

# News from theNate

DIGITAL

Newsletter November/December 2023



*A new sculpture is on loan from artist Eric Stephenson, and it evokes the subtle sway and rhythm of a belly dancer.*



**Governors State**  
UNIVERSITY

**theNate**  
NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

Read about our 2023 season highlights, the year in review (it was a great one!)

# News from theNate

## NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

### ART

In addition to a July solo exhibition in the Visual Arts Gallery called "REACH", Eric Stephenson installed "Vessel #111" at theNate.



**Vessel #111, 2010**  
welded stainless, Blown Glass w/concrete base, 110"H x 48"W x 36"D

Eric W. Stephenson is an American sculptor based in Chicago whose work explores the form, spirit, and experience of the body, human and otherwise, rendered through abstraction and informed by industrial materials and methods. His most recent work returns to the human form to figure a language of movement through a mastery of metal. "Vessel #111" evokes the subtle sway and rhythm of a belly dancer, which isn't surprising since the artist is inspired by dancers, gymnasts, circus performers, rock climbers, and any time the body is in motion.

An exhibition, "Mist of the Earth" is planned for April in the Visual Arts Gallery to focus on the work of Brazilian artist Denise Milan who has two pieces on loan to theNate: "Earth the Blue Stone" and "Circle of Gold: Destruction and Renewal". Denise Milan is based in São Paulo,

## Inside

- 2023 Calendar Review
- Success! Sculpture, Wine & Dine
- Sound of the Woods

Brazil. She works with natural resources, and stones are particularly important to her. She tries to bring out what she calls the "language of stones". Denise Milan is working in different media, and she has also worked with experts in science and technology, anthropology, archaeology, philosophy, literature, theater, and music. She uses the stone as her creative axis, which leads to a production that embraces public art, sculpture, urban performance, scenic arts, opera, poetry, printing, videoart, and multimedia art. Milan's works have been exhibited in renowned national and international institutions and she has participated in the 20th, 21st, and 33rd Biennial of São Paulo, as well as the most recent 13th Marcosul Biennial, where her work "TrincAr" was prominently displayed.



**The Circle of Gold, Destruction and Renewal, 2012**  
bronze, 70 inches

*Continued on the next page*

## ART *Continued from previous page*



**Earth the Blue Stone, 2012**  
Blue Bahia granite, 24x38x53 inches

Another gallery exhibition is planned for September of 2024 for Indira Johnson who currently has “Ten Thousand Ripples” installed at theNate. Artist Indira Johnson exhibited an installation of emerging Buddha sculptures at the Chicago Cultural Center over ten years ago and she noticed visitors contemplating the sculptures—many even told her that they felt a sense of peace. For Johnson, who has long used the emerging Buddha image as a symbol of peace and self-realization, this response resonated. She wondered what reaction the sculptures would provoke if they were located in public spaces, like storefronts or abandoned lots. This thought led to the development of TTR.



By bringing Ten Thousand Ripples to theNate, our visitors enjoy this contemplation in the context of the other works

in the collection, and in the beauty of the natural prairie setting. The exhibition in the Visual Arts Gallery will further enhance this experience.

**Indira Freitas Johnson:** Born in Mumbai, India, Johnson received her undergraduate degree from the University of Bombay and the Sir JJ Institute of Art and her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Johnson’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is represented in numerous private and public collections including the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art.

Johnson believes strongly that art and activism are a powerful combination for social change. Indira Freitas Johnson’s passion to make art part of everyday life and to involve local communities in the art process is evident in all her work.



For more information go to the artist’s website [indirajohnson.com](http://indirajohnson.com)

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[www.govst.edu/sculpture](http://www.govst.edu/sculpture)

Governors State University  
1 University Parkway  
University Park, IL 60484



## Director's Notes

Welcome to the 2023 year-end edition of News from theNate where you'll read about favorite traditions like "Earth Day Fresh Air Walk", which was a successful collaboration with GSU's Center for Performing Arts, "Juneteenth Summer Solstice" with community partners Southland Arts and the Village of Park Forest, and the sixth presentation of "Sculpture, Wine & Dine" with Honorary Chairs Mallory and Nate Sutton – our best year yet!

