Every year on the Saturday before Memorial Day, art blooms on the grounds of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse in downtown Lafayette, Indiana, as artists display their work.
2013
40 YEARS OF ART
GATHERING ’ROUND THE FOUNTAIN

For 40 years, a group of volunteers has been planning, working, recruiting, fundraising and publicizing, all to bring to life the annual ’Round the Fountain Art Fair.

Every year on the Saturday before Memorial Day, art blooms on the grounds of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse in downtown Lafayette, Indiana, as artists display their work.

Quality Fine Art

A focused mission guides the event: Offer a high-quality fine art fair to the community.

’Round the Fountain Art Fair began in 1974 with 40 artists, $500 in artists’ awards and a commendable turnout. The fair quickly grew in number of artists, and for many years now, held to about 100 from about a dozen or so states.

Stellar Successes

Accepted through a juried process, these accomplished artists excel in watercolors, acrylics, oils, photography, sculpture, jewelry, clay, ceramics, metal, mixed media and more. All work displayed must be original.

The number and amount of awards have increased over the years, too. And some 7,000 visitors attend the admission-free event each year.

’Round the Fountain is a story of achievements—valuing and showcasing the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, bringing people together for an enriching activity, giving artists opportunities to showcase their creativity, attracting new artists each year, and developing a renowned, respected arts event.
HONORING OUR BEGINNINGS

Eyeing downtown Lafayette and its betterment, residents floated several ideas during the 1960s and 1970s.

One was a suggestion that a modern government center would best serve the community’s needs. And one consultant did recommend demolishing the Tippecanoe Courthouse, which had been in use since 1885.

Others recognized the courthouse’s historical value, and came together to plan events that would revitalize downtown and even feature the historic structure.

Bud Baugh’s Idea

One of those was Bud Baugh, a local artist, art restoration professional and businessman. He deeply respected history, historical buildings and downtown Lafayette. It occurred to him that an art fair on the grounds of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse could contribute positively to downtown Lafayette.

In 1973, he visited an art fair on the grounds of the Wisconsin Statehouse in Madison, inviting artists to come to Lafayette the next year.

Back home, he chatted about the idea with Ted Reser, his partner in their downtown hardware and paint store, Baugh & Reser, which had been operating since 1956.

Reser was working with another group, planning the Tippecanoe County Carnation Cotillion weekend, and the group decided the art fair would complement its event. The day before the art fair, the cotillion was held under the rotunda of the courthouse, with proceeds designated to cleaning the rotunda.

The Courthouse Art Fair Committee, as it was known for several years, was born.
First Fair Drew 40 Artists

The first fair, dubbed right from the start the ’Round the Fountain Art Fair, was held in 1974, from 10 a.m. until dark, with proceeds helping fund courthouse restoration.

More than 40 artists participated, including John MacDonald and Michael Martin, both local; Rob O’Dell, Ladoga, Ind.; and Rudy Ohrning from Skokie, Ill. A purchase award honored “the best historical painting that relates to Lafayette.”

Artists display their work on the grassy site, around a fountain featuring a statue of the Marquis de Lafayette, the city’s namesake, and street side, all with the courthouse as their backdrop.
CHOOSING A GRAND BACKDROP

The grounds of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, which cover a full block in downtown Lafayette, offer a stunning venue.

Tippecanoe County Courthouse

Striking features include its 100 columns, nine statues and a dome 200 feet above street level. Built of Indiana limestone from the Dark Hollow Quarry near Bedford, the courthouse is the third at the site. Largely neoclassic architecture, it also includes influences from Baroque, Gothic, Georgian and other styles.

Lafayette newspaper stories report the building’s design work began in 1880, and construction the next year. Work stopped for several months during 1882 when one of the construction firm’s partners died. When building resumed, members of the Masonic Lodge set the cornerstone, on October 26, 1882, with local attorney William C. Wilson speaking.

