

FLOSSMOOR PUBLIC ART COMMISSION HISTORY AND GUIDELINES

The Flossmoor Public Art Commission was established in 1998 upon receiving a gift from a Flossmoor resident of \$350,000 and an Illinois FIRST grant to develop a sculpture park/garden in downtown Flossmoor. Levitt Park was selected to center the sculpture park because of its close location to downtown Flossmoor. Peter Schaudt, the acclaimed, award-winning landscape architect, was hired to design the park. Part of Burns Avenue was removed to expand the footprint.

Mayor Roger Molski chose, and the trustees approved, members of the Flossmoor Public Art Commission to begin to develop the collection. It was decided that the collection should be world-class art in a wide variety of styles from representational to abstract. Early pieces include Mark Lundeen's "Secret Garden", the now priceless Richard Hunt's "Uplifted", Bruce Beasley's "Intersections II", Judith Shea's "Child", Scott McMillin's "Minions", Terry Karpowitz's "On the Edge of Awakening", and Howard Kalish's "Survivor".

To keep the collection fresh and conserve capital, the Commission began a rotational program in 2001 with sculptures "rented" for two to three years. To benefit the Homewood Flossmoor High School 3D art students, the Commission helped fund three monumental sculptures under the supervision of the award-winning art teacher, Greg Petecki.

The collection has grown over the years to what it is today, one of the finest public art collections in the Chicago area. The Art Commission offers walking docent tours two to three times a year.

As of 2025, the Flossmoor Public Art Commission is a volunteer assemblage of seven appointed residents selected by the Mayor and approved by the Flossmoor Village Board of Trustees. The Commission is responsible for making recommendations for the acquisition and locations for placement within the Village of appropriate pieces of outdoor art, and keeping them maintained. In addition, the Commission is responsible for community outreach and fundraising for the Flossmoor Sculpture Garden. The Commission considers ten guidelines when choosing a piece of art.

1. Public Safety; is the piece safe to display in the collection?
2. Beauty, which includes intellectual gravitas and aesthetic value.
3. Diversity of style, materials, colors and content of sculptures and diversity of the artists/sculptors.
4. The space a piece requires and the physical characteristics of the particular location.
5. Suitability for public community display.
6. The reputation of the artist: is the artist well-established or an "up and coming" emerging artist?
7. Will the sculpture meet the standards of the collection?
8. Appropriateness of materials for exposure to the weather, and cost of maintenance.
9. Cost, especially when considering purchasing a piece for the permanent collection.
10. Does the sculpture relate well to the current collection while adding something new?