



Opening Doors: The Art of Inclusion Public Art Project

Program Overview

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The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham (The Arc) and Arts Council of the Valley (ACV) are collaborating on a public art project in which area artists will use ordinary doors as blank canvases for works based on the theme of inclusion.

The completed Art Doors will be displayed this spring and summer at various locations, with activities designed to promote interaction with the doors and their messages. While a Fall 2023 event will mark the official end of the project, we anticipate the doors will remain points of interest - and gentle reminders that everyone in our community deserves respect - for years to come.

Based on the experience of other communities with similar projects, *Opening Doors: The Art of Inclusion* is expected to generate many opportunities for public interaction - and sponsor recognition - throughout 2023.

Richmond, VA

Virginia Supportive Housing & Arts on Wheels



Southport, NC Up Your Arts & Southport Historic Society



Community Involvement

Community Benefits

- Create widespread community engagement when the doors are publicly displayed
- Spur tourism to the area
- Increase revenue for local businesses
- Promote theme of inclusion in engaging ways
- Promote the arts and local artists
- Enhance the spirit of community awareness and understanding

Community Partnerships

- Habitat for Humanity
 - Donated doors
- The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg/Rockingham
 - Awarded \$15,000 from Earlynn J. Miller Fund for the Arts for materials and artist stipends
- Harrisonburg Tourism
 - Creating app for walking tour
- Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance
 - Identified possible locations for displaying doors
- Door Sponsors
 - 25% of doors are already being sponsored by local businesses
- Local Artists
 - 20 artists in the community are participating

Meet the Artists

Opening Doors Artists



20 Local Artists selected for the project: Pat Augsburger, Rosie Clark, David Cowardin, Elliott Downs, Tamara Grant, Jeffrey D. Guinn, Jerry Holsopple, Michael Hough, Sydney Hunter (with Alex Hazard), Kathleen Mitchell Johnston, Lana Lambert, Emily Leary, Maria McIntyre, Christopher Michael, Justin Poole, Emily Quesenberry (on behalf of Turner Ashby Applied Art Class), Alexandra Thompson, Laura Thompson, Herb Weaver, and Delaney Westwood (on behalf of OASIS Fine Art & Craft).

Project Timeline

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- January-March - Artists creating their Art Doors
- March 2023 - Artists complete Art Doors
- Spring-Summer 2023 - Art Doors are displayed throughout the community, with a variety of activities to encourage public interaction and promote inclusion
- Fall 2023 - Gala/Event

Potential Public Locations

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1. Liberty Park
2. City Hall
3. Sculpture Garden behind the Smith House
4. Grassy hill by the billboard on N Main (behind Magpie/Perch area)
5. Planter beds by Heritage Bakery
6. The landscaped area by the Water Street Parking Deck (facing HEC)
7. The small parking lot behind the Keezell Building that has some landscaped areas
8. Purcell Park
9. Hillandale Park
10. Turner Pavilion

openingdoorsharrisonburg.com