Opened 1885

Construction was completed in late 1884 at a final cost of $500,000. Those with offices in the new building moved in during January and February 1885.

Among the various professionals involved in the design and construction were James Alexander, Joshua Chew, Farnham & Pearce, Elias Max and Charles Pearce.

In 1972, the Tippecanoe County Courthouse was listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

In 1987, the 'Round the Fountain Art Fair Committee purchased four historic markers, placed at the courthouse entrances. The markers identify the building’s National Register status and construction dates. Over the years, the committee has funded $40,000 in courthouse improvements.

In the early 1990s, a $15 million restoration preserved the historic elements while preparing the building for use in the new millennium.
NAVIGATING THE EARLY YEARS
1974  $500 in awards
1977  5,000 visitors
1978  5th annual fair
1979  $6,500 in awards

EARLY BEST OF SHOW WINNERS
1977  Robert Johansen
1978  Michael Martin
1979  Michael Martin
BRINGING ART DOWNTOWN, 1970s

After the successful debut of ’Round the Fountain Art Fair in 1974, the Courthouse Art Fair Committee began planning the next year’s event, billing it as the 2nd annual fair.

It was part of a five-day celebration known as Heritage ’75 and ’76, which also included, on different days, a queen contest, French dinner, Courthouse Cotillion, Heritage Parade, Sesqui-Sing and Digby Day Doings, a Memorial Day ceremony and a square dance.

70 Artists Second Year

The fair ran from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with proceeds used to purchase exterior lighting for the courthouse. Purchase awards totaling $850, from six businesses, assured artists of sales. That early business support came from the Baltimore Men’s Shop, Kirby Risk Supply Co., Lafayette Bank & Trust Co., Lafayette National Bank, Purdue National Bank of Lafayette and Verplank Concrete & Supply.

Part of Bicentennial Celebrations in 1976

Increased financial awards, including merit awards for the first time, and a waiver of commissions on sales helped attract artists for the 1976 fair, the third annual, held on Saturday after the Friday evening Courthouse Cotillion.

Volunteers for the 1976 fair included Ruthie Shook, chair; and Bud Baugh, Bill Baugh, Jim Bodenmiller, Ruth Foley, Ted Franklin, Michael Martin, Ray Peeters, Ted Reser, Suzy Schuette, Suzy Stafford, Bob Stephan, Carol Williamson and Wesley Shook.

The 1975 fair drew 70 artists, who paid $10 for a booth space and 10 percent of their sales to participate. An historical painting contest was held to recognize a piece depicting a local or national site.
Visitors Top 5,000 in 1977

Artists’ interest in the fair grew so tremendously, in 1977 the committee began a juried process for selecting participants. The week before, the Journal and Courier reported, “Some 100 artists will twine around Lafayette’s courthouse square like brightly colored ribbons around the traditional Maypole Saturday. . . .”

Some 5,000 people enjoyed clear skies while attending the fair, browsing and purchasing artwork. Jurors choosing award winners were local artists Denise Goldschmidt, Al Pounders and Bea Yearian.

The 1977 volunteers included many of the same who had served in previous years and others, including Linda Bottomley, Moe Ferriter, Michele Lehman, Dianne Osterhoff, Cheryl Rosenthal, Dave Sattler, Maggie Smith, Janet Stapleton, Jan Williamson, Tom Williamson and Phyllis Winski.

New to the list of those giving purchase awards were Decker’s, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Eggleston, Howard Johnson’s, Lafayette Office Supply, Lafayette Savings Bank, Purdue National Bank, Rapp’s Sire Shop, Reifer’s, The Shook Agency and The Sportsman.

The 1977 fair also featured an unveiling of four stone-cast busts created by artist Susan Graham Wilde, a former Lafayette resident. Her work was commissioned by the Freestyle Fancywork Group for a bicentennial gift to the community.

The busts depict William Henry Harrison, John Purdue, Tecumseh and John Digby, and are displayed in the courthouse. Wilde also was a participating artist in the fair that year.

