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Contact: [Christy Glesing](#), APR, Well Done Marketing, (317) 667-5991



The Public Collection Adds New Library Station to Celebrate 1st Anniversary

Additional artist-designed book stations to be announced soon!

INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 29, 2016)—To celebrate its first anniversary, [The Public Collection](#) will install a new library station at Tarkington Park (45 W. 40th St.) next year. Additionally, LaShawnda Crowe Storm's project, *Play Station*, will be relocated from the Indianapolis Museum of Art to the Marion County Juvenile Center (2451 N. Keystone Ave.). The Public Collection plans to infuse more art and literature into the Center and at other Indianapolis locations soon.

The art and literacy project, which features nine free book share stations, was developed by community leader Rachel M. Simon and debuted in public spaces around Indianapolis on Aug. 27, 2015. Passersby can borrow and return books at their leisure and at no cost.

Simon remains steadfast in the project's mission: to improve literacy, foster a deeper appreciation of the arts, and promote social and educational justice in our community.

"Residents have truly embraced The Public Collection and our vision of social impact through free access," said Simon. "We will continue to make books and art more accessible with the addition of new, beautiful, and inspiring book stations."

25,000 Books Distributed

More than 25,000 books were distributed in the first year, and more than 2,500 books were donated in a recent [book drive to restock the shelves](#), which are supplied by the Indianapolis Public Library.

The new locations were selected to reach a wide spectrum of people in communities with limited access to books and art. The Public Collection has partnered with Indy Parks to bring an installation to Tarkington Park, an 11-acre park on the city's north side undergoing a \$5 million renovation.

"The Public Collection is yet another exciting new feature for Tarkington Park," said Linda Broadfoot, Director, Indy Parks. "The free book share station is a perfect complement to the park's new playground, café and basketball courts, and will make for a memorable and adventurous experience for everyone who visits."

“Reading is a gateway to a better future,” said Marion County Juvenile Court Judge Marilyn Moores. “The Public Collection’s gift of free books to Indianapolis youth is immeasurable.”

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Editor’s Note: *Artists and renderings and additional new locations will be unveiled soon. Photos of the current book share stations are available [here](#) and on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).*

Interview Opportunities:

- *Rachel M. Simon, Founder/Executive Director*
- *Ronnetta Spalding, Chief Communications Officer*
- *Marilyn Moores, Marion County Juvenile Court Judge*

— **ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND** —

Artists & Locations

Each of the nine book share stations was commissioned and designed by [Indiana-based artists](#) and hold a variety of books of interest to diverse audiences and age groups. They are located at: Eskenazi Health, Horizon House, Indianapolis City Market, Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, Monument Circle, and White River State Park.

Partners

[The Public Collection](#) is a public art and literacy project developed by Rachel M. Simon with support from the Herbert Simon Family Foundation. It is managed in partnership with the Central Indiana Community Foundation and Mindy Taylor Ross of Art Strategies LLC. Books for The Public Collection are supplied and stocked by the Indianapolis Public Library.

Rachel M. Simon

Rachel M. Simon is an artist, community leader, and investor. A Herron School of Art and Design graduate, Rachel serves on the board of directors for the Indiana Pacers Foundation, Global Green USA, the Herbert Simon Family Foundation, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Indianapolis Public Library

The Indianapolis Public Library enriches lives and builds communities through lifelong learning. Its vision is to be a center of knowledge, community life, and innovation for Indianapolis. The library is pleased to extend this vision through participation in The Public Collection project. More information on The Indianapolis Public Library may be found at www.indypl.org.