

# THE PUBLIC COLLECTION.

## **The Public Collection Announces Eleventh Book Share Station, Opening Spring 2019**

*Rachel Simon's art and literacy project has shared over 75,000 books in community.*

Indianapolis, IN (October 17, 2018)—The Public Collection announced today the artist and location for its eleventh book share station since 2015. The new installation, titled *The Mind Sails* and created by Indianapolis-based artist Atsu Kpotufe, will open in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 601 East 17th Street, next spring.

The name and design of Kpotufe's book share station reflect how books can transport readers across the globe or into the depths of their own imaginations. It also reflects our country's immigrant history and how most Americans' ancestors came to this land by boat—whether by choice or not. This project honors that history.

“Books have inspired some of the biggest discoveries in human history, including the discovery of the land we call home,” he said. “The conceptual approach for this sculpture is based on that journey, whether into unknown, imaginary lands or the depths of scientific discovery.”

The finished installation will feature two boat sails jutting out of the ground, angled as if taking off from underground. A container for donated books will be nestled between the two sails.

### **About The Public Collection**

Since August 2015, The Public Collection's book share stations have placed over 75,000 books into Hoosier hands.

“Literature and art are the cornerstones of any community and culture, and we continue to be amazed at how the community embraces each installation,” said Rachel M. Simon, founder and executive director of The Public Collection. “We look forward to making books and art even more accessible throughout the city.”

The Public Collection is an art and literacy project developed by community leader Rachel M. Simon. The initiative invites passersby to borrow and return books at their leisure and at no cost. Three years since inception, the organization remains committed to its mission: to improve literacy, foster a deeper appreciation of the arts, and promote social and educational justice in our community.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park**

The Public Collection has partnered with Indy Parks to bring the newest installation to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

“Indy Parks is delighted to be selected again by The Public Collection for a book share station. We anticipate *The Mind Sails* will be as popular a spot for children and adults visiting this beautiful park to read and reflect as *Play Station* is at Riverside Park,” said Linda Broadfoot, director of Indy Parks.

### **Interview Opportunities:**

- Rachel M. Simon, founder/executive director, The Public Collection
- Linda Broadfoot, director, Indy Parks
- Atsu Kpotufe, commissioned artist

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### **— Additional Background —**

#### **About the Artist**

Originally from West Africa, Atsu Kpotufe’s artwork is displayed around Indianapolis. Kpotufe is a seasoned painter and furniture maker who draws inspiration from graphic design and architectural lenses. His work can be seen at the ABC School of Applied Behavior, and inside the NCAA Hall of Champions.

#### **Artists & Locations**

Through a curated process, Indiana-based artists have been commissioned to design and install site-specific book share stations to hold a variety of books of interest to diverse audiences and age groups. Locations and artists include:

- CityWay, designed by Project One Studio
- Hawthorne Community Center, designed by Tom Torluemke
- Monument Circle, designed by Brian McCutcheon
- Horizon House, designed by Stuart Hyatt and S+Ca
- Southeast Corridor, The Indianapolis Cultural Trail, designed by Eric Nordgulen
- City Market, designed by Brose Partington
- Eskenazi Health, designed by Katie Hudnall
- Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, designed by Phil O’Malley
- White River State Park, designed by Kimberly McNeelan
- Riverside Park, designed by LaShawnda Crowe Storm
- (COMING SPRING 2019) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, designed by Atsu Kpotufe

#### **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](http://www.indypl.org).