Fifth Year, $5,000 in Awards

By 1978, the 5th anniversary of the fair, the hosting committee was claiming the fair to be “Northwestern Indiana’s best attended outdoor fair.” Eighty artists from a six-state area competed for $5,000 in award monies. Merit award monies were allocated by judges Kit Basquin and Harry Davis, presented at a 2 p.m. awards ceremony by Purdue University President Arthur Hansen.

Among residents thanked in the program for helping with the fair were Laura Andrew, Annie Arth, Pat Baugh, Sandy Bodenmiller, Pam Frampton, Denny Melton, Harry Mohler, Sharon Theobold and Chris Walkey.

The next year, awards jumped to $6,500, with winners chosen from among 80 artists. Judges naming merit award winners were Carol Adney and Wilbur Meese. Strong winds, but no rain, hit the 1979 fair in the afternoon, prompting most artists to pack up about 3 p.m.
ESTABLISHING A TRADITION, 1980s

By 1980, the community and regional artists were eagerly anticipating return of 'Round the Fountain on each Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

The committee’s 1980 invitation to artists reported: “The 'Round the Fountain Art Fair has become firmly established as one of the unique social and cultural events each year in northern Indiana. . . . The buyer and browser alike have made this day their day to stimulate and satisfy their artistic inclinations.”

That year, artists reported sales topping $40,000, and they also shared $7,000 in monetary awards.
Growing Business Support
In 1981, award funds grew to $8,000, including merit awards from 34 businesses. Among them were Anheuser-Busch, Arni’s Inc., Eli Lilly and Co., General Telephone Co., Hirschl Financial Services, Long’s Pub, Sarge Biltz and Schwab Safe Co.

Of the 81 artists participating, local residents included Rod Evans, pottery; Scott Frankenberger, porcelain; Bette Goodrich, pastels; Michael Martin, graphite; Kurt Musser, pen and ink; Ralph Privoznik, jewelry; Audrey Rossman, clay; Ingrid Toebes, sculpture; Patsy Tymoski, oils; and Alan Warble, photography.

‘Right to Boast’
In 1982, the Journal and Courier reported, ’Round the Fountain “has a genuine right to boast.” Of the 88 participating artists, 77 came from outside Tippecanoe County to bring residents and visitors a unique mix of art and to compete for $8,500 in prizes.

Out-of-state artists included several from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. Among those traveling the greatest distance were Brandon Lee, Fort Collins, Colo.; Joanne Cataido, Huntsville, Ala.; Chauncey Nelson and Jo Dickman Nelson, Omaha, Neb.; and Lyle Wessale, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Rain and gusty winds did hit, prompting some artists to move their booths inside the courthouse.

10th Anniversary, 1983
By the 10th fair, the 1974 booth space fee of $10 reached a still-reasonable $30, eagerly paid by 90 participating artists.

To mark the milestone, the 1983 fair featured tours of the courthouse. The event’s program noted: “The growth and popularity the fair has attained in the past nine years has been simply overwhelming. Year after year, we experience even more support in attendance, art sales, prize donations and community enthusiasm.”
After the fair, chairman Terry Lucterhand reported, “1983 has proven to be our best year in several ways.”

By 1984, the number of volunteers had grown to 49, with countless more giving their time during the fair. Subcommittees included correspondence, awards, publicity, hospitality, permanent collection and grounds.

Writing to welcome the artists, fair chairman Keith Stewart, Jr., said, “The entire day has been planned with you in mind and we hope May 26th will be both enjoyable and successful.”

The 1984 fair’s judges were Stephen Mickey and Philip White. Among those honored were merit award winners Rudy Ohrning, watercolor; Tom Hale, oil/acrylic; Dawn Neuenschwander, graphics; Janet Seward, clay; Phil Rustin, photography; and Roger Sloan, sculpture.

