

FIGURED BASE

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ARTIST: Michael Van Vooren
MEDIUM: Indiana Limestone
DEDICATION YEAR: 2009

This plaza is named Charlotte's Plaza in honor of Charlotte Zietlow, community activist.



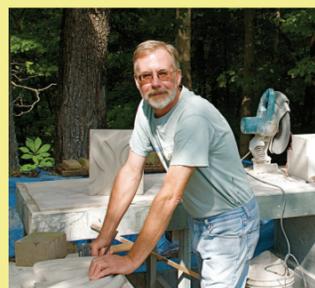
Figured Base pictured along the B-Line Trail.

ABOUT THE WORK

This sculpture of a music stand was inspired by the idea of art as a collaborative effort between many different people in its creation and enjoyment. Whether exhibited, performed or read, a support system exists to serve art that goes beyond the artist, much like a music stand supports sheet music. The artist wanted to communicate that Bloomington is a community where artists of all genres lend support to one another to enrich the lives of many. The artist wishes to dedicate this piece in memory of his father and mother, Albert and Mary Louise Van Vooren.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Michael Van Vooren received his Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from John Carroll University. Self-taught in art, Van Vooren has been creating work in a variety of media since 1972. In college, he developed an interest in art history and began maintaining a studio to work on drawing and painting, primarily in oil and acrylic, and in 1988, he began working in limestone. Van Vooren helped found an artist's co-op in Bloomington that included 25 community artists, graduate students and instructors at Indiana University.



Michael Van Vooren at work.

DID YOU KNOW?

The title, "Figured Base," is a pun on the Latin music term, *basso continuo* or figured bass (pronounced "base"), a shorthand term used by Baroque composers whereby organists were provided only with the bass note of a chord and expected to fill in the rest of the notes on their own. This spirit of collaboration and improvisation perfectly represents the spontaneous music-making this sculpture means to invoke.

City of Bloomington Public Art Trail: Charlotte's Plaza



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ANIMAL ISLAND

ABOUT THE WORK

This collaborative work, by clients and staff of Stone Belt Arc, was the first to be installed on the B-Line Trail. It represents an ongoing partnership between the City of Bloomington and Stone Belt, a local nonprofit that provides education and support to persons with disabilities. This piece is comprised largely of salvaged materials, embodying Bloomington's philosophy of sustainability, and the bright colors and whimsical animals speak to the countless children and children-at-heart who use the trail. Atop each animal is an equally colorful and imaginative weathervane, alluding to the fish that tops the Monroe County Courthouse. Mosaic stepping stone flowers in the sidewalk invite people to walk around and explore each animal.



Close-up of the chicken figure.

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ARTISTS: Joe LaMantia & Stone Belt Artisans in collaboration with Bruce's Welding and Fabrication

MEDIUM: New & Recycled Steel

DEDICATION YEAR: 2008



Stone Belt artist Steve Rock cleans sculpture after installation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Not only did Stone Belt clients collaborate on the design of the sculptures, but they also assisted in painting the giant steel animal characters.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Joe LaMantia, a Bloomington citizen and artist-in-residence at Stone Belt Arc, has been involved in numerous community art projects with the City of Bloomington, BEAD and Stone Belt. In 2007, he was honored with an Arts Leadership Award for Arts in Education by the Bloomington Area Arts Council for his collaborative arts projects in the community. He works to provide local schools and children's organizations the opportunity to plan and create artworks, illustrating the potential of collaboration between children and adults.



LaMantia working on sketches for sculpture.



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