

Wabash Walls II

The Tippecanoe Arts Federation partnered with the City of Lafayette and the Redevelopment Commission, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lafayette, and the Wabash Avenue Neighborhood Association to develop and implement Wabash Walls. This is a hybrid of TAF's Mural Art Initiative and Visiting Artist Program which is a collaborative and educational outreach program that brings together communities and underserved populations. By engaging artists and stakeholders such as building owners and young people, the program shows how public art can unite communities and activate spaces. Area students and residents of Wabash Avenue work in tandem with several artists to design and execute the murals throughout the neighborhood. Members of the Neighborhood developed themes through a brainstorming session wherein individuals offered words that they felt captured what Wabash Avenue meant to them. This place-keeping program has caused economic and community development to occur in the Wabash Avenue Neighborhood.



Additional funding was needed in order to make this project successful. The City of Lafayette's lead funding support of \$50,000 leveraged additional support from local and state groups that wanted to demonstrate their shared commitment to community engagement and quality of place. The City's support also extended to the collaboration and assistance from various departments.

Cargill came forward in a lead role for both financial and logistical support. The project received their permission this year to paint on their property which represented the south reach of the Neighborhood. To that, a Field of Interest grant was applied for and received from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette to augment funding for the project. A QUIP grant was also applied for and received from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