A BIG WELCOME to New Board Member – Ethel Nicholas! If you would like to join this dynamic and diverse board, reach out to any of us for more information about becoming an Advisory Board Member - or to volunteer as an Ambassador for theNate. The talents and areas of expertise in our current group are wide ranging, and you don't need to know a lot about art – we have folks from all sorts of sectors, professions, and skill sets but all of them share an enthusiasm for theNate as a free and open public resource offering our communities, friends, fans, and followers an optimal experience of Art in a native prairie setting.

In this issue you'll be reminded of visiting artists Eric Stephenson, Denise Milan, and Indira Johnson, and new acquisitions by Bernard Williams, Neil Goodman, and Jason Pickleman, providing an opportunity to see something new to all our visitors, while returning to longtime favorites. In the words of guest curator and friend of theNate, Marin Sullivan, it serves as a "radical respite" for all of us whenever we need to get away, refresh, and restore ourselves. Bring the kids and let them run free – no one will shush them in this outdoor museum. Dogs are welcome too – when on a leash and cleaned up after.

Why would you wait? Visit theNate!

With Warm Regards,  
Jeff Stevenson  
*Director & Curator, theNate*

Donate online <https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/>

or checks made payable to: **NMSP/GSU Foundation**

mailed to: Jeff Stevenson  
theNate at Governors State University  
1 University Parkway  
University Park, IL 60484

You can also stay up to date with new developments by following us on our website and social media:

[www.govst.edu/sculpture](http://www.govst.edu/sculpture)

[https://www.instagram.com/ thenate /](https://www.instagram.com/thenate/)

<https://www.facebook.com/thenate.gsu>

### Advisory Board for theNate (left to right):

Elizabeth L. Kelley, Paul Uzureau, Leona Calvin, Kim L. Bright, Jennifer Traff, Patricia Mell Ragland (president), Jeff Stevenson (director, curator), Dr. Cheryl Green (GSU president), Tim Brennen, Yvonne Orr El, Jason Zingsheim (DAL chair), Gregg Lunceford, Jacqueline James Lewis, Aaron West (student member), Al Sturges.

**Not pictured:** Shay Brokemon, Levoi Brown, Susan Ormsby, Victoria Strole

### Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

Jeff Stevenson, *Director & Curator*

Patricia Mell Ragland, *President*

Elizabeth L. Kelley, *Immediate*

*Past-President*

Gregg Lunceford, *Vice President*

Timothy Brennan

Shay Brokemon

Levoi Brown

Leona Calvin

Jacqueline James Lewis

Ethel Nicholas

Susan Ormsby

Yvonne Orr-El

Paul Uzureau

### Ex-officio

Lewis Manilow, (08/11/1927-  
12/12/2017), *Founder*

Cheryl Green, *Ph.D., GSU President*

Will Davis, *Vice President, Institutional*

*Advancement, Marketing and  
Communications, Chief Executive Officer,*

Deborah James, *Ph.D.*

*College of Arts and Sciences Chair*

**Website:** [www.govst.edu/sculpture](http://www.govst.edu/sculpture)

**General Email Address:** [jstevenson@govst.edu](mailto:jstevenson@govst.edu)

**Phone:** 708.534.4021

**Hours:** Dawn until dusk every day

**Admission:** Free admission to park, some activities have fees.

© 2022 Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Please direct questions or comments to **Jeff Stevenson**, *Director & Curator, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery, Governors State University.*

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

### Avian Station / Sound of the Woods / Hand Heart

**Avian Station**, by Bernard Williams, is finally installed and touching up the paint is the only remaining task. The long awaited addition to theNate will be dedicated during a VIP event at Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2024, so mark your calendar for Saturday, September 14, 2024.

**Sound of the Woods**, by Neil Goodman  
We are well on our way in our campaign to raise \$80,000.00 to commission the artwork, "Sound of the Woods" by Neil Goodman. Five lead donors have made generous contributions of over \$50,000 in total so that we are able to move forward with the project!

The next three donors who contribute \$10,000 or more will also receive a small sculpture by Neil Goodman as recognition. (theNate is part of The Governors State University Foundation which is a 501c3 – all donations are tax deductible).

**This is a rare and exciting project. Neil's legacy is a treasure.** The undulating lines, that echo back to themselves, invite us to trace our path of discovery within and beyond ourselves, to our inner world and our outer surroundings.

The open forms hint at the way tree branches divide the summer sky, or cast shadows across the snowy ground, the positive and negative shapes sharing equal importance in supporting our perceptions. **"Sound of the Woods" will be a valuable and unique addition** to the visitor experience.



*"I hope that in a hundred years from now, another sculptor will be equally moved by the works at theNate, inspired as I was to create new works of sustenance and quality. As we move forward, we look back, and it is both a privilege and an honor to have my work recognized as a prospective new acquisition, and to potentially join the ranks of the distinguished artists represented in the collection at theNate."*

~ Neil Goodman, Sculptor



## NEW ACQUISITIONS

*Continued from previous page*

### Hand Heart, by Jason Pickleman

We are excited to announce this soon-to-be new arrival.

Hand Heart directly addresses the continuity that exists across the history of visual form making— from cave drawings to the pictograms of contemporary international wayfinding signage—to form a symbol of compassionate empathy that supersedes language to become universally communicative across lines of age, race, gender, and culture.

Handprints are as old as human civilization. They are found deep inside some of the earliest cave dwellings, some dating to 64,000 years ago. In a similar gesture, children from all over the world have placed their hands into paint or mud and made impressions of their palms and outstretched fingers. Likewise, the inset red heart within this sculpture is a universal symbol of life and love, health, and happiness, and can be found in cultures all over the world. In fact, it's one of the first symbols we learn as children. Hand Heart harkens to these various situations.

Hand Heart utilizes the graphic conventions of international way finding, like those seen in airports, to express concerns of love, connectedness, and empathy. The sculpture seeks to engage its public on both a popular as well as poetic level, utilizing visual forms that are open to both children and seasoned anthropologists. And art critics, too.

Bridging the gap between fine and commercial art, Jason Pickleman (b. 1965) has created a body of work both conceptual and popular, applying media as varied as neon, offset printing, silkscreen, collage, photography, and commercially available ready-mades. Pickleman was included in the 2007 exhibition *Young Chicago* at the Art Institute of Chicago, and his work has subsequently been placed into the museum's permanent collection.



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#### The free Otocast app

is a valuable resource for visitors to enhance your experience at your sculpture park right on your own phone! Explore the park with the voices of multiple renowned sculptors leading the way. Look for it in your app store on your phone, and use it at destination attractions all over the world.

## Mothering Earth

Friend of theNate Julia Rockwell is familiar to our readers for her contributions about sustainability in past issues of News from theNate. In our mission we include conservation of the native prairielands not only for their importance as a beautiful setting for the monumental works in the collection, their educational value for our Outdoors@theNate program, but also because it is good for the environment and our own health.

We are excited to announce that Julia's new book, *"Mothering Earth: The Busy Family's Guide to Saving the Planet"* is available now! Just like the articles for our newsletters, Julia presents practical, non-judgmental advice for anyone, no matter if you are a beginner or a seasoned pro at living a low impact lifestyle, so that we can all work together to have a healthier Earth to give to our children.

### ABOUT MOTHERING EARTH

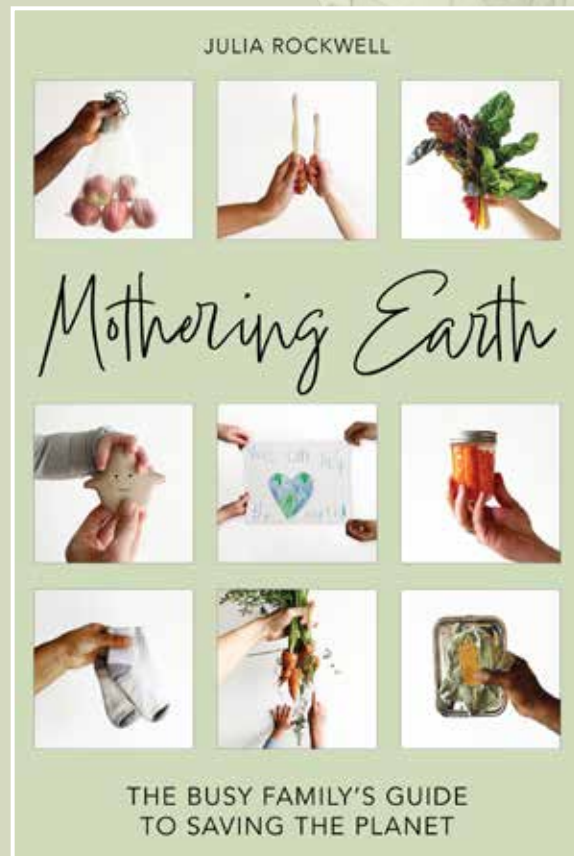
**This Earth—and money—saving guide to sustainable living empowers families everywhere to fight climate change by making practical lifestyle changes—at home at their own pace.**

Expert author Julia Rockwell provides a road map to simplify and streamline our lives in a way that benefits overall well-being and the health of the planet—all without sacrificing comforts or turning our lives upside down. And to do so you...

