

# News from theNate

DIGITAL  
Newsletter April 2020 Edition



Guests at Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2019 pictured here from inside **Yes! For Lady Day**, enjoyed a day of giving with lasting effects.



This issue of News from theNate announces our 2020 calendar of events, shares exciting updates about the Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative, and the Art in Architecture, Illinois Capital Development Board project – there is a lot happening at theNate this year so read on and come see us soon!



# News from theNate

## NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

### Susan Manilow Leads the Way



Susan Manilow, Honorary Chair of SWD 2019, uses the newly printed map to lead guests through the collection.

2019 was an excellent year for theNate as we built on the foundation started 50 years ago - the founding of GSU and the creation of artwork on this very land by Mark di Suvero. We honored Lew Manilow this year with the announcement of the Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative, to continue his vision of presenting the best art in a way that can do social good. Friends of theNate, both old and new, joined us to celebrate this rich history – a history that points us to a promising future.

### Save 2 Dates: “New Event” and Sculpture, Wine & Dine Biennial

**Sculpture, Wine, and Dine** is the premiere cultural event of the Chicago | Southland, and now it will be a biennial event. With recent conditions surrounding the Coronavirus outbreak, it became clear that the time is right to introduce a new idea that has been in the making for a while now. So, this year on Saturday, **September 12, 2020** we will debut a **New Event (Yet to be Named)** which will be a low-cost high-fun event focused on bringing in new audiences, and welcoming back our old friends.

## Inside

- Susanin’s Frienderaiser back by popular demand –but postponed
- Earth Day Walk and Reception: Sarah Krepp – see the details

The planning committee is already hard at work to provide a sense of community in a year when we will likely need it most. More details will be announced in next month’s newsletter.

But go ahead and mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 11, 2021** for the next Sculpture, Wine & Dine featuring sustainable farm-to-table cuisine as the signature fundraising event benefiting the park’s public and educational programs. **Sculpture, Wine & Dine** guests and the event’s generous sponsors invest in the future growth of the park and its community education programs.







## ReMarks

Our winter has been busy with reflection, evaluation, and planning. The advisory board met in January to embark on a 5 year strategic planning adventure, to see where we have been and where we'd like to go. And all of those discussions include YOU! The visitor experience is central to our work and that is why we are so proud of our newly printed 2020 calendar of events which was mailed out at the end of February – if you would like to have a paper copy, let us know. With the recent dynamics of Coronavirus there are already changes to the calendar so read on to see updates.

This calendar represents our BIG events and our annual traditions you won't want to miss. 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)

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

[www.facebook.com/nathan.manilow.sculpture.park/](https://www.facebook.com/nathan.manilow.sculpture.park/)

We printed a new paper map that updates locations for newly moved sculptures; the map and more information is available at the GSU D Main entrance information desk; a pdf is on our website. Along with the new Butterfly Ranch observation area project, way finding signs and other improvements are in the works. The free Otocast app is a valuable resource for visitors to enhance your experience at your sculpture park right on your own phone!

The Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative is sparking new and exciting connections with the communities we serve and will lead to a Common Ground Summit in October of 2021. We are working with community leaders to identify individuals and organizations already doing the work that the initiative seeks to do around social equity. Our founder, Lew Manilow, recognized how art serves as one of our brain's organizing systems, and that one of the reasons it has survived and thrived for tens of thousands of years is that art raises our aspirations and helps us to imagine and achieve great goals. Join us to enrich the lives of those who live in the communities we serve by bringing Lew's vision to fruition.

I am inspired regularly by the art and artists of the park. Most recently I was able to attend "The Weight", a solo exhibition of Tony Tasset's new work at Kavi Gupta Gallery. Paul, one of the most celebrated works in our collection at theNate, is a centerpiece of Tasset's career and is featured in a [video about the exhibit](https://youtu.be/wQX7IDb7tjl). < <https://youtu.be/wQX7IDb7tjl> > Tasset's work is in direct response to current events making *Paul* just as relevant today as when it was created in 2006. The new work by Christine Tarkowski now on view in Millennium Park's Boeing Gallery, Chicago is in conversation with *Working on the Failed Utopia*, 2006, which stands outside the main entrance to GSU. Connected by the Metra Electric line, the artist's work contemplates our place in the universe, and resonates with contemporary issues. We were able to install permanent lighting inside *Working on the Failed Utopia* fulfilling the artist's vision since it's creation. The art and the artists of theNate serve as a touchstone, grounding us in our culture, and leading us into the future.

Jeff Stevenson  
Director & Curator, theNate

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



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

Jeff Stevenson, *Director & Curator*

Patricia Mell Ragland, *President*

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Al Sturges

Paul Uzureau

#### Ex-officio

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

Elaine Maimon, *Ph.D., GSU President*

Will Davis, *CEO, GSU Foundation*

Jason Zingsheim, *Ph.D.,*

*Division of Arts and Letters 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.

