



HOURGLASS FIRST FRIDAY FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

August 2019 Forum

Public Art in the City of Lancaster

During this First Friday Forum, Joanna Davis provided an in-depth look at the City of Lancaster's Public Art Department. She began with a definition of what public art is. Public art is critical for strengthening communities, it is for everybody, it is representative of the surrounding community, and it is a collaborative effort involving community organizations and residents. Public art is not something you need to buy a ticket to see, something you need to step into the doors of an unfamiliar institution to experience, or something that is made in a vacuum.

The City Public Art department has undertaken a wide variety of public art projects. For example, the department worked with the West Lancaster Jewels organization and artist Justin Jones to create a mural in an intersection in the SoWe neighborhood. The mural was a giant "paint-by-numbers" mural that community members painted during the annual block party.

Another example of a unique public art project was including community members in the design of the Water Street walkable/bikeable thoroughfare running North and South in the City. The Public Art Department went to the neighborhoods effected and held a meeting outside with a long table with an overlay of Water Street. People were invited to draw or show what they might want on Water Street.

The Public Art Department's newest project, PACE Boosting Communities, connects artists with resources to create public art projects in their own neighborhoods. Lancaster Public Art & the Philips Museum at Franklin & Marshall College are bringing together local artists to provide them with resources to create public art projects in their own neighborhoods.



Joanna Davis
City of Lancaster
Public Arts Manager

"We believe that art is critical to a healthy community and that everyone should have access to it"

- Joanna Davis

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