



**MICHIGAN CITY PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE  
2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MAC celebrated an exciting and productive year in 2025. We continued to focus on our Neighborhood Art Plan. Murals were painted on the restroom doors and shelter walls at the Michigan City Skate Park to complement the murals on the ramps. Janet Austin's "Waterbird" was purchased, with support of the Mayor and City Council's neighborhood beautification ARPA funds. The sculpture was moved to its permanent home at Hansen Park on the banks of Trail Creek. MAC also added Gary Kulak's "Whoa" sculpture to our permanent collection. This whimsical sculpture is located on northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets in the Uptown Arts District.

Matthew Hoffman's "You Are Beautiful" sculpture was removed from its original location at City Hall. It is currently being painted and will be moved to the new "You Are Beautiful" park on Highway 12 across from the Michigan City Skate Park, greatly enhancing this gateway to the city. A special thank you to the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission for funding this project which will also serve as a trail head to the Singing Sands Trail.

We moved Richard Kiebdaj's "Owl & Pussycat" sculpture from Westcott Park to a highly visible location on the southwest corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets.

Five new sculptures were added to our rotating sculpture exhibition "Sculptfusion."

The Michigan City Public Art Committee exhibited artwork, valued at over 1.1 million dollars, throughout the city in 2025.

Otocast, the self-guided walking tour of public art in Michigan City, was also a success and continues to grow each year.

We continue to offer youth scholarships to encourage children to explore themselves and their world through art. Generous donations allowed us to offer eight scholarships in 2025.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Mayor, City Council, Board of Public Works and Safety, Corporate Council Lapaich-Stalbrink, and the Park Board, whose collaboration throughout the year helped us achieve our goals.

A special thank you to Park Maintenance Director Pat Voltz and his staff for always being team players and offering staff and resources to transport, store and install sculptures and bases.

Our 2026 goals include pursuing more neighborhood art projects, enlivening the Uptown Arts District with new light pole banners, completing the Mayor's photo wall at City Hall, and hosting our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Walking Art 5K fundraising event.

# MICHIGAN CITY PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

## ***Mission Statement***

***The Michigan City Public Art Committee has been formed to enrich the community through public art. Its purpose is to create a community identity through public art that celebrates Michigan City's unique historic, cultural and natural resources.***

***The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall.***

## **2025 Committee Assignments**

Chair – Matt Kubik Art Community	Judy Jacobi Art Community
Vice Chair - Janet Bloch Lubeznik Center for the Arts	CarolAnn Brown Art Community
Secretary - Jane Daley Member at Large	Don Przybylinski Michigan City Common Council
Treasurer - Shannon Eason Michigan City Park Department	John Ryszka II Member at Large
Dale Cooper LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau	Kathy Dennis Art Community
	Kathryn Mitschelen Michigan City Public Library

On behalf of the committee, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Robin Kohn for her outstanding service and leadership. Robin has been a valued member of the committee since its inception on March 1, 2011, and served with distinction as Committee Chair from October 20, 2016 until her final meeting prior to retirement on May 29, 2025.

Her commitment and insight have been instrumental in shaping the committee's work over the years. Robin's contributions leave a lasting legacy, and she will be deeply missed. We wish her all the best in her retirement and future endeavors.

## ART SCHOLARSHIPS

There were eight youth scholarships awarded by MAC in 2025 totaling \$1,180.00



## SCULPTFUSION

Sculptfusion is a rotating exhibition of public sculptures. The sculptures contribute to the beautification of Michigan City and highlight the vitality of the Uptown Arts District, Washington Park and other high visibility locations within the city. The result of a master plan commissioned by MAC, Sculptfusion is the first major sculpture tour to be featured in Michigan City.

In 2025 Sculptfusion featured thirteen sculptures valued at \$308,000.00.

Artist	Sculpture	Location
Ruth Migdal	Ascending	Highway 12 at Pullman Park
Luke Achterberg	Bedecked Billow	MCFD station 1, 1012 Ohio Street
Richard Kiebdaj	Chrysalis	Striebel Pond, se corner of Hitchcock & Earl Rd
Maureen Gray	Connected	sw corner of 4th & Franklin
David Skora	Entangled	se corner 5th & Franklin
Hilde DeBruyne	Flight	grass triangle north of City Hall
Ray Katz	Galaxy	nw corner 8th & Michigan Blvd
Pam Reithmeier	Greater Than	se corner of Coolspring & Franklin
Kyle Fokken	High and Dry	nw corner 7th & Franklin
Ray Katz	Sentinel	sw corner of 6th & Franklin
Tim Adams	Set Sail	823 Franklin Street
Kyle Fokken	Song of the Flying Dutchman	nw corner 6th & Franklin
Hilde DeBruyne	Tree of Life	801 Liberty Trail at Memorial Park

The logo for Sculptfusion features the word "SCULPT" in red, bold, uppercase letters, and "fusion" in blue, lowercase letters with a green dot above the 'i'. The letters are stylized and appear to be part of a larger, colorful sculpture.

