

# VIRGINIA KISTLER MUTUAL HOMES

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Virginia Kistler (Gahanna, Ohio) is an interdisciplinary artist working primarily in sculpture and photography. Kistler has created commissioned artworks for the Dayton Metro Library, the Lincoln Motor Company and the City of Columbus, and exhibited her work nationally and internationally. She is a graduate of Ohio State University and the Columbus College of Art and Design. Learn more about her work at [www.virginiakistler.com](http://www.virginiakistler.com).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Mutual Homes* was made possible by the generosity and partnerships with many Kettering residents and organizations, including the Oak Park art selection committee; Tim and Martha Baxter; Kettering's Cities of Service and Art in Public Places committees; Greenmont Oak Park Community Church; Greenmont Elementary School and the PTO; VFW 9927; and Dayton History. Our appreciation to the City of Kettering Engineering Department, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department, and Mayor Patterson and the Kettering City Council. Support for this project was made possible by CitySites, the Community Foundation for Kettering and the Ohio Arts Council. ArtLocal is implemented in partnership with Cities of Service (COS), a City of Kettering program dedicated to innovative ways to harness the power of volunteers and address critical city needs.

**ArtLocal** is an initiative of the City of Kettering's Cultural Arts division. Through Rosewood Arts Centre, which provides arts education opportunities, and CitySites, a percent for art program, ArtLocal is an artist-led, collaborative public art program based in Kettering's neighborhoods.

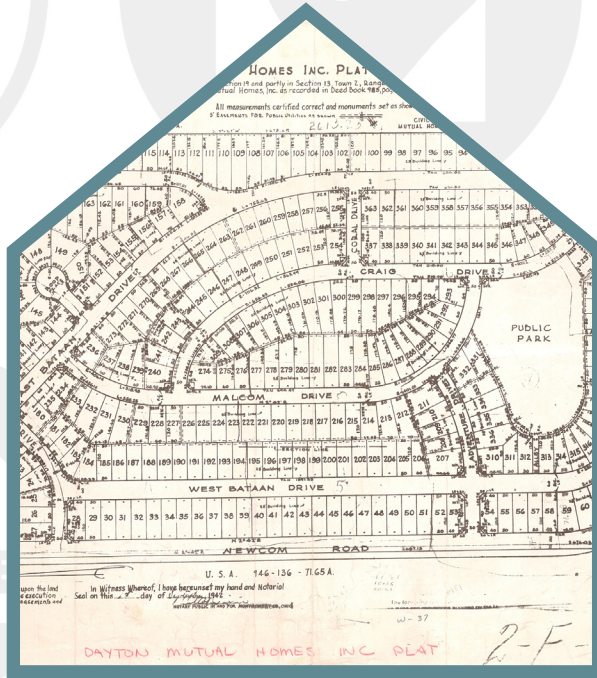
**CitySites** is a percent for art program recognizing artistic excellence, accessibility to the arts for all people, and the positive impact creativity has on our community and quality of life in the City of Kettering. With over 25 artworks throughout Kettering, CitySites continues to enhance our environment, inspire our residents and celebrate our legacy as a premier city to call home.

Learn more about Kettering's CitySites public art programs at [www.playkettering.org/citysites](http://www.playkettering.org/citysites).



## WORKSHOPS WITH RESIDENTS

Kistler worked with dozens of children from the neighborhood, creating pop-up houses and drawings of their own homes. She also met with a group of veterans who have lived in Kettering for most of their adult lives. These stories, drawings and words have been incorporated into the artwork. "The community is incorporated into the piece through the plates that are embedded into the concrete," she wrote. "Residents wrote about living in the neighborhood and children drew pictures to express their feelings about their homes in Oak Park."



Oak Park is a 1945 plat development of wood-frame Cape Cod-style homes, with a population of over 1,100. Oak Park was built after WWII to house workers of the DELCO plant (Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company) (the plant is now home to Tenneco Inc.).

Virginia Kistler wrote: "The structure is inspired by the homes in the Oak Park neighborhood and the fact that they are of similar appearance. After visiting the neighborhood and researching its history, I kept returning to the houses as the unifying element."



## ABOUT THE ARTWORK

*Mutual Homes* reflects the meaning of home to Oak Park residents. Kistler was inspired by the characteristics of Oak Park's 1945 Cape Cod-style homes, the history of the neighborhood, and the words and images shared by its residents today. Kistler found the manufacturing aspect of the neighborhood history integral to the artwork, as Oak Park was developed across from the DELCO plant (Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company).

*Mutual Homes* features a lenticular patterning of relevant images including Charles F. Kettering, who co-founded DELCO; a 1912 Cadillac Model 30, the first car to have an electric start, which Kettering developed; a light system created for farmers in rural areas by DELCO; and B-24 bombers, whose parts were manufactured at DELCO. In addition, Kistler facilitated hands-on workshops and conversations with children, residents and veterans to capture the values and spirit of the Oak Park neighborhood. The imagery embedded in the sidewalk are the words and drawings by participants.

"Much of my work starts with a lot of research or is a continuation of a theme," stated Kistler. "This piece is incredibly site specific and was based on researching the history and area. I take imagery or information that I discover during my research and use that two-dimensional information to create three-dimensional sculptures."

