

Art in the City / Week 4

Illuminate Oregon City



Illuminate Oregon City, Tiffany Carbonneau, 2014

Image courtesy of Tiffany Carbonneau

One of the goals of Your Friday Feature series is to highlight artists living and working in and around Louisville. This week I am so excited about the opportunity to talk with Tiffany Carbonneau, Artist and Assistant Professor of Fine Art at Indiana University Southeast. Her work titled *Illuminate Oregon City* is a year-long video art installation projected on Oregon City's historic municipal elevator. With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town program, Clackamas County Arts Alliance assembled a diverse project team and completed a public art project that allows residents and visitors of Oregon City to experience an iconic architectural structure in an entirely new way.

The following is a dialogue between Sarah Lindgren (SL) and Tiffany Carbonneau (TC).

SL: What enticed you about this particular artist call for Oregon City?

TC: This call was for an outdoor video projection on a historic car elevator (one of just a few in the world). Because I am interested in highlighting unique elements of architecture with my mapped video projections, I thought this project was a great fit.

SL: Most interesting or unexpected thing you learned while installing the work?

TC: That the Union Pacific Railroad has its own police that can arrest you if you break any of their laws, including projecting light through their airspace.

SL: I'm glad you were not arrested for projecting light! What response did you received from Oregon City residents?

TC: I received a lot of positive feedback from residents of Oregon City. Overall, they seemed happy to have their town be the focus of investment by The National Endowment for the Arts and excited to have an outdoor video as an addition to their public art program. My proposal was to create a video that highlighted the social, cultural and environmental identity of Oregon City and I included the community in the process of choosing identifying elements. The residents seemed excited that I reached out to them for input on the content of the video and so many people were happy to provide feedback and to offer help in the process. I ended up working with the local farmers' market, the police department, the city, a winery, a Christmas tree and produce farm, and others, to capture the video that was used in the project.

SL: Your most sage advice for artists and collaborators working in the field of public art?

TC: I think each project is different so it is challenging to give overarching advice but I think being open to compromise is really important. Many of these projects require the collaboration between several non-profit organizations, businesses, engineers, governmental agencies, etc., and allowing some flexibility in your artistic vision (without sacrificing artistic integrity) is sometimes necessary to have a successful final project.

Many thanks to Tiffany for taking time to talk about *Illuminate Oregon City*! To learn more about the project and check out some great video footage, please visit <http://www.illuminateoregoncity.org/#project> and <http://arts.gov/exploring-our-town/illuminate-oregon-city>.

[Sarah Lindgren and Tiffany Carbonneau]