

A man in a red t-shirt is looking at a glass door. The background is a blue-tinted collage with silhouettes of people and abstract shapes. The overall aesthetic is artistic and modern.

Milwaukee Community Service Corps'  
Art Corps Presents  
The Second  
in a Series of  
Public Art Exhibits

August – October 2006

# PASSING THROUGH



Milwaukee Community Service Corps'  
Art Corps Presents Installation 2:



Local individual artists and MCSC artist teams designed and constructed operable doors and jambs that serve as metaphors for the obstacles—barriers to entry—in one's life. This installation has a deep, rich texture that includes perspectives from all walks of life. Some artists reside in impoverished neighborhoods while others live on the trendy eastside. Some artists are native Milwaukeeans while others have relocated here. Some have college degrees while others have life experience. What they all have in common are two wonderful things: a love of art and teaching the community with that art and sharing their perspectives.

This exhibit is the second in the series of public art installations around Milwaukee by the Art Corps. The Art Corps is part of the Milwaukee Community Service Corps, a grandchild of the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps and Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration.

For more information about the Art Corps and the locations of the installations, please visit our website at [www.mcscartcorps.freewebspace.com](http://www.mcscartcorps.freewebspace.com).





## Perspective

Artist: **Heather Wiedeman**

"Perspective" represents an opportunity to view different degrees of horizons beyond the barrier of a door. Explore the architectural landscapes and interaction of people within an urban environment through peepholes and voyeuristic capsules containing imagery of a world within imaginations that each of us brings to the environments we pass through.

**What makes this door unique:** Those that pass by can view images or the limited perspective the peep-hole provides.



**About the artist:** *M. Wiedeman is a printmaker and mixed media artist living and working in Milwaukee, WI.*

## Think About the Future

Artists: **MCSC Group - Michael Willis, Dawon Roberts, Jesse McCoy, Phillip Spain and Reginal Jackson. (Not pictured Antonio Taylor and Azaria Spears-Matthews)**

All too often young people forget the importance of tomorrow, next week, month or year even and settle for living for that day alone. They drop out of school because it is too hard or too boring and get jobs so they can pay for things like expensive cell phones or new shoes. However, all these things are trivial because you hit a dead end because not many high-paying employers want to hire a drop-out. Therefore, it is necessary to think about the future – to get an education, work hard, graduate, and get job opportunities that build on one another. All these things create and lead to new opportunities and an overall better life.

**What makes this door unique:** The diamond window built into the door to signify the idea that without education you will just be on the outside looking in.

**About the artists:** *The artists that created this project are corps members in the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC). Besides having artistic talent, they impact the community daily through various facets of community service. Through MCSC's program, corps members rebuild houses that were once in decay, work on skimmer boats to clean up the Milwaukee River, clean litter from lots and create beautiful landscapes while attaining educations that will aid them in their future job prospects.*







Side 1



Side 2

### **Ain't Nothin' but a Locked Door**

**Artist: Name: MCSC Group - Jamil Fillilove, William James, Billy Keys and William James.**

As seen in countless articles in the local media, like the Journal Sentinel, and from our own experiences it can be seen that once you go to jail or commit a crime, it's going to be on your record forever. Doors become locked and it becomes harder to find jobs. As stated in the Journal Sentinel, "Even McDonald's doesn't want felons as burger flippers." The only way to get through the door is to work hard, finding those that are willing to give you opportunities to further yourself, like the Milwaukee Community Service Corps, and that will give you freedom to follow your dreams.

**What makes this door unique:** One side is painted to resemble jail bars while the other side is painted to represent freedom.

**About the artists:** The artists that created this project are corps members in the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC). Besides having artistic talent, they impact the community daily through various facets of community service. Through MCSC's program, corps members rebuild houses that were once in decay, work on skimmer boats to clean up the Milwaukee River, clean litter from lots and create beautiful landscapes while attaining educations that will aid them in their future job prospects.



## Outside the Box

Artist: **MCSC Group - Coey Sephus**

Many people can only see things at face value. Tolerance demands that we think outside of the box. At first glance, to many people, this door is just covered in white but there is so much more that can be seen inside. It takes a creative and accepting mind to open the door and see all the colors throughout the inside. In the end it is worth it to open the door and see what lays inside.

