

## **Public Art Installed at Motiva**

Residents and visitors at the Motiva apartment community located at 6420 Cherrywood Lane will discover a joyful burst of color in a pedestrian plaza by the entrance. On October 30, 2024, representatives of the Washington Glass Studio (WGS) installed a new sculpture for permanent display. The piece was designed by lead artist Erwin Timmers of WGS, based in Mount Rainier, Maryland.

Consisting of two curving green stems bearing abstract blossoms, the piece is entitled “Beauty in a Garden Comes from More than One Flower”. Mr. Timmers notes that the piece is “about diversity and inclusion”. The form was inspired by “a ballad by John Gay from 1720 England, about a young maiden named Black-eyed Susan who goes onboard a ship in the harbor to find her lover, Sweet William. It is thought the name of the Sate flower of Maryland originated with this ballad. The Sweet William is a European flower that has very similar blooming times as the Black-Eyed Susan and [they are] often grown together.”

The sculpture was constructed with powder-coated steel and inset panels of recycled bottle glass. The bottles were crushed by about 30 enthusiastic participants in three community workshops at WGS and fused in a kiln. The participants used stencils and colored powders to create designs on the clear glass, which was then refired.

The sculpture was commissioned by Greenbelt Apartments, LLC (owner of Motiva) in partnership with the City of Greenbelt. It was privately funded, with a budget of \$35,000. It is anticipated that the owners will add a plaque to the installation, and that they will announce a public dedication event at a later time. The sculpture belongs to Greenbelt Apartments, LLC, which bears responsibility for its maintenance going forward.

This sculpture commission fulfills a commitment made by Motiva’s developer, the NRP Group, LLC to the Greenbelt City Council; Council had encouraged the inclusion of public art while the overall project was in the planning stage. With support from the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program facilitated the project on behalf of the City, coordinating the artist selection process with public input, participating in contract development, and coordinating the community workshops at WGS. From the issuance of the initial Request for Qualifications to the date of installation, the commission process unfolded over the course of about a year and a half.

The Arts Program hopes that this piece will provide an uplifting and enduring monument to the spirit of collaboration, the ethic of reuse, and the vibrancy of the Greenbelt community.



Artist Erwin Timmers during the installation process on 10/30/24.



Workshop photos courtesy of the Washington Glass Studio.