**Increased Awards**

The emphasis on fine art and bringing in artists who hadn’t participated before continued enhancing the fair throughout the 1980s. The committee also focused on rewarding the artists for their creativity and for bringing it to the fair, and on raising more funds for awards. In 1985, that reached $9,000. Judges Olaf Borge and Marla Dankert chose the merit award winners.

The 1986 fair, with 86 artists participating, awarded prizes to Jeannine LaValle Beck, Alan Carter, Martha Ensign-Johnson, Irene Fisher, Scott Frankenberger, Greg Harrington, Cheryl Kaczmarek, Dee Knott, Rudy Ohrning, Dee Pasternak, Phil Rusten, Diana Sowder and Wayne Waldron.

**14th Fair Drew 84 Artists**

In 1987, 34 artists displayed work done in watercolors. Photography, pottery, printmaking and jewelry were also represented.

More unusual were the works of Nina Arnold, paper fiber collages; Ann Ingerson, printmaking; Charles Komp, stone lithograph; Charlotte Fung Miller, Chinese brush painting; and Ann and Dick Rundall, batik.
‘Vision of Quality’ for 15 Years

Arts Indiana featured ’Round the Fountain in a 1988 article, at the time of the 15th fair. Longtime volunteer Jim Bodenmiller was quoted: “Our vision of quality rather than quantity and a group of dedicated people willing to keep that as our goal have made the fair a success.”

The 1988 fair attracted purchase awards from 22 individuals and businesses, with merit awards from another 18. Patrons and sponsors of the fair totaled 53, including Evelyn Ball, who years earlier had rescued paintings by Indiana artist George Winter, which had been stored and likely forgotten in a downtown business’s upper story.

Judges Winifred Godfrey and Ron Kovatch previewed the work of 88 artists in the 1989 fair. And at a post-fair wrap-up meeting, the fair’s committee reiterated its commitment to its mission as it tallied successes for quality of work, new artists, good sales, steady traffic and a diversity of art.
EARNING RAVE REVIEWS, 1990s

With the formula for success firmly solidified, the 1990 fair and its 76 artists met with support from 20 patrons, 31 sponsors and an impressive number of visitors.

By 1990, restoration of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse had moved from discussion to getting started. Years of efforts and fundraising to preserve and enhance the county's stately building were about to bear fruit.

New Site While Courthouse Restored

That did mean that ’Round the Fountain Art Fair would have to be held at another location in 1991 and 1992, and the committee set about finding the best alternative. After considering several sites, a city-owned parking lot within sight of the courthouse was chosen. While it lacked the ambience of the courthouse grounds, it was spacious and flat, allowing easy access by artists and visitors.

The 1991 fair featured $12,000 in awards. Judges Sarah Burns and David Herrold chose the merit award winners. While the 80 artists and fair visitors cooperated fully with the change in location, the weather did not. Mother Nature brought 90 percent humidity, temperatures in the high 80s and the threat of thunderstorms. But that didn’t deter art lovers, the Journal and Courier reported.

The second year in the city parking lot drew $12,000 in prizes. Merit awards were selected by judges Richard Moses and Becky Fehsenfeld.
1993: Back Home at the Courthouse
The fair returned in 1993 to the grounds of the courthouse, now fully restored to yesteryear’s grandeur.

To accommodate the 104 artists who were juried into the show and the volume of visitors expected, which proved to be significant, for the first time the committee obtained permission to close Main Street between Third and Fourth streets during the event.

That year first-time exhibitor Edward Barker Jr. won Best of Show for his stoneware and sculpture.

‘Utopic Mix’
In an article about the 1994 fair, the Journal and Courier reported, “One time each year, the streets and sidewalks of the Tippecanoe Courthouse Square become a utopic mix of big city culture and small town life.”

Some 92 artists paid the $50 booth fee and $10 jury fee to vie for $12,000 in prizes. Robert Malone and Audrey Ushenko agreed to serve as judges, selecting the merit award winners.

