

Energizing, Stirring, Inspiring

New Sculpture Continues Library's Dedication to Public Art

One of the ways MPPL works to enrich your Library experience is by offering art on permanent display. From the "Peace" sculpture on the corner of Emerson Street and Central Road to the woven copper tiles on the Second Floor, the Library has taken its role as a community gallery very seriously.

"Art is a gift to the community," says Blythe Lee, an art consultant at Corporate Artworks in Arlington Heights who has been working with MPPL for more than ten years on its public art acquisition plan.

Since 2005 the Library has been implementing an art initiative focused on creating an environment that stimulates conversation, stirs the imagination, and inspires all who come across it. The plan, developed and executed by a committee of staff and trustees working in conjunction with Corporate Artworks, was designed to complement the building and the Library's mission.

Public art has been made possible by donations from residents, community groups, the Foundation, and the Friends of the Library. The works reflect a variety of aesthetic expressions across a range of media.

Works in Progress

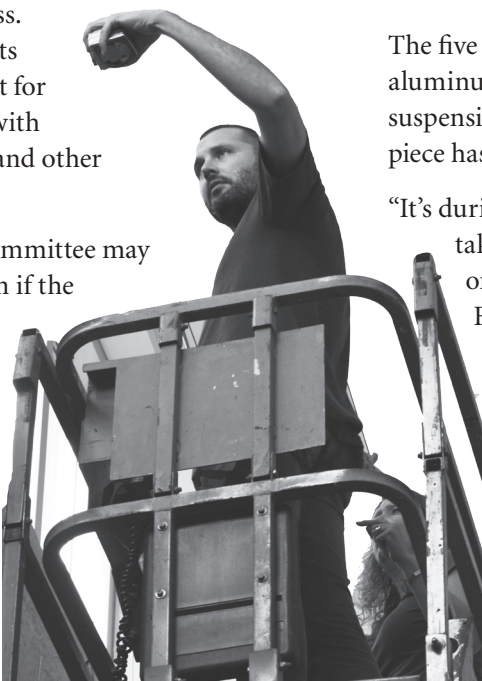
The process for placing art in the building involves studying the space and gathering ideas for what is wanted. The committee worked with Lee to identify specific areas where art would enhance the space.

"We had an overall game plan," she said.

But identifying spaces for art is just the first step in the process. Lee then had to find artists whose work was a good fit for a public space and work with them on price, timeline, and other details.

And while Lee and the committee may revisit the general art plan if the Library undergoes any remodeling, the pieces were selected to have staying power.

"The art work should be timeless," she says.



Taking measurements prior to hanging the sculpture

"Soft Rains"

The latest piece of art to be installed in the Library is Talley Fisher's "Soft Rains," which hangs from the window well over the book return.

Although Talley Fisher became an artist ten years ago, she had always been involved in the art world.

Her father, Rob, was a sculptor, and one of his works was originally chosen in 2005 for the interior window well by the elevator. Unfortunately, Rob Fisher died before this project could begin. However, Talley Fisher had since decided to continue her father's work and agreed to create the

piece when funds became available in 2015.

The art committee chose Fisher's work because it "both blends and contrasts well with the other works in the building." Its silver metallic tone and contemporary feel reflect other spaces and locations and complements the "TetraFoil" mobile near it.

Talley Fisher's goal with the piece is to bring patron attention upward and bring a bit of nature indoors. She has a background in biology and landscape architecture, and these influences can be seen in her work, which includes many natural forms. Fisher's art can be found in a variety of public places, including hospitals and hotels.

Fisher, also has a history of working with architects and installers, a part of the art-making experience that is almost as important as the creation itself. She notes that her artwork "is sort of a blending of all of these disciplines."

The five elements of the piece are made of perforated aluminum, a lightweight material appropriate for suspension, and rolled and shaped stainless steel. The piece has been anodized to give it the metallic finish.

"It's during installation when the final composition takes form," she says, which is why she was on-site in early July for the installation. But Fisher says that going from the creative to the structural is both challenging and rewarding.

To hang a three-story sculpture, the team had to make sure the structural work in the building was solid. The fact that the walls in the window well were made of stone was a big factor in choosing the materials and the installation method.

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Artist Talley Fisher stands in front of "Soft Rains"

Part of Your World

"Soft Rains" joins other pieces that have become part of daily life at MPPL.



After "The Caterpillar" in Youth Services was installed, the committee thought a mural along the wall leading to the Program Room would make Youth Services even more inviting.



Art Consultant Blythe Lee says the company that installed the "TetraFoil" mobile made a scale model of the Library's window well to ensure the piece would work as planned.



The South Branch used a grant from Walmart to purchase pieces from Enrique Suárez's "Music" series.

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Homebound Coordinator
Mount Prospect Public Library
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Mount Prospect, IL 60056

After registering for the service, you will be connected with a staff member to discuss what types of materials interest you. Books (fiction, nonfiction, large print, and audio) and magazines are eligible for homebound checkout. A volunteer will then contact you to make arrangements for delivery. The six-week checkout includes delivery and pickup time.



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New Guidelines for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

There have been some changes made to the filing process for the federal student aid application FAFSA. For the 2016-2017 school year, the application process is open. This application uses data from the 2015 tax return.

The open date for the 2017-2018 school year is October 1, 2016. This application will also use data from the 2015 tax return. Applications for the 2018-2019 school year will open on October 1, 2017. This application will use data from the 2016 tax return.

- A chart showing all this information can be found at studentaid.ed.gov
- It is possible to complete the FAFSA form and file it online at www.fafsa.ed.gov



Artist Talley Fisher orchestrates the installation

Continued from front page.

For Art's Sake

"Soft Rains" joins "The Four Seasons" in Meeting Room A, "Continuity" and the Raku pottery on the Second Floor, and many more public art pieces around the building. Blythe Lee says the Library's commitment to art was apparent to her from her first visit. "I was extremely impressed by the amount of artwork here," she says.

Lee says it's important to offer art in different media that exposes people to the many forms that art can take, such as sculpture, metal and wire, textiles, collage, glass, and pottery. Children, especially, can see what art is made of and that it's much more than painting.

Lee appreciates that MPPL staff value the art collection and offer occasional tours for patrons. Talley Fisher agrees.

"It's fantastic that the community has artwork in the Library," Fisher said.

"Soft Rains" hangs in the East stairwell

