



MUNCIE ACTION PLAN

July 2018 Newsletter

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"I love Muncie because it's filled with the people and places that I love."
- Heather Williams, Community Member

Look! Look! Out for Muncie Arts and Culture Council's 'Box! Box!' Initiative

The Muncie Arts and Culture Council (MACC) is moving forward with their public art project "Box! Box!", which will decorate Muncie's traffic control boxes with colorful images.

according to MACC's website. MACC serves to identify and address needs that are generally bigger in scale or more long-term projects.

The first 12 traffic control boxes have been identified and will be decorated this summer. Artists can apply on MACC's website to paint one of the 12 initial boxes or for additional boxes as Box! Box! continues to grow. Applications and design proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until the end of August 2018. Artists will receive a stipend for their labor as well as a stipend to local art supply store ArtMart for their supplies.



Box! Box! supports MAP's Initiative 4: "Create attractive and desirable places."

In a recent interview with Indiana Public Radio (IPR), MACC Executive Director Braydee Euliss explained that Mayor Dennis Tyler approached MACC in the summer of 2017 and asked if MACC would take on such a project. The IPR interview is [available here](#).

The Muncie Arts and Culture is a non-profit organization that is the official Arts Partner for the City of Muncie. It seeks to "create, educate, advocate, nurture, and inspire integration of the arts via civic initiatives and through engagement with individual artists and arts organizations,"



Projects like Box! Box! help make our community a place in which people want to live, work, play, and visit. Keep on the lookout for these works of art popping up around the community!

BY5 Continues to Transform the Community



Muncie continues to both feel and see the incredible long-term revitalization impact BY5 is having by connecting Kindergarten readiness to economic success. Muncie Action Plan aims to connect education, health, and prosperity and was the “incubator” of BY5 until it became an independent non-profit in 2013.

Because of BY5 and the support of its partners, Delaware County has seen a 58% increase in available high-quality child care spots from 2013 until 2017. This increase allows parents and caregivers to evaluate child care facilities based on a child’s needs rather than simply settle for an available opening.



Last year, the total number of Little Free Libraries in BY5’s network increased dramatically to 29, due in large part to collaboration between BY5, United Way of Delaware County, and Ball State University. Little Free Libraries are decorative boxes that serve as a donation and collection location for books in order to enhance childhood literacy rates and increase the number of books in the



Above: Little Free Library located at Canan Commons

community. Nearly a dozen more Little Free Libraries are in development. As of last year’s BY5 annual report, 23 Little Free Libraries were hosted by organizations and 6 were hosted by private homes in the BY5 Little Free Library Network.

BY5’s Early Learning Environment Task Force has rolled out a new program called Little Learners Passport. These ‘passports’ contain 100 community-based activities which help children gain the necessary skills for Kindergarten readiness and build family engagement. The Little Learners Passports encourage physical activity and skill development and can be picked up at locations including Muncie Public Library branches, Huffer CCR&R, Culver’s, the Ross Center, various YMCA locations, and at other public and private agencies.

Last year, BY5 provided guidance to 15 emerging or established early learning coalitions around the state through ongoing conversations and information sharing. Over 200 individuals and organizations serve as ambassadors, family navigators, friends, and partners in BY5’s network.

Check out BY5’s entire 2017 Annual Report [<here>](#).