25 Years in 1998
Reviews, attendance and sales continued at the fair throughout the 1990s, culminating in an extravaganza for the 25th fair in 1998, when 'Round the Fountain received the Greater Lafayette Ambassador Award from the Greater Lafayette Convention & Visitors Bureau, now known as Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette.

Local artist Michael Martin, a longtime fair participant and renowned graphite artist, donated his artwork to create a 25th anniversary commemorative poster. The fair committee also published a booklet containing photographs and information on every piece to date in the permanent collection. The publication was designed by Sherry Gennett, a longtime member of the fair committee; it later won an ADDY Award.
The Lafayette Leader published a story headlined “Art Fair brings unique creations to Lafayette,” noting, “Lafayette is celebrating the silver anniversary of one of its richest traditions—’Round the Fountain Art Fair.”

**Funding Arts Education**

With courthouse restoration complete and numerous items funded by ‘Round the Fountain in place, in 1999 the committee decided to support arts education at five local high schools. The move was hailed in a Journal and Courier editorial: “Art fair paints pretty picture for education,” and an article saluted the fair, reporting: “’Round the Fountain Art Fair remains grounded in its long-standing traditions.”

The 1999 fair drew 100 artists, many of whom advertised in the fair program, a first-time endeavor for the fair committee.

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners passed a resolution that year reaffirming support of the fair and noting that it is a “nationally honored art fair, bringing fame and honor to Tippecanoe County.”

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**MARKING MILESTONES**

- 1992 $12,000 in awards
- 1997 More than 100 artists
- 1998 25th fair
- 1999 High school programs first funded

**AMONG BEST OF SHOW WINNERS**

- 1990 Steve Vachon
- 1991 Sara Kay Hatch
- 1992 Wayne Waldron
- 1993 Edward Barker Jr.
- 1994 Preston Tedesco
- 1995 Henry Bell
- 1996 Wayne Waldron
- 1997 Carol Rabenau
- 1998 Eugenie Torgerson
MAKING HISTORY
2003  Commemorative poster created for 30th year
2008  35th fair, dedicated to founder Bud Baugh
2011  Aldo Award debuted
2013  40th fair, permanent collection displayed at
      Art Museum of Greater Lafayette

AMONG BEST OF SHOW WINNERS
2000  Michael Schwegmann
2001  James F. Scott
2002  Sally Bright
2003  Aletha Jones
2005  Aletha Jones
2006  David Elckholt
2007  Frederich Warren
2008  Bruce Holwerda
2009  Leroy Bayerl
2010  Tom Unzicker
2011  Michael Weber
2012  Michael Weber
CONTINUING OUR LEGACY, THE 21ST CENTURY

As calendars turned to a new millennium, the ’Round the Fountain Art Fair committee stepped into the new century with ambitious plans to continue bringing fine art downtown.

Plans were easily realized in 2000, and for the 2001 fair, the committee lined up 44 sponsors and 21 who committed to making purchase awards from the gathering of 100 artists.

Raining on Our Parade

Despite a violent storm that closed the fair early, artists reported the 2001 fair, the 28th, sustained its “reputation as a buying show.” The next day, a Journal and Courier headline summarized the event: “Paint this art fair wet, short and sweet.”

Thunderstorms and wind struck again when 92 artists gathered for the 2002 fair, but clear skies prevailed in 2003 for the 30th ’Round the Fountain Art Fair.

30 Years, Commemorative Poster

To note the milestone, local photographer and artist Debra Kneal created a limited edition commemorative poster featuring downtown windows and doors. Proceeds from poster sales went to high school art programs.

The 2003 fair also provided the venue for the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette to unveil 50 life-size fiberglass pigs which local artists had painted for the Hog Wild outdoor exhibit and auction.
Fair weather, great crowds and fine art continued over the next few years, each fair bringing between 90 and 100 artists to share their talents with visitors.

