

Public Art

Installations of public art are used to make an area feel safer, create a sense of community, and encourage the safe use of the space. This leads to increased natural surveillance, a core principle of crime prevention through environmental design. When you activate the space and draw people's eyes to it, they assist in keeping the area safe. Art installations increase civic pride and ownership of the area. Engaging local artists to do the work also enhances local pride and can make it easier to maintain the artwork.



The [Mayors' Institute on City Design](#) (MICD) offers examples of public art and architecture used to improve and enhance spaces. My state capital, [Concord, NH](#), prioritizes public art, which truly adds to the sense of safety and community in the downtown area.

Art that activates a space is often interactive. The "[What Lifts You](#)" wings in Nashville are a great example of this. This mural took a small space beside a parking lot and turned it into a real attraction. With groups of people there taking photos at all hours, the whole area is made safer.

Look for art in your town or city that not only enhances the beauty and civic pride of the area but also contributes to a safer community. The US Department of Justice offers great advice on [bringing art to your community](#).

