City of Fort Wayne
2014 Award Nomination: Public Spaces

IPFW SCULPTURE with Purpose™
presented by Lincoln Financial Group

Thomas C. Henry, Mayor
INNOVATION

- Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) celebrated its 50th anniversary through a unique public art initiative, Sculpture with Purpose™, that enriched Fort Wayne with 50 sculptural bike racks.

- Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry created a task force to establish legacy initiatives. It stated “A strong arts and culture presence improves a community’s identity by connecting residents and visitors with what is unique about their community.”

*I’ll Keep an Eye on It* by David Bibelhauser
INNOVATION

• Encourages the benefits of cycling while permanently enhancing the visual landscape of IPFW’s campus and Fort Wayne’s downtown with permanent art for everyone to enjoy.

• Fort Wayne was recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community in 2012. Bike racks provide cyclists with convenience and confidence that their bike will be safe in their absence.

• Sculptural bike racks innovatively deliver the practicality of a bike rack in the package of public art.

Confluence
by Design Collaborative
REPRESENTATION

• The City of Fort Wayne identified sculpture locations that provide high visibility and frequent use.

• Art and cycling experts were included on the selection committee that reviewed 160 sculpture designs from 36 regionally and nationally recognized artists.
Area schools and groups serving those with disabilities were given recycled bicycles of various sizes and styles to creatively turn into art.
SUSTAINABILITY

• All of the sculptures are permanent and most are located in public spaces that are easily visible from the road and accessible to pedestrians.

• A maintenance fund was established for providing necessary long-term care of the sculptures.

• An agreement with Arts United, a local arts organization, to own and manage the sculptures installed in public places was established and has delivered a template for future public art projects.

Bike Rack Runner
by Hadiya Finely
Material and design specifications were developed to meet safety and durability goals.
EXECUTION

• The multitude of steps that led from initial research to project plan development and, finally, to implementation were deliberately crafted thanks to the partners’ desire to create the best possible result for the university and the City of Fort Wayne.

• Other cities with similar projects were contacted for advice. Experts in sculpture fabrication were engaged.

• With permanence as the goal, leaders attended to every detail in order to ensure success.
OUTCOMES

• 50 sculptural bike racks were placed throughout the City and on IPFW’s campus.

• 50 public places were transformed for interaction between residents and their city.

*Florality*
by Design Collaborative

*Color Wheel*
by Delineation Architecture

sculpturewithpurpose.com
OUTCOMES

• The quality of life for Fort Wayne residents has been enhanced based on an increase in bike rack usage and sculpture engagement.

• A template for future public art projects was developed and implemented.

• 50 recycled bikes were transformed into art by area students and people with disabilities.

Giant Party Toothpicks
by Joan Drizin
OUTCOMES

• Tourism increased due to additional state-wide and regional recognition in magazines and travel materials as measured by Visitor Center guests requesting a map of the sculpture locations.

• Kickstart, a new annual downtown festival that celebrates bikes, art, and music was initiated.
REPLICATION

- IPFW and the City of Fort Wayne are proud of the results of this transformative collaboration.
- Sculpture with Purpose represents a project that other groups can replicate.
- Documentation of the project’s steps to success will provide valuable information that others can use to transform their City the way Fort Wayne has been transformed.

Heart and Soul
by Robert Barnum