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ARTIST-DESIGNED BOOK SHARE STATIONS LAUNCHING IN INDIANAPOLIS

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—June 11, 2015—Artist-designed book share stations that improve literacy, foster a deeper appreciation of the arts, and raise awareness for educational justice in our community—that’s the concept behind The Public Collection, a new public art and literacy project developed by Rachel M. Simon, being launched this summer at eight locations in Indianapolis.

Through a curated process, Indiana-based artists have been commissioned to design unique book share stations or lending libraries that will be installed in public spaces around Indianapolis. Each book share station will hold a varied selection of books for diverse audiences and age groups. The Public Collection stations will be free and available to everyone. Passersby can borrow and return books at their leisure.

“This project is about eliminating barriers and providing a platform where social constructs are irrelevant,” said Simon. “Art, both visual and literary, is for everyone, and I hope The Public Collection helps strengthen this idea by sharing these gifts with the community.”

Simon said the eight initial locations for The Public Collection were selected to provide access to art and books to a wide spectrum of people. Locations and their respective artists include the Indianapolis Museum of Art ([Tom Torluemke](#) and [LaShawnda Crowe Storm](#)), White River State Park ([Kimberly McNeelan](#)), Eskenazi Health ([Katie Hudnall](#)), Monument Circle ([Brian McCutcheon](#)), Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center ([Phil O’Malley](#)), Horizon House ([Stuart Hyatt and S+Ca](#)), the Indianapolis City Market ([Brose Partington](#)), and the Southeast Corridor of the Cultural Trail ([Eric Nordgulen](#)).

Rachel M. Simon is an artist, community leader, and investor. As a graduate from Herron School of Art and Design, Rachel is a dedicated advocate for the arts and social justice. She serves on the Board of Directors of organizations including the Indiana Pacers Foundation, Global Green USA, the Herbert Simon Family Foundation, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

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. Visit www.ThePublicCollection.org for more details and updates.

The Projects:

Play Station by LaShawnda Crowe Storm (at the Indianapolis Museum of Art) is constructed of three icons of childhood play—a Radio Flyer Red Wagon, Legos, and a chalkboard.

Cool Books, Food for Thought by Tom Torluemke (at the Indianapolis Museum of Art) is a stunningly crafted wood refrigerator filled with books and magazines.

Evolution of Reading by Kimberly McNeelan (at White River State Park) is a modern cave-like form that creates a unique educational experience about the history of reading and writing.

Katie Hudnall's project (at Eskenazi Health) is loosely derived from the image of a boat on water and is designed to remind the viewer that books (and education in general) can be a form of transportation.

Monument, 2015 by Brian McCutcheon (at Monument Circle) makes formal reference to civic monument archetypes, with the twist of being modernized by color, material, and separation from a building.

Phil O'Malley's project (at Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center) is in the shape of a life-size question mark, a mascot to the idea that knowledge is available at our fingertips as we ask questions and look for the answers.

Table of Contents by Stuart Hyatt and S+Ca (at Horizon House) carves out intimate spaces for reading, writing, and listening. The result is a small refuge nested within an otherwise large and open room.

Brose Partington's project (at the Indianapolis City Market) is designed to look and act like agricultural equipment by digging books out of the Earth and cycling them toward the viewer.

Eric Nordgulen's project (at the Southeast Corridor of the Cultural Trail) uses a series of linear vine forms to suggest growth and development as well as draw attention to books, the importance of literacy and outreach, and the book share system.

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