The number tallied 95 artists in 2004, with 58 from outside Indiana. Sixteen artists came from Illinois, 13 from Michigan, eight each from Ohio and Wisconsin, and four from Florida. Photographer Bryan David Griffith traveled from Arizona, painter Jane Kisler from Oklahoma, and painter Oleg Seeniou from Toronto, Canada. Other states represented included Alabama, Iowa, Kentucky and Missouri.
Among the merit award winners at the 2005 ’Round the Fountain Art Fair were Ron Durham, photography; Jacqueline Gnott, watercolor; John Krieger, oil/acrylic; John Schirmer, graphics; Tom Unzicker, glass/ceramic; and Robert Wintland, sculpture.

The 2006 fair brought 107 artists to town, and in 2007, the number was 98. Local and nearby artists included Rena Brouwer, Terri Duncan, CJ Fang, Scott Frankenberger, Jeff Hagen, Alice Harpel, Linda Lauter, Ralph Privoznik, Jerry Smith, Arnette Tiller, Tom and Jeff Unzicker, Sara Vanderkleed and Lisa Walsh.

35th Anniversary Exhibition
In March 2008, fair founder Bud Baugh died at age 83. The 35th ’Round the Fountain Art Fair, held that year with 104 artists, was dedicated to him. In honor of the anniversary, the permanent collection was exhibited at Ivy Tech Community College.

The fair earned kudos in 2009 when it was cited as the Number One Favorite on ArtFairInsiders.com, which hailed ’Round the Fountain as “undoubtedly the best quality art fair in Indiana,” with “an audience who is loyal and who buy every year,” and “a well-loved tradition.” The 2009 fair featured another Art Museum event, the Dog Days of Summer and its fiberglass dogs painted by local artists.

The work of 91 artists filled the courthouse grounds for the 2010 ’Round the Fountain Art Fair. It was also the year the fair debuted a new logo, retaining the Marquis de Lafayette Fountain image in a new, artistic rendering executed in teal blue and red, with the fair’s name in a modern, bold typeface.
The 2011 fair, the 38th, debuted a new artist award, the Aldo Award, named in memory of Aldo Gigorgini, an Italian artist, computer graphics pioneer and Purdue University professor. The award recognizes an artist for cutting-edge artwork.

In keeping with the committee’s commitment to continually bring new artists to the fair, the 2012 'Round the Fountain welcomed 30 artists exhibiting in Lafayette for the first time. Judges Shaun Dingwerth and Lindsey Lord chose the merit award winners. More than 90 individuals and businesses provided sponsorships and purchase awards.

Art students volunteering during the 2012 fair came from Central Catholic, Jefferson, Harrison, McCutcheon, Oakland and West Lafayette high schools.

40 Years and Counting
To mark the fair’s 40th year in 2013, the permanent collection is being exhibited at the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, and this keepsake history is being published.
“The committee has become family. We enjoy and care about each other and feel the art is a vital part of our community.”

Ruthie Shook
MAKING IT HAPPEN WITH VOLUNTEERS
When it comes to putting on 'Round the Fountain Art Fair each year, it takes a volunteer committee of a dozen or so, with some leaving and others signing on over the years, and another 50 or so who give their time the day of the event.

Details, Details
This is a working group, which spends about eight months each year getting ready for the next fair. They solicit artists’ entries, jury the entrants, secure sponsors and award money, publicize the event, prepare programs, and secure the space, event insurance and street closing.

Much as the fair has earned a respected reputation as a fine art show, it’s also known for drawing local educators as volunteers, likely because key committee members have been or are teachers and because educators believe in the value of cultural learning.

Maggie Smith is one of those teachers and a longtime volunteer, chairing at least 10 of the fairs. “To me, the fair is such an exhilarating event. It is fantastic to see so many people of all ages around the courthouse on a late spring day,” Smith says.

“Working on the committee has been an ‘out-of-my-box’ experience, because my creativity is pretty much limited to third graders,” she says. “I have had the good fortune to work with a great number of caring, hard-working people, both on the committee and the talented artists who participate in the fair.”

