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## **Lafayette Arts Center Stage dedicates first two public art installments**

*Place Based Investment Fund Grant makes downtown a celebration of arts and culture*

LAFAYETTE, IN - November 5, 2015 - Earlier this year Lafayette was awarded \$50,000 from Indiana's Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF), a partnership between the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) and the Indiana Office of Tourism Development (IOTD). The fund is dedicated to encouraging community partnerships as they work together to make their hometowns become even greater places to visit, live and work. Shortly after receiving the grant, work groups were established to help implement the Lafayette Arts Center Stage projects and bring in more members of the community that could further define these qualities of place to attract residents and visitors alike.

Lafayette Arts Center Stage is a series of bicentennial-themed public art installations combined as one project, located along Main Street in downtown Lafayette's art and culture districts. Today we dedicate the first two installments of the Lafayette Arts Center Stage project - the Seurat Mural by artist Zach Medler at 219 Main Street and the Art Crosswalk, a collaboration design by artists Petronio Bendito and Linda Vanderkolk at 10th and Main streets.

City planner and project manager for Lafayette Arts Center Stage, Margy Deverall, emphasizes the connection this public art has with local artists and collaboration. "The two projects being dedicated are both by local artists. The Seurat inspired mural at 219 Main, by Zach Medler, refreshed the "small spaces: Lafayette" index wall from 2014. The Fleur-de-lis Art Crosswalk at 10th and Main, designed by Petronio Bendito and Linda Vanderkolk, turned into a community project with over 75 people painting with stencils during two Mosey Down Main Street events."

Leaders from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the Indiana Office of Tourism Development are excited to be part of the this PBIF art dedication for Lafayette. "OCRA and IOTD are both dedicated to improving the quality of place in Indiana through the PBIF program," said Bill Konyha, executive director of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. "The Lafayette art installation illustrates the community's commitment to being an even better place to visit, live, and work. Thanks to the collaboration of many, Lafayette is primed to thrive in the 21st century and is positioned for continued economic growth."

"In order to be a great place to visit, a city must first be a great place to live, and PBIF was created with that idea in mind," said Mark Newman, executive director of the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. "We're excited to have this new public art installation in Lafayette, adding to an already impressive list of assets in the community."

Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski is happy to see more growth in downtown's art and culture districts. "Through this grant Indiana has given our community a wonderful opportunity to showcase our creative side. The outpouring of support from local artists, organizations and residents proves art is an integral part of our quality of life. Downtown Lafayette has it all; wonderful dining, unique shopping, diverse business and living options, and a vibrant, growing arts scene; all essential pieces to the local experience."

City of Lafayette Economic Development Director, Dennis Carson, appreciates the balance arts and culture adds to downtown development. "Downtown Lafayette is attractive to developers and residents alike because of it's ability to encompass everything we love about our city. Upcoming projects like the 101 Main Street development, the Wabash Riverfront Corridor planning and Streetscape work with the PBIF art installations to create an environment that residents and businesses are proud of and want to take part in."

As we dedicate the first two of five Lafayette Arts Center Stage public art installations we would like to recognize the partner organizations that make this initiative possible. The following have provided leadership, services, talent and endless resources to ensure art in Lafayette not only thrives, but continues to grow and inspire the next generation of creative thinkers. Thank you to the City of Lafayette Economic Development Department, the Bicentennial Commission and Tippecanoe County Government, the Lafayette Redevelopment Commission, Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette, the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, Greater Lafayette Commerce, the Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association (LUEA), Friends of Downtown, Bank Tower, LLC and the Lafayette Symphony, as well as the many supportive downtown businesses and residents who welcome public art into their lives each and every day.

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The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' (OCRA) mission is to work with local, state, and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development. For additional information on OCRA and its programs visit [www.ocra.in.gov](http://www.ocra.in.gov).

Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism Development (IOTD) and OCRA. Mark Newman serves as IOTD's executive director. IOTD is dedicated to enhancing the economic vitality of Indiana through leadership and resource support to the Indiana travel industry for awareness-building, product development and job creation. Further information can be found at [www.VisitIndiana.com](http://www.VisitIndiana.com).



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