

Collaborative Artwork “Big Rapids: Enfolded by Beauty” Unveiled for 2013 Festival of the Arts



Origami Collage Collaborative Artwork by Linda Stephen

Mitchell Creek Park, Big Rapids, Michigan

Where: Artworks in Big Rapids, Main Gallery, 106 N. Michigan Avenue. (231-796-2420)

When: February and March 2013 as part of the 2013 Big Rapids Festival of the Arts and 2013 Art Attack
Tues-Fri 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. -3 p.m.

What: Origami collage collaborative artwork “Big Rapids: Enfolded by Beauty” created by Linda Stephen after workshops with more than 400 city residents, ages 3 to 90.

How: During the 2012 Big Rapids Festival of the Arts last January, artist and Big Rapids native Linda Stephen presented workshops on *origami*, the Japanese art of paper folding – and to create a collaborative *origami* collage landscape celebrating Big Rapids. More than 400 people from the Big Rapids area, ages 3 to 90, participated in two days– creating 2,000 tiny *origami* tulip tops in more than 20 colors.



Folding *origami* tulips (left 2 photos). Close-ups of the *origami* tulips in “Big Rapids: Enfolded by Beauty” flowers, trees, lawn (right 3 photos).

There are tiny triangle *origami* pieces everywhere – made you, your neighbors and school students. Can you find yours? Do you see a folded triangle tulip shape in the rippling creek, in the shade, in the sunny lawn, in cherry blossoms, forsythia branches, raspberry leaves, lilac bushes, spring tree leaves, evergreen trees (about 20 upside down tulips each), bricks in the retaining wall, rocks in the creek, ivy on the wall, or leaves in the woods?

The finished artwork by Linda Stephen is about 2 feet high by 3 feet wide and shows a spring scene of **Mitchell Creek Park** looking from the parking lot behind Dairy Queen south towards downtown Big Rapids up the stairs over Mitchell Creek. Constructed over four months – one piece of paper at a time, “Big Rapids: Enfolded by Beauty” incorporates tiny folded papers ($\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch) in a mosaic along with Linda’s original *origami* sculptures – soccer players, a dog, a student running up the stairs, lampposts, a guitar player by the creek, the bridge and more.

Thank you for your part in this year-long project – and showing we each have gifts that we bring to our community and our world.

Linda Stephen’s *origami* landscapes are part of private and public collections across the U.S. and Japan including hotels, opera houses, schools, businesses, and city halls from Big Rapids to San Diego to Japan. She presents *origami* workshops across North America and was a guest artist

for the 2012 Big Rapids Festival of the Arts. She lived in Japan for many years but first learned *origami* as a youth in Big Rapids. See her 2013 exhibit "Folding in Color" at the [University of Michigan Gifts of Art](#) Gallery through April 8. www.LindaStephen.com or Facebook - [LindaStephenOrigamiArt](#).

For more on 2013 **Big Rapids Festival of the Arts** events through the end of February, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/festival/>