

Wonderpass Art Consultation Visit
With Sculptor and Public Artist Bill FitzGibbons
January 28 - 30, 2026

OVERVIEW

Sculptor and Public Artist Bill FitzGibbons will visit the community to for an initial design consultation on an interactive light installation at the Walnut and South Jefferson streets intersection below the US 220 bridges.



Bill FitzGibbons, *LightRails* Celebration
Birmingham, Alabama

OUTCOMES

The outcome of the visit will be community understanding and partnership development around a potential project Walnut/South Jefferson underpass. Intended products:

- a rough budget and scope,
- partnership commitments
- grant application readiness (\$100,000 NEA Application due Feb 18)

GUIDING CURIOSITIES

What would it look like...

- for one of the darker places on the Innovation Corridor to become the brightest?
- for the curiosity and wonder of the Innovation Corridor to be made visible?
 - to use technology / AI in the programming of the space?
- for the region's health aspirations and progress to be communicated?
 - to turn data into art?
- for the current *barrier* of the underpasses to become a *gateway*? (to Riverside, Roanoke Memorial, River's Edge, the Medical School, Mill Mountain, Downtown, South Roanoke, Old SW, and SE Roanoke?)

POTENTIAL PARTNERS / INVITATION LIST

City of Roanoke

- City Manager

 - Community Engagement

 - Special Projects

- City Council

 - Mayor / Liaison

- Department of Transportation

 - Electrical Contractor

- Engineering

 - Paint Contractor

- Economic Development

 - Roanoke Innovates

 - Roanoke Arts Commission

- Planning

 - Neighborhood Services

 - ARB (H-2 Adjacent)

Carilion Clinic

Virginia Tech Foundation

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology

Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC

RAMP

Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council/Roanoke Blacksburg Innovation Alliance

Radford University

Radford University Carilion

Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Robert L.A. Keeley Healing Arts Program at Carilion Clinic

Downtown Roanoke Inc.

Roanoke Regional Partnership

Roanoke Cultural Endowment

Roanoke College Center for Community Health

Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission - Healthy Roanoke Valley, Collective

- Response, Healthy Roanoke Valley

Taubman Museum of Art

Virginia Department of Transportation

PedalSafe ROA

Old Southwest Neighborhood

South Roanoke Neighborhood

Riverland/Walnut Hills Neighborhood

Private Developers / Property owners along the Corridor

Artists in Residence / Ruby Star Arts

Adjacent Businesses — Blue Cow, Starr Hill, etc...



THE ARTIST

Artist Bill FitzGibbons has fabricated sculpture for over thirty years; during his career he has completed over 30 public art projects and performances in five countries including Reykjavik (Iceland), Helsinki (Finland), Braunschweig (Germany), Stockholm (Sweden), and Yorkshire (UK). The Texas State Legislature announced FitzGibbons as the Official State Artist, during the 82nd Legislative Session in 2012. With an environmentally conscious approach to public art FitzGibbons has embraced the use of computerized LED lighting systems. FitzGibbons won the COD Award for LightRails in Birmingham Alabama in 2014. FitzGibbons has been on the Board of Trustees for the International Sculpture Center and in 2011 FitzGibbons founded the Texas Sculpture Group as a chapter of the ISC. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville acknowledged FitzGibbons with the distinguished Outstanding Alumni Award in 2010. Additionally, in 1993 FitzGibbons taught at the Hungarian Academy of Art in Budapest, Hungary as a Fulbright Scholar. www.billfitzgibbons.com



SCHEDULE

Day 1: Wednesday, Jan. 28

- Travel, Settle into hotel
- Community Overview Tour
- Dinner

Day 2: Thursday, Jan. 29

- Innovation Corridor Tour with visit to VT campus
 - Visits to ICAT and other partner/corridor sites
- Public Artist Talk

DAY 3: Friday, Jan.30

- Stakeholder meeting
- Lunch
- Travel

INVITATION LANGUAGE

The Roanoke Innovation Corridor Partners
invite you to wonder,
featuring a public art talk
by sculptor and public artist

Bill FitzGibbons

Thursday, January 29

5:30 PM - Reception with refreshments

6:15 PM - Artist Talk and Project Conversation
at the

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Your hosts for the evening:

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Roanoke Cultural Endowment

City of Roanoke

Join us for an artist's talk and conversation with sculptor and public artist Bill FitzGibbons. The event is being held in relation to a potential public art installation on Roanoke's Innovation Corridor. Please come and take part in the initial conversation that may lead to a transformative project for our community. The interactive session will also include an opportunity to help advance the public art component of the City's emerging Arts and Cultural Plan.

Please register at www.roanokearts.org/wonderpass
or email your reply to Douglas.Jackson@roanokeva.gov