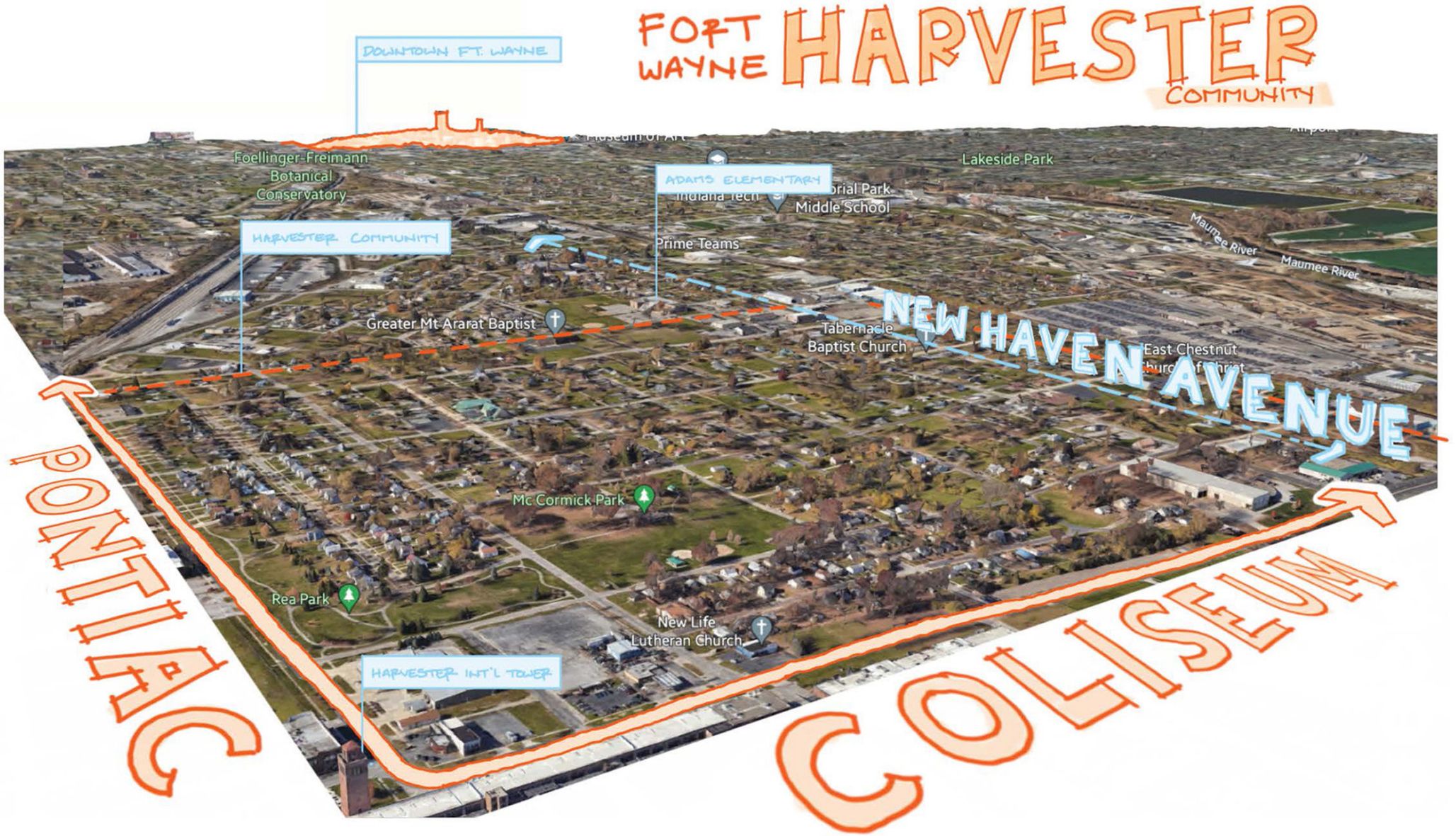

HARVESTER NEIGHBORHOOD—BUS SHELTER

2025 AIA Fort Wayne Design Awards

DESIGNED TO CREATE A SAFE SPACE SHAPED BY THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES

The Harvester Neighborhood bus shelter embodies community collaboration, thoughtful design, and sustainable innovation in a compact civic intervention. Located at the northeast corner of New Haven and Holly Avenues, the shelter is a safe, functional, and visually engaging space that reflects the history and identity of the Harvester Neighborhood. The project grew out of a broader master planning initiative in partnership with neighborhood residents, the City of Fort Wayne, and design interns, creating a blueprint for long-term community improvements and celebrating the neighborhood's 100th anniversary in 2023. The Neighborhood had a grant and were working with the City of Fort Wayne Department of Neighborhoods, as well.

ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

Design Considerations, Limitations, & Solutions — The design challenge was to create a shelter that could serve multiple purposes within a limited footprint while addressing safety, accessibility, and neighborhood identity. Community input guided both the form and materials, ensuring the shelter was welcoming and durable. The structure's steel frame provides long-term resilience, while custom panels incorporate the Harvester Neighborhood logo as a visual reference to the iconic arches of the Harvester International Tower. The shelter was fabricated with contributions from Fort Wayne Community Schools' Career Academy Welding Technology students, further tying the project to the community it serves. Custom Fabrication had a lot to do with putting it all together. They were a major player that had the welding students into their facility to learn how to weld. The placement of the shelter maximizes visibility and accessibility, creating a secure waiting area for riders while fostering interaction among neighbors.

Construction and Technical Systems — The bus shelter utilizes a robust steel structural system paired with tempered glass and powder-coated custom panels. Solar-powered LED lighting enhances visibility and safety during evening hours, providing energy-efficient illumination without requiring extensive site electrical infrastructure. The construction incorporated high-quality, low-maintenance materials capable of withstanding weather, wear, and public use while maintaining aesthetic appeal.

Sustainability and Special Considerations — Sustainability was central to the design through the use of solar-powered lighting and durable materials. The project also prioritized universal accessibility, ensuring level entries and seating appropriate for all users. The collaborative process brought together community stakeholders, students, and local fabricators, embedding educational and social sustainability into the project's impact.

Impact & Vision — The Harvester Neighborhood bus shelter exemplifies how thoughtful design in small-scale civic projects can enhance safety, accessibility, and identity while fostering community pride. By transforming a modest bus stop into a welcoming and sustainable space, the project strengthens neighborhood connections, celebrates local heritage, and demonstrates how design excellence can extend beyond traditional building typologies. It is a tangible expression of community vision realized through design, craftsmanship, and collaboration.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Submission Category — Non-Traditional Projects
Project Type — Bus Shelter
Project Cost — Unable to disclose
Project Address — 3615 New Haven Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46803
Date of Substantial Completion — March 2025


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