- do **not** need to carve out separate time to focus on sustainability,
- do **not** need to spend more money,
- do **not** need to partake in DIY projects,
- do **not** need to be perfect,
- do **not** need to get rid of all the plastic in your home,
- do **not** need to turn your family's life upside down,
- do not need to feel guilty (you didn't create this mess we are in),
- do **not** need to live off the grid.

Written and designed to reach all families, this inspiring and useful book highlights "eco-action" solutions that support a climate-friendly lifestyle at your own pace. Some of the eco-actions topics covered are:

- Take a Trash Tally
- Find Your Free Marketplace
- Switch to Reusables
- Help Kids Eat, Not Waste



It shows us how caring for a healthy planet doesn't just boost mental wellness, reduce stress, and heighten sense of community, but also saves time and money, too. Includes a comprehensive list of eco-insider resources, a 31-day Eco-Family Challenge, a guide to creating a personalized road-map to resources in your area, and the book itself is printed on responsibly forested, FSC certified paper.

Realistic yet impactful, *Mothering Earth* gives readers a feasible guide for simple and meaningful change, while at the same time sparks calmness and connection. With the tools to create an effective and healthy eco-routine, readers take a holistic look at shifting habits and making them stick in this Earth-saving guidebook.

[Click here for more about \*Mothering Earth\*](#)

## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

### 3 Curatorial Conversations

theNate Director and Curator, Jeff Stevenson and Artists Bernard Williams, Christine Tarkowski, Eric Stephenson, and Richard Hunt, with guest curator Marin Sullivan

We were able to bring the artists of theNate to new audiences through three events at 21c Museum Hotel thanks to the Museum Manager, Juli Lowe, who focuses on contemporary artists for their programming.

Bernard Williams discussed his work in general and his new piece at theNate. The 12-acre Butterfly Ranch prairie restoration project is the new home of “Avian Station”, situated in a break in the tree line that is shared with “Bodark Arc” by Martin Puryear and is visible from the main University Drive entrance to the campus. The sculpture will serve as an observation deck for visitors to take in views of the beautiful landscape.

Christine Tarkowski talked about her work in Millennium Park Chicago that is currently scheduled to be deinstalled, drawing thematic comparisons to “Working on the Failed Utopia” at theNate.

Eric Stephenson and Richard Hunt talked about their 22-year studio relationship, how they influence each other’s work, and shared plenty of behind-the-scenes stories and recollections with Marin Sullivan, who was the guest curator for an exhibition hosted in the Visual Arts Gallery at GSU.

Audiences at all three events were delighted by the in-depth discussion about the art and artists of theNate and enjoyed taking in the exhibitions at 21c Museum Hotel – art overload in the best way! We’ll definitely plan more of these events in 2024.

Visit their Chicago location to see great art any time, and join one of their other exciting programs  
<https://www.21cmuseumhotels.com/chicago/events/>



21c Museum Hotel  
55 E. Ontario St.  
Chicago, IL 60611





## Earth Day Fresh Air Walk at theNate

A favorite tradition at theNate is our annual Earth Day Tour and this year, "Earth Day Fresh Air Walk at theNate" offered exciting new options. The familiar traditional tour of the collection provided an engaging experience with many of the monumental artworks that remind us about our relationship to the Earth:

- visiting artist Denise Milan presents us with "Earth, the Blue Stone" and "The Circle of Gold, Destruction and Renewal" to directly point us to considerations of our planet.
- land art favorites "Bodark Arc", by Martin Puryear, and "Field Rotation", by Mary Miss use the land itself to make their impact;
- "Stargazing with Contrails", by Terrence Karpowicz references the night sky and finding our way;
- "Icarus", by Charles Ginnever uses classical references in a modern way to take flight in our imaginations;

The Center for Performing Arts presented "AirPlay" followed by a kid friendly, mini tour of theNate, to scatter milkweed seeds in the growing Butterfly Ranch prairie restoration project. After enjoying art outdoors, families made their own Koinobori (Japanese fish kite).



