New Middles

From Main Street to Megalopolis, What Is the Future of the Middle City?

Curated by Iker Gil and Mimi Zeiger,
New Middles explores the future of the center of the United States and the regions connected by the Mississippi Watershed.

New Middles situates Columbus within the watershed, up and downstream, connecting it to a network of cities with shared affinities and similar concerns around economics, the environment, and equity.

The Exhibition presents site-specific installations and photography by architects and landscape architects, artists, and designers, who use research, creativity, and innovation to build on Columbus’ design and civic legacy and to envision the future of this city and its community.
Thank you for coming to Exhibit Columbus. We invite you to use this map to explore downtown and the installations in the 2021 Exhibition.

These new projects are by some of the world’s best architects, artists, and designers. We are especially proud of the installation by our High School Design Team. This map is your guide. We estimate it will take about 90 minutes to tour all the projects. Of course, you’re welcome to create your own path, stop for a beverage or something to eat, go shopping, or just enjoy the scenery.

This exhibition, New Middles, was developed amid a global pandemic. That unprecedented, collective human experience changed our understanding of what it means to be together, how we communicate with each other, and the importance of civic life. The opportunity to present the 2021 Exhibition and commission new projects in Columbus reflects the strength of this community’s spirit and the power of human imagination in the face of challenges.

Exhibit Columbus is about finding joy and optimism in our surroundings, stirring curiosity and excitement in public space, and highlighting the ways creative leadership and critical thinking work side-by-side in a city that, for the past 75 years, chose to invest in the “Value of Good Design” to make our community a better place to live.

With New Middles, we invite you to be energized by what these artists and designers created, and inspired by what is possible in the months, years, and decades to come when a city like Columbus, Indiana invests in architecture, art, design, and community.

Exhibit Columbus New Middles Installation Locations

A  The Pump House
  Derek Hoeferlin, Tracing Our Mississippi

B  Mill Race Park
  Joyce Hwang, To Middle Species, With Love

C  Mill Race Park
  Dream the Combine, Columbus Columbus Columbus Colony

D  Sears Building Plaza
  Future Firm, Midnight Palace

E  Washington Street
  Sam Ijoma, Alternative Instruments

F  The Crump Theatre
  Shiena Napora and Stephen Mueller, Spectral

G  The Commons
  Ang Li, Window Dressing

H  600 Block of Washington Street
  Linda Shepard and Mason White, This Appearance Is

I  Franklin Square
  Natalie Vavu, Calibrate

J  First Christian Church
  Jae Hyeok Kim, In a Whole Ground

K  Clen Rogers Memorial Library
  Chadikas Jeyifous, Archival/Revival

L  Central Middle School
  High School Design Team, Tidal Vision

M  Central Middle School
  Ecosistema Urbano, Cloudroom

N  Photography Fellow
  Virginia Hardwick, On Origins of High Water

O  Photography Fellow
  David Schalliol, From the Mississippi Watershed

Information Hubs
- Bartholomew County Public Library
- Columbus Area Visitors Center
- Viewpoint Books
- Baker’s Fine Gifts & Accessories

Public Restrooms
- Columbus Area Visitors Center
- Mill Race Park
- The Commons

Exhibition Path
- Along the Exhibition Path are Wayfinding Symbols to guide you toward the projects.

Audio Tour
- Download a free self-guided audio tour app, Columbus, IN Tours, for a special audio experience of the 2021 Exhibition.

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