**NEW LEASED SCULPTURES IN 2025**



**Richard Kiebdaj**  
*"Chrysalis"*



**Luke Achterberg**  
*"Bedecked Billow"*



**Hilde DeBruyne**  
*"Flight"*



**David Skora**  
*"Entangled"*



**Hilde DeBruyne**  
*"Tree of Life"*

# SCULPTFUSION RECEPTION & CELEBRATION



A reception was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the newest additions to Sculptfusion. A special thank you to Vita Del Lago for hosting the event and providing delicious noshes and excellent service.

A colorful graphic for the event flyer, featuring overlapping circles in shades of blue, green, and pink.

**SCULPTfusion** **mac**  
MICHIGAN CITY PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Artist Reception Join us for an Evening of Art and Celebration

The Michigan City Public Art Committee (MAC) invites you to join us, along with fellow art enthusiasts, residents and visitors in celebrating the impact of public art. Discover how these installations foster a sense of pride and identity within Michigan City.

Be the first to hear about exciting new sculptures that will embellish our city. These artistic additions enhance our public spaces and reflect Michigan City's unique historical and natural resources.

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025  
Time: 5:30 pm CST  
Venue: Vita del Lago - 521 Franklin Street

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres with cash bar

A square QR code located at the bottom right of the flyer text.A row of six small images showing various public art sculptures: a colorful abstract piece, a white tree-like sculpture, a red abstract piece, a blue abstract piece, a yellow abstract piece, and a green abstract piece.

## PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

In addition to the revolving “Sculptfusion” exhibition, Michigan City has thirty-one permanent sculptures, murals, photographs, paintings, and monuments in our collection valued at nearly \$930,000.00.

Artist	Sculpture	Location
John Habela	American Gothic	Michigan City Farm Market
Jim Collins	Bear Family	Washington Park - lot 2 entrance
Flex Maldonado	Canada Park Mural	300 Center Street
Fisher Stolz	Clairvoyance	nw corner of Hwy 12 & Mich Blvd
Sunny Han	Crystal Effect III	se corner of Ann & Ohio Streets
Sauve, John	Dasein	2510 E. Michigan Blvd
Gruizenga, Doug	Duet	amphitheater in Washington Park
Ron Pekar	Firefighters & Police Officers Memorial Monument	Millennium Plaza
Chris Silva	Gardena Park Murals	900 Gardena Street
Various	Historic Michigan City Photos	Council Chambers at City Hall
Bernard Williams	Iron Hooks, Center Pins and Master Plates	Wabash & 10th Streets
Richard Kiebdaj	Isle of Caprine	Michigan City Farm Market
Emilie Beadle	Lakeshore paintings	City Hall
Various	Mayor's Photo Wall	City Hall
Joe Dahm	Mechanical Structure with Galaxy	Park Maintenance Building
Felix Maldonado	Michigan Boulevard Mural	900 block of Michigan Blvd
Chris Silva	Michigan City Skate Park Murals	Pullman Park
Jason Quigno	Mikinaak	City Hall
Bernard Williams	Naomi Anderson	Westcott Park
Kiebdaj, Richard	Owl & Pussycat	Westcott Park
Don Babcock	Ram	115 Lake Shore Drive
Brodin Studios	The Protector	Michigan City Police Station
Thompson, Ken	Thin Series: Off the Diet	Senior Center
Michael Gruzca	Tower of the Winds	Michigan City Farm Market
Tom Scarff	Untitled	Barker Mansion
Wm O'Donovan & Jonathan Hartley	Victorious Peace Monument	Washington Park
Janet Austin	Waterbird	Hansen Park 100 E Street
Gary Kulak	Whoa	nw corner of 8th and Franklin Streets
Ernest Moore Viquesney	World War I Doughboy Monument	Washington Park
Matthew Hoffman	You Are Beautiful	Highway 12 west of City Hall
Nathan Pierce	Zeitgeist	Wabash & Highway 12





## NEIGHBORHOOD ART

In 2025, MAC continued to focus on neighborhood art projects. We purchased Janet Austin's Waterbird sculpture and placed in Hansen Park, along the banks of Trail Creek. The sculpture was purchased with ARPA funds, supporting the Mayor's neighborhood beautification initiative.