## Juneteenth Summer Solstice and how it is connected to **Sculpture, Wine & Dine**

In the sixth presentation of Sculpture, Wine & Dine, the Prairie Goddess smiled upon us once again with spectacular weather. We paid tribute to John Henry beneath "Illinois Landscape, No. 5", held a VIP reception for legendary artist Richard Hunt that thrilled attendees, provided golf cart tours, feasted on delicious food and beverages - and all of it was led by Honorary Chairs Mallory and Nate Sutton who helped us achieve the best year yet - we raised over fifty thousand dollars for theNate! Part of the money raised goes to support our Education Programs, so to highlight *Outdoors@theNate*, Carrie Carlson told guests how theNate impacted her students who displayed their paintings for theNate's Juneteenth Celebration. Here is a summary of their story:

Art teacher, Carrie Carlson from Thornridge High School brought her art students to theNate for a guided walking tour of the sculpture park in the fall of 2022 (and again in 2023) giving them an opportunity to see master works by renowned sculptors Martin Puryear, Mark Di Suvero, Bruce Nauman and more. While on the tour, the students learned about the content of the works of art and what significant historical events were occurring at the time of creation opening great conversations, reflections, and critical thinking.



Guests gather at sunset for a tribute to John Henry (Illinois Landscape, No. 5 to the left, and Running Table, by Dan Peterman to the right)



Linda and Paul Uzueau (center) receive the 2023 Visionary Award for their donation of "Stargazing with Contrails" by Terry Karpowicz



Honorary Chair Nate Sutton addresses the crowd to encourage support for theNate



Carrie Carlson, Art Teacher at Thornridge High School

Juneteenth artwork was created by Year 1 International Baccalaureate Visual Art students at Thornridge High School in Dolton, Illinois. "The International Baccalaureate programs are designed to develop well-rounded individuals who can respond to today's challenges with optimism and an open mind. IB programs enable teachers to develop resilient, self-motivated young people who have the knowledge, skills, and sense of purpose they need to thrive throughout their lives and contribute to making the world a better place."

The opportunity to create artwork for theNate's Juneteenth Celebration was a wonderful chance for students to practice their new painting skills while engaging in the more challenging conceptual task of addressing systemic racism through their personal art.

Carrie Carlson has been a faculty member in Thornton Township High School District 205 since 2002. She is a National Board-Certified Teacher and is currently pursuing her PhD in Art & Design Education at Northern Illinois University. Carlson is a practicing artist, with a focus on printmaking and nature journaling. She can be found @carriecarlsonart.



Director and Curator for theNate, Jeff Stevenson, Advisory Board President for theNate, Patricia Mell Ragland, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at GSU, Dr. Jason Zingsheim share a moment during the tribute to John Henry Reception.



Mallory and Nate Sutton (center) enjoy some time with their guests during the cocktail hour.



Guests enjoyed perfect weather



Carrie's students during a more recent visit to theNate



Guests enjoy the gallery exhibition of work by Richard Hunt

## EDUCATION

### The communities that surround theNate

Beecher	Matteson
Crete	Monee
Country Club Hills	Olympia Fields
Chicago Heights	Park Forest
Flossmoor	Peotone
Ford Heights	Richton Park
Frankfort	Sauk Village
Glenwood	South Chicago Heights
Hazel Crest	Steger
Homewood	Tinley Park
Markham	University Park

## EDUCATION Outdoors@theNate

Our area school field trips continue to gain popularity, with many schools returning for visits year after year, helping us to get the word out to others to utilize this dynamic experience for their students.

Outdoors@theNATE is a unique, outdoors, hands-on, customizable program. Our tours are thorough and age appropriate. We can accommodate school groups from Grades 4 to 12. Tours may be designed to a variety of timeframes and abilities – please contact park staff to discuss your particular needs.

Outdoors@theNATE is an interactive program designed to build awareness of visual thinking, address elements of the Common Core Curriculum, help satisfy aspects of the ISBE Standards and Goals for 4th and 5th grade, present artworks as part of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, ARTS, and Math) principles.

