YOU are invited to participate in this community collaborative art project!

Indiana native Mark Cooper is making a triumphant return to his hometown state to create an engaging community collaboration titled YuYu Columbus after 40 years of building his career as an artist and educator of renown, based in Boston. The exhibition will be open through the end of September 2013 and is sponsored by the Columbus Museum or Art and Design (CMAD) and the IU Center for Art+Design (IUCA+D). Local residents are invited to contribute their own unique elements to this installation during the length of the two-month exhibit by contacting IUCA+D and the exhibit ambassadors.

Over twenty sculptural pieces and two-dimensional works made from wood and fiberglass and layered with rice paper, paint, silk-screens, along with varying images and patterns will form the basis of the installation. Additional pieces and elements will be added by the Columbus community to the large wooden forms Mr. Cooper has built, creating a collaborative public sculpture that will be relocated, after the YuYu Columbus exhibit closes, to various Columbus public spaces for ongoing display. 'YuYu' is a reference to the Yu Yuan gardens of Shanghai, after which Mr. Cooper has named several of his shows, and where the diverse elements of air, water, earth and artifact exist in astounding combination with each other.

On Friday, September 13th from 6:00-8:00pm at IUCA+D Mark Cooper, along with the exhibit ambassadors, will lead a conversation with the community collaborators and the general public about the power of collaboration and the transformative experience that results from sharing the process of creating art. Come participate in the discussion, meet your fellow collaborators and celebrate the evolution of YuYu Columbus.

Mark Cooper received his MFA from Tufts University/SMFA, and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Boston College, as well as a Graduate and Regular Faculty at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. Cooper’s work is in several major museums, as well as corporate and private collections. Cooper is best-known for his large public art pieces, made in collaboration with children, hospital patients, students, and other constituencies, for such institutions as The Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Boston College Museum, Capital Children’s Museum in Washington, DC, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Grounds, and the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris.