

FOSTER WILLEY SCULPTOR LLC

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BIOGRAPHY

Foster Willey is a sculptor and public artist who maintains his studio in St. Paul, MN. He has participated in numerous design settings including large-scale projects for major municipalities. His professional affiliations include architects, engineers, landscape architects, lighting designers, fabricators, historians, graphic designers, and conservators.

Originally from St. Joseph, Michigan, Foster received a B.F.A. from Grand Valley State University in painting and sculpture. He expanded his education with courses at Michigan State University and Andrews University where his mentor was British Sculptor, Allan Collins. Foster also attended the Naguib School of Sculpture in Chicago where he worked with Egyptian sculptor, Mustafa Naguib.

Upon relocating to Minneapolis in 1988, Foster was commissioned by the City of Minneapolis to create *The Leaders Wall*, a series of fifty life-size bronze portraits of community activists that are integrated into the 4th Ave Bridge along the Green Line commuter bike path. Other major projects proceeded including *Centrifuge*, a monumental abstract bronze sculpture for Nicollet Commons Park in Burnsville, MN.

Today, Foster Willey's commissions can be found throughout the State of Minnesota, including St. Louis Park; *The Bee Way*, Plymouth; *Winged Iris*, Rosemount; *Triskele*, Owatonna; *Regeneration*, Minneapolis; *Minnesota Menagerie* and the *Central Avenue Stelae*. Recent Public Art projects include two light rail stations for the new Green Line in St. Paul; *Hamline Prairie Station* and *Faces of Rondo* at Victoria Station. In 2016 Foster completed *Ascent Fountain*, also located in Nicollet Commons Park.

Foster has collaborated with Geoff Martin ASLA of Kimley Horn Inc. for Nicollet Commons Park, SRF Consulting and the 13th St Enhancements, Toole Design and the Street Design Manual for the City of St. Paul. He has received two CUE awards from the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Planning, an Award of Excellence from the MN Concrete & Masonry Contractors Assn. for stone carving. Burnsville's Heart of the City development including Nicollet Commons Park, which features Foster's sculpture, "*Centrifuge*", received a Great Places Award from the MN Urban Land Institute & the Sensible Land Use Coalition. Recently, Codaworx Magazine, a global design platform showcasing commissioned public art has recognized his projects *The Bee Way* and *Centrifuge* for the 'The Art of Place' and 'Motion and Mobility'.

"As a sculptor I am very interested in the built environment. Public Art and large-scale sculpture are exciting fields because of their range of expression and impact on our surroundings and the experience of daily life. My work as a public artist is adapted to the specifics of the opportunity. As a sculptor I am able to bring a range of design and fabrication skills to any public art project. My sculptural designs supplement a collaborative process that includes a community's voice."