Making Quality a Priority
Adhering to a mission of fine art and attracting first-time exhibitors, the committee is guided by these questions in its admissions criteria: Does the art encourage discussion? Multiple interpretations? Is it new and groundbreaking? Compelling? Marketable?

The day of the event, 'Round the Fountain volunteers welcome artists, help them unload, staff an information booth, choose a piece for the permanent collection and clean up afterwards.
Celebrating Success

To celebrate the day’s success, one of the volunteers hosts a dinner that night for the artists and volunteers. In 1983, the “After the Fair” get-together was billed as an “Old Fashioned Country Party,” held at the home of Pat and Bud Baugh, who served fried chicken and provided live bluegrass music.

“When I joined the ‘Round the Fountain Art Fair Committee 39 years ago, it was because I enjoyed art and loved and respected Bud Baugh,” says Ruthie Shook.

“In all the years since, the reasons for continuing are much the same—the enjoyment of art and friends. The committee has become family. We enjoy and care about each other and feel the art is a vital part of our community.”
“Our vision of quality rather than quantity and a group of dedicated people willing to keep that as our goal have made the fair a success.”

Jim Bodenmiller
GIVING TO OUR COMMUNITY

From the first fair in 1974 to the most recent, an important part of ’Round the Fountain Art Fair has been raising money to benefit the community.

Proceeds from the fairs in 1974 through 1998 were allocated to Tippecanoe County Courthouse restoration and improvement projects. In all, the fair contributed $40,000 to courthouse-related investments, such as restoring interior benches, upgrading rotunda lighting, purchasing exterior lighting, restoring the first floor mural, funding exterior benches, buying indoor wooden shutters, restoring the Marquis de Lafayette fountain, and assisting with landscaping.

With school funding for the arts in decline, committee members decided in 1999 to contribute fair proceeds to five local high schools to help purchase materials, equipment and other needs.

The high schools receiving support, which has continued each year and through 2012 totals $80,000, are: Central Catholic High School, Jefferson High School, McCutcheon High School, Oakland High School, West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School and William Henry Harrison High School.

“The impact of these gifts on our department is of great value,” says LuAnn Lamie, head of Jefferson High School’s Visual Arts Department. “We have used the money for small items—mats, frames, paper towels and art materials—and most recently, we used funds for scholarships for students attending summer art programs and other special events throughout the country.”

In keeping with its art-centered focus, the committee has also begun to look at other ways to support community art. A recent example is providing funding for a public art piece downtown, titled “Sandhill Crane Bench,” by artist Timothy Spencer. It sits across from the Tippecanoe County Courthouse on Fourth Street.
“Most recently, we used funds for scholarships for students attending summer art programs and other special events throughout the country.”

LuAnn Lamie, head of Jefferson High School’s Visual Arts Department
BUILDING A PERMANENT COLLECTION

Each year at the fair, the committee purchases at least one piece of artwork from a participating artist and adds it to the "Round the Fountain" permanent collection, displayed year round in the Tippecanoe County Courthouse.

Eclectic Mix

The artwork selected covers various subject matters, styles and media, including graphics, watercolors, oils, acrylic paintings, photographs, pastels, silk screen prints and a metal sculpture wall piece.

Several times over the years, the collection has been featured in other locations.

During restoration of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse in the early 1990s, the collection was housed at the Tippecanoe County Public Library.

The Art Museum of Greater Lafayette displayed the collection in May 1998 to mark the fair’s 25th anniversary, and for the 30th fair in 2003, the museum exhibited 20 selected works from the end of May through early August.

In 2008, Ivy Tech Community College’s Ivy Hall exhibited the collection in May and June in honor of the fair’s 35th anniversary.

The collection returned to the Art Museum in May 2013 for the 40th anniversary.