The fee for Outdoors@theNATE is \$10 per student and \$5 per adult teacher or chaperone. This fee includes theNate-book and all materials. It does NOT include lunch or transportation.

**Outdoors@theNATE is offered by appointment so contact Sherri to schedule your class visit:**

Education and Outreach Coordinator:

**Sherri Denault**

[sdenault@govst.edu](mailto:sdenault@govst.edu)

708-534-4021



# News from theNate

## Did you know that we have almost \$300,000.00 worth of work ahead of us?

The three pillars of our Mission here at theNate are **Art, Conservation** (of the art and land), and **Education**. It is only with the support of trailblazing advocates like you that we can do this work.

We remain in the top rankings after being voted the number one sculpture park in the nation by USA Today's Reader's Choice Award 2021.

Our reputation is built on the stature of the artists and artwork in the collection – AND – our commitment to maintain the artwork in the condition our visitors deserve.

Please give today to help theNate remain a free public resource in your backyard.

In recent years, through generous donor support we have completed these conservation projects:

Yes! For Lady Day	\$17,140.00
Phoenix	\$11,210.00
Oscar's Inclination	\$10,345.00
Illinois Landscape, No. 5 (touch up)	\$6,615.00
Windwaves	\$14,435.00



### There is still much work to be done!

- \$150,000 **Mary Miss – *Field Rotation*** – excavate and repair retaining walls, replace wood walkways, paint metal elements
- \$50,000 **Martin Puryear – *Bodark Arc*** – new excavated path
- \$25,000 **Christine Tarkowski – *Working on the Failed Utopia*** – disassemble, transport to shop, grind off old gelcoat, reapply new gelcoat, transport to site and reassemble.
- \$8,000 to \$10,000 /yr. **Butterfly Ranch** – prairie conservation through 3 site visits per season to mitigate invasive species, mow down woody invasives, and conduct a controlled burn.
- \$8,000 **Dan Yarbrough – *Sisyphus Aviary*** – paint
- \$5,000 **Richard Rezac – *Frame*** – add protective coping/flashing
- \$30,000 **Education and Outreach / School Program / Outdoors @theNate**
- \$5,000 **4 Bronze sculptures**, every 2-3 years
- \$8,600 **Bruce Nauman, *House Divided*** – Concrete

## “SOUND OF THE WOODS”

I'm writing to you today to announce that the campaign to bring, “Sound of the Woods” by Neil Goodman, to theNate, is just \$30,000 away from our \$80,000.00 goal. Will you join the generous donors who have brought us this far?

Neil has offered to provide 3 additional small bronze sculptures to acknowledge donors who make a donation of \$10,000.00 or more. Will you be one of those three?

I know you understand the importance of providing an excellent fine art experience for the underserved communities surrounding theNate. You can impact theNate’s history now by supporting the addition of a new permanent monumental outdoor sculpture to theNate’s collection.

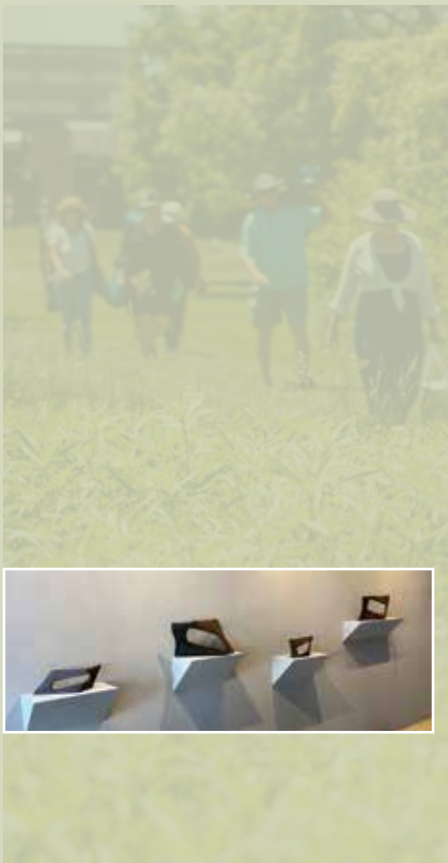
Your donation to the Neil Goodman Acquisition Fund will, in the words of our founder Lewis Manilow, “help us to imagine, and to do great things”.

