Urban Times readers got the first glimpse of a new Indy Reads project last month, with a report about The Public Collection, a series of eight book-borrowing stations that will be installed this summer.

Indy Reads and Rachel M. Simon are part of a collaborative team that pairs Stuart Hyatt, an Indianapolis-based artist and musician known for his evocative and participatory media works with Janice Shimizu and Joshua Coggeshall, award-winning architects with 20 years of realized projects throughout the United States.

“The Public Collection at Horizon House will be different from the other locations because it is not a traditional public space, in the way that our other proposed sites of Monument Circle, City Market, and Eskenazi Hospital are public spaces,” said Alyssa Starr Newerth, director of advancement at Indy Reads.

“This work was designed specifically for our neighbors at Horizon House who are currently experiencing homelessness.”

“We imagine Table of Contents to be so much more than a repository for physical books and audiobook CDs; we see it as an interactive, inhabitable piece of architectural sculpture. It is an artwork that offers multiple points of access, allowing each viewer to approach the piece on their own terms,” said Hyatt.

“A goal of this project is to serve all members of our community,” said Travis DiNicola, executive director of Indy Reads. “Most pieces are in high-visibility public areas, but this one is inside the location with the neighbors of Horizon House who are experiencing homelessness. The structure will be fabricated off site but will be assembled and finished on site with the help of the Horizon House community, providing temporary employment to a group of neighbors.

Said Simon, “The heart of The Public Collection is about providing everyone with equal access to books and art; I feel this is a critical element of a socially just community. The hope is to improve literacy and foster a deeper appreciation for the arts.”

The artists and sites were announced last month. Other artist-site pairings will be announced in the near future.