Grazing Sheep, Knott
Carousel, Rabenau
Boy and Tree Stump, Martin
Spring Blossoms, Harden
Each year at the fair, the committee purchases at least one piece of artwork from a participating artist and adds it to the 'Round the Fountain permanent collection, displayed year round in the Tippecanoe County Courthouse.
43 Pieces through 2012
Including the 2012 purchase, the permanent collection now numbers 43. Acquisitions over the years are:

Acquired in the 1970s
1974 M.A. Wright, “Peter Weaver House”
1974 D. Omer “Salty” Seamon, “Cable Ball Home”
1975 Rudolph Ohring, “Porch”
1978 Lyle Wessale, “Lighthouse”
1978 Victor Ing, “Street Scene”
1979 Win Jones, “Street in Rain”

1980s Purchases
1980 Michael Martin, “Boy and Tree Stump”
1981 Rob O’Dell, “Country Road”
1982 Randall Higdon, “Lilacs Emerced in White”
1983 Stan Obermueller, “Landscape Collage”
1983 Jim Brown, “Victorian House”
1984 Dee D. Knot, “Grazing Sheep”
1985 Martha Ensign Johnson, “Caught in Tide Pool”
1985 D. Pasternak, “Yucca Sand”
1987 Jeanne McLeish, “Victorian House”
1988 K.P. Singh, “Tippecanoe County Courthouse”
1989 Neil Kienitz, “Pumpkin”

1990s Acquisitions
1990 Jerry Smith, “Sycamore Landscape”
1991 Ilana Debikey, “Tranquil Motion”
1992 Laurie Wright, “Cocktail Hour”
1993 Peggy Brown, “Daniel”
1994 Todd Reifers, “Landscape”
1995 Alan Carter, “Streetscape”
1996 Preston J. Tedesco, untitled
1997 Carol Rabenau, “Carousel”
1998 Wayne Waldron, “Indian Pottery”
1999 Henry Bell, “Empty Chair”

New Millennium Additions
2000 Eugenie Torgenson, “Page from the Book of Land”
2001 Aletha Jones/Philip Wisely, “When Migration Ends”
2002 Lee A. Kimball, “August Morning”
2003 Christine Nauman, “Late Autumn”
2004 John Krieger, untitled
2005 Rena Brouwer, “The Light of Day”
2006 Randall Scott Harden, “Spring Blossoms”
2007 Don Ament, “Travelin’ Blues”
2008 John Schirmer, “The Couple”
2009 Terry Armstrong, “Tippecanoe River”
2010 Patricia Hecker, “Over Flowing”
2011 Kathleen Yano Lapso, “Transitions in Color”
2012 Deborah Hoover, “Jamming Band”
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Forty years is quite a milestone, especially given the amount of work that goes into hosting ’Round the Fountain Art Fair, and that it is all done by volunteers.

For the committee, 40 years is a time to recharge, renew and recommit. It’s time to encourage new people to get involved, to find new sponsors and new supporters.

Following this celebratory year’s fair, they’ll be back at the table, evaluating the positives from the 40th annual event and identifying what to do better for the 41st. All the while, they’ll remember their job is to provide a high-quality, fine art fair to the community and a friendly venue for participating artists.

’Round the Fountain Art Fair has become a model for longevity, working smart and success. And it plays key roles in two 21st century community efforts: implementing the Cultural Plan for Lafayette/West Lafayette, Indiana, under the leadership of Tippecanoe Arts Federation, and From Good to Great: Making Greater Lafayette a Community of Choice, guided by Greater Lafayette Commerce.

Future fairs will continue presenting fine art, bringing economic benefits for artists and the community, supporting arts in education and other cultural activities, and living on so future generations can partake of a premier event.
It’s time to encourage new people to get involved, to find new sponsors and new supporters.
GIVING THANKS

The 'Round the Fountain Art Fair committee deeply appreciates the Tippecanoe County Commissioners, City of Lafayette, local media, the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Tippecanoe Arts Federation, and countless individuals and businesses who have helped us bring 40 successful art fairs to Lafayette, Ind. We also thank our participating artists, community supporters, sponsors, fair visitors and volunteers.

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