With your gift, I know we can reach our goal and continue to elevate “the art, the land, the future, theNate”. If I could have you do one thing today to help theNate Sculpture Park it would be this.

Lauren Healy, *Cultural Development Officer*

**Donate now:**

<https://www.govst.edu/donate-goodman/>



## Support theNate

### ▶ **New Acquisition Fund**

Make a contribution to be a part of selecting the next artwork in the collection – with an eye toward up-and-coming, artists of color, women, or underrepresented artists.

### ▶ **Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative**

Your gift will go towards outreach activities designed to address social justice through leveraging the mysteries of the collection.

### ▶ **Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund**

Support the “Butterfly Ranch”, a 12 acre project begun through a ComEd/Openlands grant and visionaries like you, who understand the importance of preserving natural native lands for educational purposes as well as to provide a sanctuary for our visitors to revive and refresh.

### ▶ **Outdoors@theNate Education Fund**

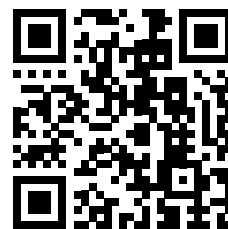
Your gift will make our dynamic, hands-on, school visits available to more students throughout or region.

### ▶ **theNate General Fund**

Donate with confidence that your contribution will be used where it will make the biggest impact, making sure the #1 Sculpture Park in the country remains a free public resource, open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk.



Scan QR code to donate.



Or go to: [www.govst.edu/nmspdonation](http://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation)

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[www.govst.edu/sculpture](http://www.govst.edu/sculpture)

## **A letter from James Parker— art collector, and former member of theNate Advisory Board:**

Many thanks to Leona Calvin (Advisory Board for theNate member) for extending an invitation to the terrific annual viewing, presentations, and deliciously prepared dinner - as always, Sculpture, Wine & Dine was a stellar event that I dared not miss!

I was able to catch the Metra Electric Line, located just two blocks away from my condo in Hyde Park, Chicago, without any problems - and the ride on Metra was far more comfortable than other modes of transportation, as I observed the vast terrain along the way, including the outdoor festivities (Flossmoor Fest) along the commercial block at Flossmoor Train Station. I observed loads of folk in colorful summer attire and I began to wonder whether they knew about the annual celebration that was taking place at theNate Sculpture Park.

The Metra train that started at Millennium Park, arrived at University Park, and the weather was ideal for walking the short distance (an 8 minute walk) to theNate Sculpture Park. I passed several of theNate's iconic sculptures along the vast lands of the expansive campus at GSU.

The Metra is the most economical way to enjoy the various outdoor concerts in Millennium Park, as well as the dance recitals at The Harris Theater - just a short walking distance north of the architect Frank Gehry's Jay Pritzker Music Pavilion. Did you know that the bandshell is classified as an art sculpture (rather than a building)? The building code expressed by the late Montgomery Ward decreed that no buildings were to be built upon this site that would block the high-rise views facing Michigan Avenue, to maintain an unobstructed view of Lake Michigan.

Consequently, the Jay Pritzker Music Pavilion, with its picture perfect shimmering surfaces, provides visitors an opportunity to take their photographs of the magnificent Chicago skyline, "The Bean," by Anish Kapoor, children wading in the pools surrounding "Crown Fountain" by Juame Plensa with its continually changing huge faces of all nationalities, an array of flowering plant life - all gaining glowing recognition by critics from around the world AND a 2005 accessibility award describing it as one of the most accessible parks, not just in the United States but possibly in the world.

The Metra Electric line connects many cultural art entities from Chicago's Cultural Center and The Art Institute of Chicago on the north end, to theNate Sculpture Park on the south end, with University of Chicago, Pullman, and Flossmoor Public Art along the way. It also connects community; Denise Gardner, current chair of the board of trustees for The Art Institute, served as honorary chair for theNate's annual fundraiser, with her husband Gary Gardner in 2017.

These reflections and observations celebrate the dynamic city and region in which we live, the artwork that enriches our lives, and the resulting community of support - many thanks to theNate for being part of it.



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### **Pictured left to right**

#### **Standing:**

Ethel Nicholas  
Leona Calvin  
Shirley Truss  
Marnel Scott  
Grace Kuileman  
Nancy Burrows

#### **Seated:**

Mary Kladis  
Gloria Lippert  
Jeffrey Lippert  
James Parker

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