



**Upward Glance**  
Created by  
William M. Duffy  
Louisville, KY

PHOTO:  
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## William M. Duffy

Kentucky artist, William M. Duffy, was commissioned by the Kentucky Arts Council to create the awards to be presented to the 2007-2008 recipients of the Governor's Awards in the Arts. The pieces entitled, "Upward Glance," are individually sculpted from steatite and sit on a marble base.

William Duffy (who prefers to be called Duffy) was born and raised in Louisville. Always having a special talent for painting and drawing, Duffy graduated from the Louisville School of Art with a B.F.A. in painting.

Driving home one day from his job as an exhibits preparator for the Louisville Museum of History & Science, he stumbled upon what he believes led him to his destiny. A two-car accident had just taken place that caused one of the cars to smash into a bank's marble column, breaking it into pieces. Marble remnants laid on the sidewalk and Duffy felt compelled to ask for a chunk. After taking the stone home, he pulled out a screwdriver and a hammer and began carving. Immediately, he knew he had found his calling.

Learning from books and experimentation, Duffy taught himself to carve stone. After receiving numerous sculpture awards, he began working as a full-time sculptor in 1980. His figurative and abstract sculptures have won over 30 purchase or merit awards in exhibitions throughout the United States. Duffy has also been selected, based on artistic excellence, to participate in the Kentucky Arts Council's arts marketing program, Kentucky Crafted.

Duffy's work can be found in numerous private, corporate and public collections including Phillip Morris USA, Kentucky Fried Chicken (now YUM! Brands Inc.), the Brown-Forman Corporation and The Speed Art Museum.

The Kentucky Arts Council began commissioning original artwork by Kentucky artists for the Governor's Awards in the Arts in 1995. Previous awards have been created by Rude Osimnik, Stephen Wolfe Peckell, Ken Sapskau, Arturo Alonso Sandoval, Wayne Baser, Sapsky's Selgel, Frank Watkins, Homer Ledford, Linda Fifield, Brook Forrest White Jr., Laura Ross and Dan Neil Barnes.



## City of Covington

Covington made a bold move in using the arts as a economic development tool to revitalize its downtown. The impetus began with Renaissance Covington, a non-profit development entity begun by the city.

Through a long and thorough planning process, Covington cultivated the idea of an arts district using the National Main Street Program guiding principles: design, organization, promotion and economic restructuring.

The first and most obvious model examined by the city's Economic Development Department was Paducah and its Artist Relocation Program. It wasn't long before the leaders of the arts district

movement realized that although Paducah has had tremendous successes, Covington is a very different city with a different culture and different issues. The common problem of both cities was having blighted neighborhoods that needed revitalization, and their common solution depends upon the arts and forming partnerships between government, financial institutions, established businesses, emerging entrepreneurs and artists.

The tangible part of the planning process began with a multi-layered map of Covington. The city first identified the arts and cultural resources already available in Covington. Those assets were the foundation with overlays of the targeted areas that needed rehabilitation. One grid identified areas to become the Covington Artist Residential District and another, the Covington Arts and Technology Zone. Together with an enterprise center for artisans as the hub, they formed the vision for the Covington Arts District.

The Covington Arts and Technology Zone encourages the growth and development of arts and technology small businesses by providing 1% loans to acquire equipment, inventory, leasehold improvements and real estate improvements. This zone overlaps the residential district, however, eligible properties tend to be closer to the main business corridor of Pike Street.

The third part of the equation is the newly opened Artisan's Enterprise Center, located at 25 West Seventh Street, which serves as a clearinghouse for arts and cultural activities in Covington. It provides free exhibition space, workshop space and conference rooms for artists who live and work in Covington, as well as housing the Covington Arts District offices and the future Cultural Heritage Tourism Program. An unusual public/private partnership was formed to bring the Artisan's Enterprise Center to life. The architectural firm of Kinzelman, Kline and Gossman (KKG) owns the building but more than half of the first floor will be rent-free public space. With nearly \$2 million dollars in rehabilitation costs by KKG, supplemented by a \$450,000 allocation from the General Assembly, the old northern Kentucky variety store is a 20,000 square foot phoenix rising from the ashes.

While the arts district is still in its infancy, other cities across the country are looking to Covington as a model for starting similar arts district programs. Covington's arts district success is dependent upon artist, business and government support, but the credit goes to the City of Covington for putting all the pieces together to build a vibrant community through the arts.

### Sources:

<http://arts council.ky.gov/07govaward/govmt/gov.htm>

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<http://artscouncil.ky.gov/07govaward/duffy.htm>