

Arts council seeking new sculptures for Greenwood trail

By Vic Ryckaert, vic.ryckaert@indystar.com 12:09 a.m. EST February 1, 2014



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Say goodbye to three sculptures that have decorated Polk Hill Trail since spring of 2012.

By April three new sculptures will replace "Stryder II," "Landing" and "Point Defiance," which have become recognizable fixtures along the trail that runs parallel

to Smith Valley Road on Greenwood's west side.

"People have really embraced the pieces that are out there," said Angela Stelljes, a board member for the Greater Greenwood Arts Council. "When it goes away, people are going to be like 'what happened?'"

The pieces were never meant to be permanent, Stelljes said.

The three sculptures have graced concrete pedestals in prime art-viewing real estate since April 2012, where it's been seen millions of times by people on the trail and in passing vehicles.

The Arts Council and Greenwood Parks and Recreation paid each artist \$3,000 to bring the sculptures to the city for two years. New art will be chosen over the next month and will be installed in April.

Stelljes said she understands that some people will be sad to see the current sculptures replaced but hopes the new art will generate more excitement.

Greenwood and Johnson County has a spattering of public art, but Stelljes and the arts council have been working to change that.

"Art improves the quality of life," Stelljes said. "It gives you a visual marker that says this community is committed to beauty, to art and the artistic life."

Experts say Greenwood's project is one way communities can bring in quality public art without spending a lot of cash.

"That's very clever, very creative on their part," said Michael Wilkerson, an arts administration lecturer at [Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs](#).

By leasing the sculptures, Wilkerson said, "you can leverage a modest amount of money into doing a lot more."

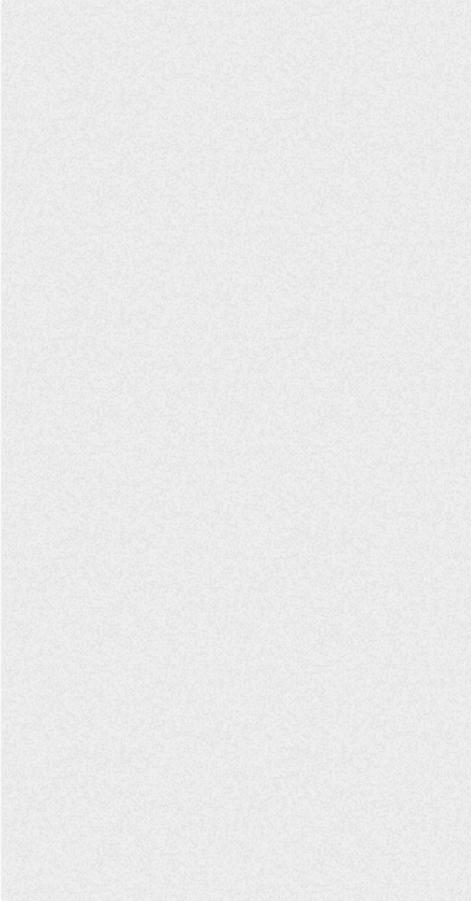
The big drawback is Greenwood won't have that one piece which becomes an icon, like Robert Indiana's "LOVE" sculpture in Indianapolis.

Greenwood residents should feel a sense of pride when they see these high-quality pieces from nationally recognized artists, said Shannon Linker, the Arts Council of Indianapolis' director of artists services and Gallery 924.

"Small communities shouldn't have to settle for sub-par art," said Linker, who is serving on a committee that will choose the next three sculptures on Polk Hill Trail.

"Having it right in your community makes it more personal," Linker said. "This is high quality art. It does something to the psyche of a smaller community."

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