





Art can transform a public space. Art can spark a young mind. And when joined together, art can add an element of surprise to a simple rest stop, revealing unknown beauty on your journey. The Art Sparks program, a joint venture of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, brings unexpected excitement to travelers on the Turnpike, while putting young artists on the road to success. Rest. Stop. Imagine all the places you could go!

ART SPARKS @ HIGHSPIRE SERVICE PLAZA

“Out and About Here” is a glass mosaic mural created by Steelton-Highspire High School art students, led by local mosaicist Linda Billet and their dedicated art teacher Sharon Keeney. The mosaic is presented in three 3’x5’ panels, each depicting a different local destination surrounding the Highspire Service Plaza. Students started by creating personal glass tiles that reflect themselves as individuals. The individualized tiles are incorporated into the glass mosaics, bringing them to life with the thoughts and ideas of the students who created them. Each tile’s uniqueness to the mosaic represents the originality and value each student adds to this community.

THE ART SPARKS PROGRAM

The PA Turnpike has partnered with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) to bring local, student-created art to our service plazas. Through this program, a school residing in the municipality of a chosen service plaza is selected to host a 20-day teaching artist residency led by a local PCA teaching artist. The students work with the artist and community members to create a piece of art that reflects the region. The work is installed at the respective service plaza during a community opening event. This program began in January 2017 and it is expected that all 17 PA Turnpike service plazas will feature an Art Sparks piece by the end of 2024.

The Highspire Service Plaza Art Sparks project was made possible, in part, through the PCA’s regional Arts in Education Partner, Capital Area Intermediate Unit.