**What makes this door unique:** The outside of the door is painted all white, including the window, to represent the idea that it takes effort to see what's inside.

**About the artists:** *The artists that created this project are corps members in the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC). Besides having artistic talent, they impact the community daily through various facets of community service. Through MCSC's program, corps members rebuild houses that were once in decay, work on skimmer boats to clean up the Milwaukee River, clean litter from lots and create beautiful landscapes while attaining educations that will aid them in their future job prospects.*



## A Milwaukee-Sized Effort

Artist: **Becky Franklin**

In this piece "A Milwaukee-Sized Effort", the teddy bears, representing today's Milwaukee youth, stand at a door looking out a window to life's opportunities. The bears can see what is on the other side of the door, but aren't able to pass that barrier. To open the door in any timely fashion, the locks need to be freed by a group of people, who hold or can obtain the required skills, time, and money. Currently, it is difficult for some communities in Milwaukee to open those doors for their youth, but as a whole, Milwaukee has the capabilities if the city members will make a organized group effort.

**What makes this door unique:** The teddy bears that reside behind the door represent the youth of Milwaukee.

**About the artist:** *In 2005, Becky Franklin graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with a BA in studio arts. Since then she moved back home to the Milwaukee area, and currently is the gallery manager at Lakeshore Gallery. She also works as a freelance artist, completing private works as well as contributing to public art, like Beastie Beat in 2004.*



## Within

Artist: **Ben Van Male**

"Within" a door is a safety barrier, an opportunity, an obstacle. Safety, opportunity, obstacle for both what is inside and outside of the door. Peer inside, observe others peer inside, imagine life inside, go beyond viewing the work. Consider the environments, situations, and ideas as you immerse yourself. How will you be Passing Through?

**What makes this door unique:** Different images inside the door that you can barely see.

**About the artist:** *Benjamin John Van Male is a self taught artist that creates work in many different mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, and mixed media. Born and raised in and near Milwaukee, he currently resides in Milwaukee and has shown locally and nationally.*



## Revolving

Artists: **MCSC Group - David Watson, Kris Priebe, Guillermo Gallagos, Charles Coleman, Xiong Lor, Mario Stribling and Oscar Aguirre.**

This brightly colored door, with hand prints over the front and back, represents those that have passed through the door by gaining education and opportunities. After making it through the door and becoming successful they can push back through to help other people by giving them opportunities or through mentoring strategies. A small revolving door hangs from the main door representing the circular motion of everyday life and the importance of how things are constantly changing.

**What makes this door unique:** The handprints were completed by Antonio and Xiong, who placed their hands in black paint and placed them on both sides of the door. Also, this door was a collaboration between a cross section of corps members and members of our deaf crew.

**About the artists:** *The artists that created this project are corps members in the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC). Besides having artistic talent, they impact the community daily through various facets of community service. Through MCSC's program, corps members rebuild houses that were once in decay, work on skimmer boats to clean up the Milwaukee River, clean litter from lots and create beautiful landscapes while attaining educations that will aid them in their future job prospects.*



## Door 25 and Door 26

Artist: **Monica Drake**

"Door 25 and Door 26" represents the option to choose. As cliché as it may be, it is certainly a fact that people make decisions every day that steer the direction of their lives. Many choices are either/or, a 50/50 chance, one could go left or right. Choosing "left or right" can sometimes feel uneducated or happenstance, but that it is the decision to decide that really creates an arena of opportunity. Yes, I will; No, I won't "Yes, I will decide to do something today" could be the day that you hold the keys to the door. Are you holding the key today?

**What makes this door unique:** When opening one side of the door you will see yourself in a mirror.

**About the artist:** *Monica Drake grew up in Mayville, Wisconsin and moved to Milwaukee about 5 years ago to attend college. She graduated from UWM with a major in Art History and a minor in French. Painting, drawing, and constructing art projects makes her always feel calm and level. She thoroughly enjoys the product and process of creating art pieces.*



The Milwaukee Community Service Corps would like to thank the Department of Public Works, the Advisory Board, Alderman (John Smith) and Alderman (John Smith) for all their efforts and support in making this series of public art installations possible. Coming up we will be having the third installation: "Helping Hands," which will be large, oversized hands built in an artistic manner that will sit or "emerge" from the base that they sit upon.



1441 N. 7th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53205  
414.372.9040





