-on-one or focus group sessions either in person on January 14 and 15 or over the phone throughout the months of January and February. This list of stakeholders was developed in collaboration with the Steering Committee, City Staff, and the Public Art Commission. The following organizations were represented.

- Fort Wayne Elected Officials
 - Mayor Henry
 - Councilmember Crawford
- Fort Wayne City Staff
 - Cindy Joyner, Community Development
 - Seth Weinglass, Public Utilities
 - Stacy Haviland, Redevelopment
 - Nancy Townsend, Redevelopment
 - Shan Gunawardena, Public Works
 - Kyle Winling, Traffic Engineering
 - DeWayne Nodine, City Utilities
 - Paul Spoelhof, Planning and Policy
 - Sherese Fortriede, Planning and Policy
 - Russ Garriott, Planning and Policy
 - Don Orban, Planning and Policy
 - Creager Smith, Planning and Policy
 - Steve McDaniel, Recreation and Parks
 - Dan Baisden, Planning and Policy
- Public Art Commissioners
 - Nancy Stewart
 - Pam Holocher
 - Rena Bradley
 - Alec Johnson
 - Paul Sauerteig
 - Randy Strebis
 - Renata Robinson
 - Leonard Helfrich
 - Jan Krist
 - Tim Parsley
- Local Artists
 - Adam Garland

- Matt McClure, ArtLink
- Tom Smith
- Dan Swartz, WunderKammer
- Jason Swisher
- Jennifer Ford
- Neighborhood Liaison
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- AWS Foundation
- Northeast Area Partnership
- Southeast Area Partnership
- Southwest Area Partnership
- Tri-State Watershed Alliance
- Citilink
- SE Corporate Art
- English Bonner Mitchell
- Fort Wayne Community Schools
- Hagerman Construction
- Fort Wayne Newspaper
- Allen County Public Libraries
- Fort Wayne Greenways
- Community Leaders
- Arts United
- Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana
- Fort Wayne Community Foundation
- NPR Fort Wayne
- RTM Ventures
- Greater Fort Wayne
- Science Central
- RLW Law
- University of Saint Francis
- Fort Wayne Museum of Art
- American Electric Power
- Downtown Fort Wayne
- Ash Brokerage
- Shindigz
- Fort Wayne Magazine
- NEI Partnership
- ARCH

Individual Interviews and Focus Groups

The following is a summary of feedback heard during individual stakeholder interviews and focus groups.

The following questions were asked to each stakeholder:

1. Introduce yourself, the organization you represent, your last experience with art, and three words to describe Fort Wayne.
2. What is your vision for public art in Fort Wayne?
3. Where do you believe investment in public art should be focused and why? (Both Specific Locations and General Locations)

Overall the information is divided into small sections to provide a snapshot of themes from the stakeholders.

Current Perception of the Public Art Program

Current Perception of Commission and Public Art program

- There have been no clear expectations set for the public art program to the broader community.
- This is an opportunity to promote that the City cares about itself and about the community.
- The formation of a Public Art Commission is a major paradigm shift for the City of Fort Wayne.

Future Vision for the Public Art Program

Perceived Value of Public Art to the Community

- Public Art has the power to:
 - Draw people to the community;
 - Be a major tool in revitalizing both the downtown and neighborhoods;
 - Expose the people of Fort Wayne to Art;
 - Celebrate the past while looking towards the future of the city;
 - Enhance the creative culture's experience and retain their talent;
 - Bring people together from all areas of the city, all socioeconomic and racial backgrounds;
 - Cement a legacy of civic engagement and pride;
 - Provide diversity of experience and thought for all people of Fort Wayne;
 - Raise the profile of the City of Fort Wayne in the region and throughout the Midwest;
 - Create 'third' spaces for the community to come together;
 - Cement the reputation of the City of Fort Wayne as an affordable mid-sized city that is a destination for young artists to live;
 - Increase livability throughout the City;

- Welcome people to the City of Fort Wayne and create a warm experience for them throughout their stay;
- Equalize the human experience in Fort Wayne, bringing residents together;
- Bolster the built environment;
- Explore the diversity of Fort Wayne residents;
- Increase career viability of local artists; and
- Create vibrant, beautiful spaces throughout the City;

Vision for the Collection

- The Public Art Program of Fort Wayne is dedicated to presenting a wide variety of high-quality public art, working with the community to enhance the built environment and enrich the lives of all residents.

