

New Bloom
A Community Art Project of
FAME (Foundation for Art and Music in Education)

□ **PURPOSE:**

To gift the Fort Wayne community, **New Bloom**, a symbolic landmark public sculpture representing Fort Wayne's commitment to the arts and arts education for children

□ **COMMUNITY NEED:**

Public art is an important civic need that is more and more overlooked as our society gets more and more materialistic. Artists have, unfortunately, always had to rely on wealthy patrons. The Catholic Church commissioned works by Michelangelo, the royal family of Spain commissioned works by Velazquez, Picasso's painting Guernica, one of the most dramatic anti-war statements ever made, was commissioned for the Paris Exposition of 1937. What if that money just went to provide food and shelter for the general public? We would be deprived of inspirational works of art, things that can lift us up out of the day-to-day routine of our daily lives and help us consider our possibilities. I believe that I have a story to tell you. . . represents this to the community and it is important that the community know that its needs for inspiration are recognized, not watered down to the basic economic needs of existence.

Written by Paul Sachs, Division Director of Behavioral Health Services Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Philadelphia, PA regarding "I have a story to tell you" Public Art Project in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania June 2003

Fort Wayne is very fortunate to have a strong base of not-for-profit agencies and foundations to provide a safety net for those in need in our community. Especially in these difficult economic times. As the community rallies to meet these challenges, it is important that we continue to inspire hope, celebrate our collective spirit, and reach for new possibilities. Art fulfills this need. A public art project that celebrates our history, speaks to our future, and is accessible by the community as a whole is uniquely suited for this purpose.

□ **DESCRIPTION:**

The **New Bloom** sculpture is conceived as a community landmark icon symbolizing creativity and Fort Wayne's continuing commitment to the arts and art education for children, in a new period of growth and innovation. Grounded in strength and flowering in beauty, it is intended to embody our most forward-looking ideals and provide a

permanent tribute to the evolving and blossoming creativity of our community—and most importantly, our children.

- **Physical Image: New Bloom** is a polished stainless steel sculpture of a stylized iris flower with free-standing leaves---that strikingly changes color with reflected LED programmed light at night.
- **Dimensions: New Bloom** stands 24 feet high with approximately an 8 foot petal span.
- **Location: New Bloom** will be erected on a mounded garden site next to the West Jefferson entrance of the Harrison Square complex. It will be visible from the street for several blocks surrounding the Square as well as from within Parkview Field Ballpark.
- **History: New Bloom** will join other public art installations that commemorate significant events in Fort Wayne history and the leadership of its citizens.

□ **ARTIST: DIANNA THORNHILL MILLER AND OMNI ART DESIGN**

New Bloom is a one-of-a-kind sculpture designed specifically for our city by nationally known Fort Wayne artist Dianna Thornhill-Miller. Dianna is an accomplished artist who has exhibited widely and created hundreds of commissioned works of art located in public and corporate settings, cultural environments and private collections in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Dianna was the first woman artist to have a solo exhibition in the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, and a large-scale steel sculpture she created is in the Museum's permanent collection.

As a major sculptor in the fiber art movement, in 1983 she was the only American invited to exhibit at the Salon d'Automne in the Grand Palais in Paris (annual exhibition of internationally recognized, important new art), and was also invited to be a presenter and exhibitor at the International Association of Women Architects' symposium, "Art Related to the Child", at the Palais des Congres, in Paris. In 2000, Dianna was selected to create "Diversity, Unity, Community", the piece of art (located in the City County Building) commemorating and celebrating the turn-of-the-century for Fort Wayne.

Among her important permanent installations are works in the Sears Tower (Chicago), and projects executed for the corporate headquarters of Kaiser Permanente (Los Angeles), Magnavox (D.C.), Blue Cross (Indianapolis), Mobil Oil (Virginia), NIPSCO, GTE, IBM, GE, Lincoln National Corp., as well as Fox Island County Park, Fort Wayne Performing Arts Center, Yale University, the Honeywell Center, and for Huntington, Lutheran, Parkview, and Duke Memorial hospitals. Her work can also be found in banks, schools, art centers and libraries in California, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois.

