With hundreds of neighborhoods, a burgeoning arts scene, a growing world-class downtown and riverfront, and a vibrant multicultural community, Fort Wayne is truly a remarkable city. In 2018, my administration, in cooperation with the Fort Wayne City Council and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, worked together to form the Fort Wayne Public Art Commission, a collection of stakeholders representative of Fort Wayne’s great cultural and educational institutions who work to bring creativity to life.

Public art helps create interesting and vibrant spaces, the kind of places that people want to live and visit, as well as invest in. Serving as visible evidence of our culture, public art has a unique role of telling our story to residents and visitors of the community while communicating that we value quality of life, creativity, culture, and diversity. Public art can express our values, enhance our environment, bridge diverse communities and transform neighborhoods. As Fort Wayne continues to grow, public art will play an even larger role in creating a welcoming environment, building social cohesion across the city and establishing Fort Wayne as the cultural hub of northeast Indiana.

The Art For All Public Art Master Plan serves as a first step toward the long-term investments in arts and culture. The success of this plan is measured not by the total number of projects, but the inspiration that public art and artistic programming provides the residents and businesses in Fort Wayne. I encourage you to read and embrace the plan and be a part of our efforts to make Fort Wayne a vibrant community for all.

**Purpose of the Fort Wayne Public Art Program**

The primary purpose of the Fort Wayne Public Art Program is to enliven and enhance the city through the promotion and integration of artworks into the public realm and assist with city-led beautification efforts.

The secondary purpose of the program is to serve in an advisory role to private property owners who wish to integrate artworks in the development or improvement of publicly-accessible private property.

**Vision**

Development of a Fort Wayne where public art and creative expression are at the center of a vibrant and prosperous community.

**Program Goals**

**Goal 1:** Enhance the visual environment of public spaces for residents and visitors through a commitment to public art.

**Goal 2:** Strengthen the positive reputation, brand, and stature of the City of Fort Wayne and its neighborhoods.

**Goal 3:** Promote and support the economic development and vitality of the community in a geographically equitable way through an investment in the public realm.

**Goal 4:** Promote distinctive and diverse artwork that communicates the community’s sense of spirit, identity and pride.

**Goal 5:** Improve access to public art for all citizens of the city and advance the understanding of its civic role.

**Goal 6:** Create opportunities for inclusion, education, engagement and civic dialogue among diverse citizens of the city.

**Goal 7:** Commemorate the city’s collective memory and history.

**Goal 8:** Celebrate the community’s cultural and ethnic diversity.

**Goal 9:** Use public art as an opportunity to promote collaboration with and support programs for tourism, cultural exchange and goodwill.

**Goal 10:** Advocate for artists and the important role the arts play in our community.
CONCEPTUAL PROJECTS

The following conceptual projects are proposed as inspiration and conceptual in nature. The following projects are not ranked by priority and should be strategically selected as opportunities and funding present themselves.

OPEN WALLS: FORT WAYNE
This would allow street artists a legal opportunity to create murals throughout the community on walls owned by the City.

ARTS AND CULTURE CORRIDOR
Utilizing existing sidewalks and right of way the Arts and Culture Corridor could be developed along Rudisill Boulevard from Foster Park and the RiverGreenway to McMillen Park. Rudisill Boulevard provides ample business activity, community interests, and new market opportunities.

FACES OF THE FORT
This project shares large-scale murals of local faces throughout the community to elevate the stories of civil rights and social justice leaders as well as new Americans who have moved to Fort Wayne.

FORT WAYNE GATEWAYS
This concept builds on the ideas presented in the Front Door Fort Wayne Plan, the City’s plan to enhance and improve primary gateways and commercial corridors. It calls for including public art along key corridors to promote a positive image to both residents and visitors.

NEIGHBORHOOD GATEWAYS
This project enhances neighborhood identity through the use of murals, small sculptures and signs strategically placed at key locations in the City’s many neighborhoods.

RIVERFRONT PUBLIC ART TRAIL
Riverfront Fort Wayne is driving investment downtown and providing opportunities for gathering and recreation for all residents and visitors. Art along the riverfront could range from large-scale sculptures to murals and interactive pieces and should highlight the people of northeast Indiana and those who first gathered and settled along the rivers.

DISCOVERY WALK
A unique concept that allows families to explore downtown while searching for small- and medium-sized icons. The icons can share something special about Fort Wayne and its history. They should have a multi-sensory aspect, such as a QR code that can be scanned to tell a story about northeast Indiana.

GRAND WAYNE SCULPTURE
Cities throughout the world have used large-scale public art installations to attract visitors and increase tourism. Fort Wayne could do the same through an investment in a large-scale piece at the Grand Wayne Center.

TOPOGRAPHIC LIGHT
This project features artist-designed light installations that showcase important architecture, such as the Lincoln Tower, Louis Kahn building and even underpasses and bridges.
CONCEPTUAL PROGRAMS
The following potential programs could be implemented throughout the city and are not tied to specific locations. The following projects are not ranked by priority and should be strategically selected as opportunities and funding present themselves.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
This program seeks the collaboration between artists and the city, incorporating artists in the system of governance that will allow staff to think differently about their work and the neighborhoods in which they work.

LOCAL PUBLIC ARTIST DATABASE
A self-reporting list of qualified artists and their mediums could be kept in a database available to the public.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS
A program hosted throughout the city that could provide educational opportunities for local artists to learn about opportunities and the broader field of public art.

CREATIVE PASSAGEWAYS
Every urban city is filled with overlooked spaces that go unnoticed and are often underused. These places provide a unique opportunity to create interesting spaces in otherwise mundane places.

CREATIVE CROSSWALKS
Color, texture and pattern can enliven city streets as engaging and safe places for people to navigate by foot. Using creative crosswalks in specific areas can raise awareness for pedestrian safety while providing unique neighborhood related artwork.

VERSES FROM THE FORT
This program will create an opportunity for individuals to participate in public art through the installation of lyrics, poems and quotations of beloved Fort Wayne individuals and add surprise and whimsy throughout the city.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL CABINET ART
A continuation of an existing program, the purpose is to enhance the Fort Wayne Public Art Program by placing artistic designs on City owned traffic signal cabinets.

Art for All
FORT WAYNE PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

1. IS A PLAN FOR ACTION
2. IDENTIFIES OUR DISTINCT COMMUNITY CHARACTER
3. CONCEPTUALIZES OUR FUTURE PUBLIC ART

The Art For All Fort Wayne Public Art Master Plan and information regarding the Fort Wayne Public Art Commission is available online at www.fwcommunitydevelopment.org