

July 23, 2012

Westfield to introduce Herron student Katey Bonar's new sculpture with a meet the artist event on July 27



Artist Katey Bonar fabricating *Passaggio*
Image credit: Herron staff

A new sculpture titled *Passaggio* graces the entrance to Asa Bales Park in downtown Westfield. The City's Grand Junction Task Group commissioned the work through Herron School of Art and Design's Basile Center for Art, Design and Public Life. Senior sculpture major Katey Bonar is the artist.

The public is invited to a Meet the Artist Event on Friday, July 27 from 6pm to 8pm at the sculpture in the park, which is located at 205 W. Hoover Street.

Three, 13-foot columns comprise the main sculpture. The columns are fabricated from steel tubing covered by polyurethane foam with a fiberglass skin and joined by concentric rings of steel tubing suspended inside the columns at the top. Near the columns are two ring groupings made of thermoplastic, flanking a sidewalk.

The name *Passaggio* references a passageway or turning point in a journey, which brings together the emphasis of history, present, and future. *Passaggio*, functions as an entry way, but also a space for visitors to explore and experience as part of the park itself.

"I feel like opening an art piece like this in Westfield gives an opportunity for residents to reflect on the past, as well as to examine where they are now and where they want to be in the future, both collectively and personally," said Bonar.

All of the visual cues in *Passaggio* relate to natural visual patterns that reflect time passing. The concentric ring patterns mirror the growth rings in trees. The columns' ridges and grooves echo eroded landmasses or stratified geologic forms. According to Bonar, the pavilion rings overhead are a way to examine the potential of looking up to the sky as an intangible place and as a possible map of the yet to come. In the two thermoplastic ring groupings, viewers have the opportunity to trace history.



Passaggio
Image credit: City of Westfield

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Bonar will be available to discuss the sculpture and the details behind the meaning during the Meet the Artist Event. The City is encouraging residents to make an evening of it by stopping at the weekly Farmers Market on their way to the park across the street.

About the Basile Center

The Frank and Katrina Basile Center for Art, Design and Public Life is Herron's laboratory for applying the talents and skills of Herron students and faculty to the needs of businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies. It connects artists in all media with community partners who are interested in providing real-world and professional practice experiences through public art commissions, art and design competitions and civic engagement opportunities. The skill and knowledge students gain from

conceptualizing and competing for community-based commissions better prepares them for the world outside college. Students often work with architects, engineers, electricians, fabrication design houses, printer companies and landscape architects to get the job done, resulting in an extraordinarily well-rounded practical experience. For more information, visit <http://www.herron.iupui.edu/basile-center>.

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