

Lighten Up: A Public Art Project

As part of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art's Artist Residency program, MATRIX 164 artist Jan Tichy partnered with The Amistad Center for Art & Culture's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) to produce a series of light-based public art works that highlight the teens' perspectives on social issues and the history and culture of Hartford's North End.

The works were installed on May 20, 2012 and will remain as long as the batteries and materials are intact. As Tichy explained to the members of TAG, public art is a gift to all of the people who use a public space, and is intended to be enjoyed, explored, and experienced by everyone.

The Amistad Center
for Art & Culture

AT THE BRIDGEMAN HOUSE MUSEUM OF ART



WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
MUSEUM OF ART

Lighten Up: A Public Art Project



1. Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center, 444 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06120

It Could've Been Me

Rok Lightner and Roy Scott
LEDs, clothing, wire, PVC pipe

A life-sized figure in a hoodie illuminates the YMCA's wall with a heartbeat-patterned light. This work is a tribute to Trayvon Martin and to the young men like him who struggle against racism and violence here in Hartford.

Love and Acceptance

Shanique Reid
Electric tea lights, paper bags

This piece was performed at the opening reception on May 20. The artist encouraged visitors to take rainbow-colored luminarias from a large arrangement, sending a message of love and acceptance to local GLBT youth.

2. Old North Cemetery, 1832 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120

Heaven's Flowers

Alexis Edwards
LEDs, cloth flowers, plastic tablecloth, vellum, wire

Like white funerary wreaths, the letters "VIP" and "RIP" are alternately illuminated as a reminder that the cemetery and its grounds should be treated with the same respect as the important people buried there.

Untitled

Afi Geffard and Vaneisha Harrison
LEDs, metal, wire, spray paint

This white metal bird appears ready to take flight from the gravestone of Maurice Rondeneau Esq., encouraging visitors to re-envision the cemetery as a beautiful, peaceful place.

Paths of Fireflies Johanna Plummer LEDs

A quote flickers in Morse code on the Mason and Alice Cogswell grave: "Tracing early Deaf history is a bit like tracing the paths of fireflies. The field is mostly dark, except for scattered moments of illumination." – H-Dirkson L. Bauman

3. Aaron Fein Square, Ridgefield and Greenfield Streets, Hartford, CT 06112

Honor Roll Revisited

Samantha Gorski and Hannah Phillips
LEDs, vellum, wood, PVC pipe

An Honor Roll with the names of local World War II soldiers once stood on this pedestal at Aaron Fein Square. An homage to the original, this miniature obelisk is illuminated with patriotic red, white, and blue lights.

4. Albany Avenue Library, 1250 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112

We Are the Lights

Armani D. Pimienta
LEDs, photographs on transparencies

A series of photographs glow from the side windows of the newly-renovated Albany Avenue Branch of the Hartford Public Library, celebrating the unique people and stories of our community.

5. John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, 1240 Albany Ave, Hartford, CT 06112

School Jan Tichy LEDs

The grandparents of two TAG members attended the Northwest School, which has a rich history and a bright future as the home of the John E. Rogers African American Culture Center.

6. Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center, 114 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105

Untitled

Chanel Ross and Shannon Ross
LEDs, wood, wire, assorted medical supplies

Created from re-purposed and re-imagined medical supplies, these cool-colored sculptures in the St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center entrance are intended to soothe incoming patients and their families.

7. Sigourney Square Park, Sigourney and Sargeant Streets, Hartford, CT 06105

Love Not Hate

Aislyn Brown and Kimberly Vasquez
LEDs

Rainbow-colored LEDs lining the top of the Sigourney Square Park entrance gate glow dimly at first, but slowly brighten to represent positive changes in the park, such as the playground renovations planned for July 2012.

Lydia Huntley Sigourney

Estada Laurere
LEDs, plastic bottles, paper, ribbon, silk flower petals, sand

Each of these flowery bottles suspended from a tree in Sigourney Square Park contains a 'message in a bottle' from Hartford's past: a poem by Lydia Huntley Sigourney, for whom the park was named.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE:**JAN TICHY****TAG MEMBERS:**

Aislyn Brown
Alexis Edwards
Afi Geffrard
Samantha Gorski
Vaneisha Harrison
Estada Laureore
Hannah Phillips
Armani D. Pimienta
Rok Lightner
Shanique Reid
Chanel Ross
Shannon Ross
Roy Scott
Kimberly Vasquez

THE AMISTAD CENTER FOR ART & CULTURE:

Olivia White, Executive Director
Tamara Williams, Volunteer TAG Advisor
Cyndi Dryfe, Volunteer TAG Advisor

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART:

Johanna Plummer,
Georgette Auerbach Koopman Director of Education
Lauren Cross, Community Programs Coordinator
Nina Goodale-Salazar, Resident Teaching Artist

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Eddie Breitweiser
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Dr. Katharine Harris
Patricia Hickson
John Manning
Patrick McGuire
Brenda Miller

Jan Tichy / MATRIX 164 on view at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 600 Main Street, Hartford, CT through August 5, 2012

For more information about the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, please visit www.thewadsworth.org.
For more information about The Amistad Center for Art & Culture, please visit www.amistadartandculture.org.

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