MAC commissioned artist Chris Silva of South Bend, Indiana to paint the restroom building and picnic shelter at the Michigan City Skate Park to enhance the murals he painted on the ramps in the fall of 2024.



MAC Hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the new skate park murals on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Pullman Park. Mayor Angie opened the event and cut the ribbon with MAC. The event featured free food and drinks, music, a free raffle for skateboards, razor scooters, and merchandise, a free art station, merchandise vendors, and free skateboard lessons by Driftwood Collective. Although the day started off rainy, there were over 80 people in attendance.



**MICHIGAN CITY**  
**SKATE PARK MURAL**  
**RIBBON CUTTING**

REMARKS BY MAYOR ANGIE NELSON DEUTCH  
 MEET THE ARTIST, CHRIS SILVA  
 SKATE DEMOS BY DRIFTWOOD COLLECTIVE  
 FREE LESSONS, TIPS, TRICKS & MERCH

FOOD • MUSIC • FAMILY-FRIENDLY  
**FREE EVENT**

**SEPT. 13**  
 11AM-2PM

FREE SKATEBOARD & RAZOR DRAWING  
 CASH PRIZE FOR BEST TRICK

550 W. 4TH STREET • MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360  
 FOR MORE INFO, EMAIL [parkandrec@michiganacity.com](mailto:parkandrec@michiganacity.com)





## WESTCOTT PARK ART KIOSK

The history of Naomi Anderson, Hometown Suffragist, was added to the kiosk as a permanent exhibit in 2023 to complement the Naomi Anderson Sculptures, created by artist Bernard Williams, located in Westcott Park.

Naomi was born on March 1, 1843 in Michigan City, Indiana to one of two Black families in the Community. Naomi was a poet, writer and public speaker and an advocate for all genders and races.



## OTOCAST

Otocast, a narrated audio guide to explore Michigan City's Sculptfusion, debuted in August 2016. The audio guide includes a commentary by the artist letting the user interact with, and share, the experience of each sculpture in a deeper and more engaging manner. The free app can be downloaded from iTunes and Google Play. QR codes are located on each sculpture plaque and take the user to the Otocast download.



MICHIGAN CITY PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE  
RON MEER, MAYOR

**Creating a Community Identity Through Public Art**

*The Michigan City Public Art Committee announces **Otocast!** Listen to artists talk about their work on this self guided audio tour of Sculptfusion, Michigan City's public art tour.*



SEE. HEAR. EXPLORE.

Step 1: Download Otocast at the Apple/Google Play Store or scan the QR Code  
Step 2: Scroll down to "Michigan City, IN SCULPTFUSION"  
Step 3: Choose a sculpture and listen to the artist's own insight into their art



**OTOCAST ANALYTICS**  
**January 1 through October 31, 2025**

<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Times Selected</b>	<b>Audio Played</b>
2 Semi Circular Mirror	59	17
48	71	11
A Light Unto the Nations	53	4
American Gothic	61	7
Ascending	49	3
Bear Family	45	3
Bedecked Billow	8	2
Canada Park Mural	88	15
Chrysalis	45	3
Clairvoyance	40	20
Clouds and Trees	75	20
Connected	50	7
Crystal Effect III	76	10
Dasein	62	3
Doughboy	46	5
Duet	49	8
Entangled	10	1
Eye of the Storm	47	12
Fat Happy and Fat Happy Junior	55	5
Flight	9	1
Galaxy	48	4
Gardena Park Mural	10	0
Greater Than	57	3
High and Dry	63	7
Hybrid Figure	93	50
Iron Hooks, Center Pins and Master Plates	57	12
Isle of Caprine	59	6
Mechanical Structure with Galaxy	56	3
Michiana Humane Society Banners	62	13
Mikinaak	56	12
Moon Spirit	38	5
Moose	62	8
Naomi Anderson	54	8
Off the Diet	63	9
Owl & Pusycat	54	5
Police Officer and Firefighter	50	5
Ram on the Run	54	7
SCULPTFUSION	102	36
Sentinel	50	18
Set Sail	68	6
Skate Park Mural	8	
Song of the Flying Dutchman	53	11
The Protector	45	3
Tower of the Winds	53	6
Tree of Life	14	1
Untitled	115	22
Victorious Peace	46	2
Waterbird	77	12
Whoa	53	11
You Are Beautiful	47	7
Zeitgeist	56	10
<b>Guide Total</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>459</b>
<b>Percentage Increase over 2024</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>73%</b>

