



The Public Collection Announces 12th Book Share Station, Celebrating Immigration, Inclusion, and Education

Rachel Simon's art and literacy project has shared nearly 80,000 books in community.

Indianapolis, IN (January 14, 2019)—The Public Collection announced today the artist and location for its 12th book share station since 2015. The new installation, titled *Fissure* and created by Indianapolis-based artists Quincy Owens and Luke Crawley, will open outside the Athenaeum in a new pocket park along New Jersey Street in mid to late spring.

Owens and Crawley were inspired by the history of the Athenaeum Foundation, formerly known as Das Deutsche Haus, originally created as a social and community center for German immigrants. The book share station will celebrate the role education plays in finding community and navigating new, unfamiliar places. The station will also feature a quote from the African American author Aberjhani: “There is no envy, jealousy, or hatred between the different colors of the rainbow. And no fear either. Because each one exists to make the others’ love more beautiful.”

The finished installation will feature translucent acrylic panels backlit by programmed lights that illuminate the quote on the panel’s interior. The horizontal banding that comprises the form of the installation pays homage to the horizontal banding found on the 1893 Vonnegut & Bohn-designed building. There is also a cage-like element to the work, which in some ways reflects the experience of many immigrants. In contrast to a cage, the artists provide an opening into the installation, while the Indianapolis Public Library provides free books. All are welcome to come and go and take and leave books as they please.

About The Public Collection

Since August 2015, The Public Collection’s book share stations have placed nearly 80,000 books into Hoosier hands.

“Each book share station is a unique blend of community, art, and education,” said Rachel M. Simon, founder and executive director of The Public Collection. “We look forward to seeing how the community celebrates immigration and literacy when visiting the Athenaeum.”

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.

The Athenaeum

The Public Collection has partnered with the Athenaeum to bring the book share station to the community center. The concept seeks to draw attention to the complexities of immigration while celebrating the historic arrival of German immigrants in the Indianapolis community.

“We at the Athenaeum are very excited to welcome The Public Collection to our Pocket Park,” said Craig Mince, president, the Athenaeum Foundation. “We believe this book share station

will enrich the community not only in the stories it will share but in the public art it will bring to our neighborhood.”

Interview Opportunities:

- Rachel M. Simon, founder/executive director, The Public Collection
- Craig Mince, president, the Athenaeum Foundation
- Quincy Owens and Luke Crawley, commissioned artists

#

— Additional Background —

About Quincy Owens

Quincy is a husband and father of five who loves to open his studio door every day to make something out of nothing. He graduated from the University of Indianapolis, lives in Greenwood, and has a studio at the Harrison Center for the Arts where he works as a full-time artist.

About Luke Crawley

Luke is a science and mathematics teacher at University High School in Carmel, Indiana. He is a husband and father of two boys who constantly model the joy found in authentic scientific exploration and artistic creation, which Luke tries to capture in his scientific and artistic endeavors.

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:

- The Alexander at 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 Newfields.

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.