Accessibility

- Fort Wayne has an opportunity to create universally designed public art that is inclusive of people of all abilities. Universally designed public art could be created by engaging multiple senses at a single piece.

Funding

- Considerations for funding local and national artists
 - Neighborhood investments could be restricted to regional artists
 - Downtown investments could be open to national artists
- Neighborhood Installations
 - Matching funds could be required by neighborhoods to commission artworks
- Explore Diversification of Funding
 - One-time developer fee for projects totalling over \$1,000,000.00
 - Public Art in the development of City-owned properties
 - Downtown Improvement District Matching Funds
 - Percent for Arts Ordinance
 - National and Statewide Grants

Partnership Opportunities

Build on Fort Wayne’s strong partnerships between local government, businesses, non-profits, and foundations by clarifying the City’s role as a funder and steward of the Public Art Collection and of the Public Art Master Plan. Partners include but are not limited to:

- Arts United
- Fort Wayne Public Library System
- Fort Wayne City Schools
- Visit Fort Wayne
- Fort Wayne Community Foundation
- Purdue Fort Wayne
- Greater Fort Wayne

- Fort Wayne Trails
- Knight Foundation
- Saint Francis University
- Park Foundation

Programming Opportunities

The following programmatic ideas were presented multiple times by multiple stakeholders.

- Artist in Residence Program (City of Fort Wayne Offices and at the quadrant level-rotating on a yearly basis)
- Artist-led community engagement processes focused on identifying history, culture, and spaces neighborhoods value as locations for public art
- Fort Wayne Sculpture Tour
- Bike/Walking Tour of the Public Art Collection
- Identification of privately owned walls for mural installation by private property owners
- Programming around the existing murals
 - Free Ice Cream at the Panda Mural
 - Walt Whitman Readings
 - Yoga in the Breathe Alley
- Mentorship program for emerging public artists
- Illuminate Fort Wayne - the City of Light
- Culturally Complete Streets as a citywide policy
- Bus Gallery partnership with Citilink
- Vacant storefront installations
- Consistent unveiling programs with artist talks by the commissioned artist
- Artist grants

Locations

Identify locations where community based public art can be integrated into citywide urban design efforts. Locations include but are not limited to:

- Throughout the neighborhoods
 - Partnership with the Landbank
 - On Vacant Lots
 - Public Art in neighborhoods should celebrate the uniqueness of each quadrant
 - Investments at the gateways of neighborhoods
- Parks
 - Along greenways, and trails
 - Pufferbelly Trail
 - Southwest Trail Network
 - Trail Mouths
 - Large sculptural elements along the downtown trails and smaller investments in the neighborhoods along the trails

- Along the River, viewable by watercraft users
- Downtown
 - Alleyways
 - Gateways
 - Riverfront
 - Central Station
 - Urban League/Transit Hub
 - At bus stops
 - Within The Landing Streetscape Improvements
 - Electric Works
 - Grand Wayne Center
- On Infrastructure
 - Viaducts
 - Bridges
 - Flood Wall Structure
 - In medians
 - Roundabouts
 - Traffic boxes
 - Airport
- On our corridors
 - Along each commercial corridor
 - At the gateways of the collar communities
 - Broadway, Wells Street, North Anthony, State Street

Opportunities for Case Studies

- Portsmouth, Ohio Murals
- Sandusky, Ohio Neighborhood Initiative
- Meyer Garden in Fort Rapids
- Wynwood Business Improvement District: Miami, Florida
- Cabbagetown: Atlanta Neighborhood
- Cincinnati Mural Program
- Spartanburg, South Carolina
- Decatur, Indiana Sculpture Walk
- Carmel, Indiana

Policy Needs/ Process Documents

Consider the following policies and procedures for the operation and implementation of the public art program:

Policies include:

- Maintenance Policy
- Donation Policy
- Collection Management Policy

- Temporary Public Art Policy
- Guidelines for Memorials

Procedures include:

- Developer Framework
- Review Process
- Process for approval of art on private property
- Equity Statement
- Partnership guidelines
- Mural Guidelines
- Develop a work plan procedure that outlines the creation of a 5 year strategic plan for the Public Art Commission and City of Fort Wayne

Adopted Fort Wayne Plans to Build Upon

- Downtown Fort Wayne Public Realm Action Plan
- Riverfront Plan
- Plan-it Allen Comprehensive Plan
- Parks Master Plan
- Front Door Fort Wayne