In addition to originating the concept and design of the sculpture, Dianna acts as general contractor---co-designing, coordinating, and overseeing, the work of subcontractors for various aspects of the project (e.g. lighting, landscaping, structural engineering, and foundation construction). Local industrial metal workers will help to realize the New Bloom design under the ongoing direction of Dianna and Omni Art Design. Having the

sculpture designed and built by a local artist and company enhances the importance of this work for our community. *(Please see attachments for more information about Dianna and her work)*

□ **ARTIST’S STATEMENT:**

Since the beginning of civilization, monumental art has always declared the civic and cultural importance of a place. It has provided a sense of community, of identity and values for all to aspire to. A significant public space without meaningful symbols is a lost opportunity for community building and education.

Providing a central focal point, visible throughout the square and from the street, **New Bloom** will give Harrison Square identity and meaning. It is created to physically remind us of growth and our highest aspirations. It symbolizes the flowering of innovation, the renaissance of downtown Fort Wayne and the blossoming of our community. New Bloom will inspire and celebrate the flowering creativity of children, who are our collective cultural future.

□ **FAME OBJECTIVES FOR NEW BLOOM:**

- FAME wishes to sponsor and give a meaningful, landmark sculpture to Fort Wayne that creates civic identity and symbolizes the community’s commitment to the arts and art education for children. FAME’s mission is to provide opportunities for children, “...to experience art in their everyday lives...”, FAME wishes to provide an accessible, monumental symbol that celebrates children’s naturally evolving creativity.
- In line with its goal to provide multicultural education, FAME wishes to demonstrate the culturally universal appreciation of aesthetic creation.
- FAME wishes to create a permanent art-filled space (especially evident to children attending the FAME Festival) to attract families, and gather the community for celebrations of the arts and other activities throughout the year.

□ **FUTURE COMMUNITY IMPACT AND INVOLVEMENT:**

New Bloom will help define a destination – a civic gathering place that will serve as a catalyst for community cultural activity in a central downtown location (much like similar community art works in other cities, such as the “The Bean” at Millennium Park in Chicago and “Floralis de Generica” in Buenos, Aires, Argentina).

□ **LEADERSHIP:**

New Bloom Committee Chairs: **Dorothy Kittaka**, FAME Past President/Co-Founder
Beth Peter, FAME Executive Director
Jill Dougherty, FAME President
Patty Hauser, FAME Treasurer

Committee Members: **Dana Wichern**, Community Volunteer, Retired Director of Communications and Information Services FWCS
Patty Martone, Community Volunteer, Retired Assistant Superintendent FWCS
De Klocke, President ACPL board, Sister Cities Commission Activist
Ruth Niewyk, Past President Fort Wayne Art League, arts activist
Linda Ruffolo, IPFW Executive Director of Development
Kim Bastin, Community Volunteer, owner Fort Wayne Printing
Linda Boyd, Community Volunteer, Nature Conservancy activist
Sandy Schumaker, Past President and Fort Wayne Art League Board Rep for Fort Wayne Museum of Art
Bette Harris, Community Arts Activist (deceased)

Creative Consultant and Artist's Assistant: Branden Thornhill-Miller, Professor of Psychology of Creativity and Spirituality, University of Oxford, England

□ **SUMMARY:**

New Bloom will demonstrate the value that Fort Wayne places on the arts, and it will be used to promote arts education that fosters creativity in our children. It will serve as a symbol of the renaissance of downtown Fort Wayne and become a visual icon of our community. Having **New Bloom** in the center of a currently artless new cultural corridor in Fort Wayne will be a strong statement that the arts are a central part of our community. **New Bloom** is an inspiring important and appropriate icon for Fort Wayne and its children today, because **“We’re Blooming!”**