In the spring of 2025, MAC contracted with Joyride to advertise Sculptfusion and Otocast on their two passenger electric tricycles. This advertising has been successful raising the number of visits to our sculptures in 2025 by 107% and visits to the artist's audio recordings by 73%.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Michigan City Public Art Committee Financial Statement	Budgeted	Spent	Transfers	Balance
<b>1001 500 OPERATING FUND</b>				
<b>431.050 Other Professional Services</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>			<b>5,000.00</b>
Otocast annual maintenance 37 @ \$50 & 7 new @\$125		2,725.00		2,275.00
Acid free envelopes for John Lucas Prints		24.99		2,250.01
Lubeznik Art Bash Advertisement		100.00		2,150.01
Transfer No 2 to 439.090			(900.00)	1,250.01
Dawson Cole - sculptfusion installs/removals		162.00		1,088.01
Richard Kiebdaj - sculptfusion installs/removals		490.00		598.01
Reprographic Arts - Poster Board to Artist Reception		110.67		487.34
Scotty's Sculpture Plaques		476.00		<b>11.34</b>
<b>437.050 Other Rentals</b>	<b>36,770.00</b>			<b>36,770.00</b>
2 Year Renewal 2025-2027 Maureen Gray Connected pymt 1 of 2		2,000.00		34,770.00
Purchase Gary Kulak's "Whoa"		4,500.00		30,270.00
2 Year 2025-2027 Renewal Ray Katz Sentinel pymt 1 of 2		2,000.00		28,270.00
2 Year 2025-2027 Renewal Ray Katz Galaxy pymt 1 of 2		2,000.00		26,270.00
Janet Austin "Waterbird" 2023-2025 payment 2 of 2		1,500.00		24,770.00
Gary Kulak "Whoa" 2023-2025 payment 2 of 2		1,500.00		23,270.00
Michael A. Magnotta "Eye of the Storm" 2023-2025 payment 2 of 2		2,000.00		21,270.00
Ray Katz "Galaxy" 2023-2025 payment 2 of 2		1,500.00		19,770.00
Ray Katz "Sentinel" 2023-2025 payment 2 of 2		1,500.00		18,270.00
Tess Little "Moon Spirit" 2023-2025 payment 2 of 2		2,000.00		16,270.00
Maureen Gray "Connected" 2023-2025 payment 2 of 2		2,000.00		14,270.00
Richard Kiebdaj Chrysalis pymt 1 of 2		2,000.00		12,270.00
David Skora "Entangled" pymt 1 of 2		2,000.00		10,270.00
Achterberg BedeckedBellow pymt 1 of 2		2,000.00		8,270.00
Hilde DeBruyne Tree of Life pymt 1 o 2		2,000.00		6,270.00
Hilde DeBruyne Flight pymt 10 2		2,000.00		4,270.00
Transfer No 1 to 439.090			(4,270.00)	<b>0.00</b>
<b>439.090 Contractual Services</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>			<b>1,000.00</b>
PO 2024-269 Chris Silva - Pullman doors & shelter			1,500.00	2,500.00
Chris Silva - Pullman doors & shelter Invoice		1,500.00		1,000.00
Sculpture base (2 high) for Owl/Pussycat		950.00		50.00
Paint and move Owl & Pussycat nw 9th & Franklin Streets		75.00		(25.00)
Kristina Knowski Ancillaerie - framing Mayor portraits		3,051.90		(3,076.90)
Transfer No 1 from 437.050			4,270.00	1,193.10
Transfer No 2 from 431.050			900.00	2,093.10
Scotty's 2025 sculpture plaques		312.00		1,781.10
Reprographic Arts QR codes for sculptures		140.00		1,641.10
Reprographic Arts MAC/Otocast postcards		305.00		1,336.10
Ray Katz paint Sentinel & Galaxy		980.60		355.50
Matthew Hoffman Honorarium		250.00		<b>105.50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,770.00</b>	<b>44,153.16</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>116.84</b>
<b>Account</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>2302 0000 NON-REVERTING DONATION FUND</b>				
<b>Beginning Balance</b>				<b>1,230.26</b>
2 scholarships		260.00		970.26
6 scholarships		920.00		50.26
Donation from Skate Park Ribbon Cutting			40.00	90.26
Donations from Artist Reception			270.00	360.26
LCSSO Program Ad		275.00		85.26
LCCVB 2026 Visitor Guide Ad		750.00		(664.74)
Michigan City Renaissance balance of skate park grant			1,731.20	1,066.46
Michigan City Renaissance Matthew Hoffman Honorarium			250.00	<b>1,316.46</b>
<b>RESTRICTED: Michigan Blvd Art Mural Maintenance Fund</b>				<b>5,000.00</b>