



DISCOVER
TERRE HAUTE
THROUGH
PUBLIC ART

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TURN TO THE RIVER
A PROJECT OF ART SPACES, INC.

Art Spaces brings together people, business and art to build a vibrant city

FILED

JUL 13 2017

2012-2014

CITY CLERK

Art Spaces conducted the Planning Phase for *Turn to the River*, which generated a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Matching funds were provided by City of Terre Haute (in-kind), Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment, Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and Ivy Tech.

Three internationally known artists were commissioned by Art Spaces to participate in the planning

- Stacy Levy (Pennsylvania) educator re. environmental sustainability through her art works
- Buster Simpson (Washington), a pioneer in public art that deals with urban infrastructure
- Betsy Damon (New York), addressing critical global water issues through her art works

The resulting 212-page *Turn to the River* Plan is available on-line or in print by request.



Turn to the River is focused on the connecting areas between downtown and the Wabash River, one remaining area of the downtown that has not been reclaimed. It addresses:

- The four-square block government campus
- Access to the river through the city-owned parking lot
- A city-owned riverside property ("One Wabash")

2013

Art Spaces initiated *2013 Year of the River*, a year-long multi-county initiative that involved river-related events by more than 90 different groups and organizations in the Wabash Valley.

2015

Art Spaces commissioned artist Stacy Levy and Landscape Architect John Jackson of Ratio Architects in Indianapolis to facilitate a 3-day design charrette, open to and widely attended by the public. Funds of \$16,266 were provided by City of Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment, Indiana State University and the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. The resulting "Concept Booklet" offered a synopsis of concepts created through community input.



Existing walkway



New possibilities



Riverside property



Activated with an overlook

2016

Art Spaces worked with Rachel Johnson of Loci Creative in Noblesville to study the area between City Hall and Vigo County Courthouse where a decaying concrete fountain will be replaced with fountain that is a work of public art. She also studied each area of the government campus to determine sizes of events that might occur there, and captured suggestions for amenities in the parking lot that would allow it to become a site for Farmer's Market, Seasonal and Arts Festivals, and other events on the weekends.



Existing fountain



Use of Public Space Study



Existing Parking Lot



Anticipating festivals

2016

In August Art Spaces held a 8-hour open house at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Terre Haute to update the public about the progress of *Turn to the River* and to gather their input in advance of Design Development. A strong turnout indicates increased public interest in the project and ideas were gathered for the designed walkway, the river overlook, the greenspace, a flexible performance structure, and public art.



Information gathering



Public participation

2017

In June the NEA recommends Art Spaces for a \$75,000 Our Town grant for the Design Development Phase, an 18 month project. Art Spaces will issue an RFP for a design firm and will also engage the public with professional artists and additional charrettes.

July - Public talks about *Turn to the River* will take place at Terre Haute City Council and Vigo County Public Library, where a children's river-related art event will also take place.

September - A public picnic hosted by Art Spaces will take place on the government campus

***Turn to the River* will**

- Make a more livable healthy downtown
- Provide a much needed downtown green space
- Provide a beautiful government area
- Increase citizen access to government
- Celebrate our cultural history
- Increase stewardship of the Wabash River
- Provide spaces for community gatherings
- Link the arts with physical and mental health
- Integrate art and design into the core of a city development project
- Increase citizen involvement in the future of the city
- Link to local partners including local, regional and statewide
- Provide additional amenities for downtown business patrons, families, and visitors

***Turn to the River* partners with**

- City of Terre Haute
- Vigo County
- Indiana State University – College of Multi-Disciplinary Studies; College of Arts and Sciences; College of Health and Human Services; Facilities Management; College of Business
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Riverscape
- Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce (including “Better Health Wabash Valley”)
- Arts Illiana
- Other organizations and groups

Turn to the River offers a strong model of placemaking that has engaged the community, linked to other river-related improvement projects, spawned new ideas, and offered a strong vision for an important and historical downtown area.

For more on *Turn to the River* visit www.wabashvalleyartspaces.com. For more on NEA Our Town visit <https://www.arts.gov/publications/creative-placemaking>