Send a message with "LandMarks Address" in the subject heading to [sculpture@govst.edu](mailto:sculpture@govst.edu)

© 2020 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.*

## NEWS FROM THE PARK

**Thursday, April 16, 2020**  
**Susanin's Auctions**



5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
900 S. Clinton  
Chicago, IL

Susanin's Auctions is a friend of theNate and they are hosting our party so that we can meet and make some new friends – and celebrate with long-time friends and supporters. This unique event combines fun and informative news from theNate, and an opportunity to preview the auction items on display at Susanin's PLUS an interactive wine tasting event.

Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres, with an informative wine tasting experience by Shall We Wine and food pairings by Lisa's Boutique Catering.

### Free Parking!

RSVP requested: email Sherri Denault [sdenault@govst.edu](mailto:sdenault@govst.edu)  
Walk-in's welcome



**Saturday, April 18, 2020**  
**EARTH DAY WALK**

2 – 4 p.m.  
Meet at the D Main Entrance to GSU

This year's annual Earth Day Walk is extra special because we will be observing social distancing in any group tours, or individuals can enjoy self-guided tours and use the free Otocast app found in the app store on your smartphone.

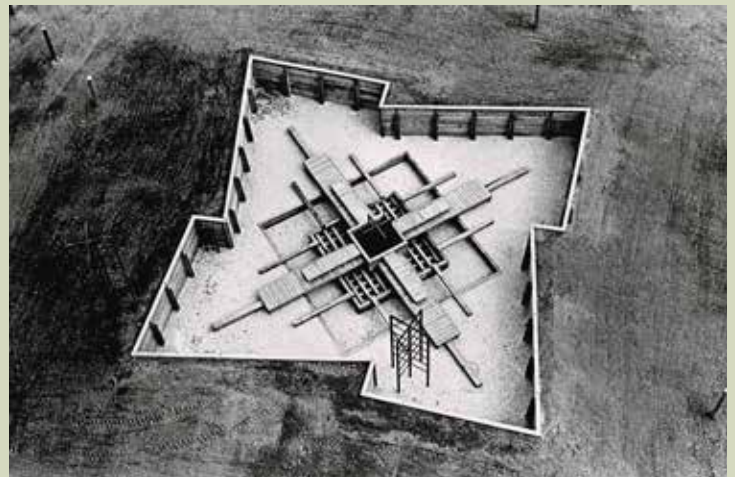


Although a closing reception was planned to follow the tour, due to guidelines and restrictions announced by GSU, it is canceled. Connect with the Visual Arts Gallery exhibition: "Sarah Krepp tatting < -- > tearing" online. Krepp uses salvaged tires to construct her paintings and sculptures, a material that signifies humankind's use and abuse of natural resources and the environment. Her work explores the tension between the shelter and safety of domestic life and the brute force of the road, particularly as it pertains to her own journey as an artist. If we are able to have the gallery open for browsing visitors, we will provide that update closer to the event.

The tour will focus on our two land art pieces in the collection: *Field Rotation* by Mary Miss, and *Bodark Arc* by Martin Puryear. Both pieces activate the imagination because while walking through them on the ground, they make us imagine what might be seen from above - the monumental works cannot be seen all at once, keeping their mysteries just beyond easy reach.



It is possible that visitors to the park have overlooked *Field Rotation* because it is not part of the popular east walking loop and parts of the work are sunken into the earth and therefore not visible from the road.



*Field Rotation* is an early work in Miss' career dating 1980-81, but displays her ongoing desire to work in transitional spaces i.e. where the water meets the land, the valley meets the mountain; and in this case where the city meets the prairie; her work is calling urbanites to discover nature.

Miss describes *Field Rotation* as intentionally set away from the hustle and bustle of campus and says "it includes 125 posts that have been cut to achieve a perfectly level plane that contrasts with the subtle contouring of the land in which they sit; they are four feet tall at one end, and sixteen feet tall at the other. The difference in height reveals the sloping topography of the field that would otherwise be barely noticeable. At the center of the pinwheeling posts sits an irregularly shaped sunken court below with ladders for entry. Within this interior space are platform walkways and a twelve-foot-deep central well with a protruding ladder. The well allows the descent to continue visually or physically; the level of water in it reflects the amount of rain that has fallen recently. The experiences available by moving through the structure and its surroundings are more important than what the structure is in itself". *Field Rotation* encourages viewers to step away from busy activity and act on curiosity.

Miss continues to work in New York City on projects that acknowledge how vital nature experiences are for city living, and demonstrate how beneficial artists can be in city planning.

**Join us for the Earth Day walk on April 18th and explore *Field Rotation*.**



## CONSERVATION



Yes! *For Lady Day* by Mark di Suvero is getting a paint job! The brutal Illinois weather takes its toll on outdoor sculpture, so we are always working to keep the collection looking its best. With the help of generous donors, we are able to do some repair work, rust mitigation, and apply a fresh coat of paint to the piece that got the whole project started back in 1968. We are excited to be working with a local small business to do the work, so watch for updates in the months to come.



The path that defines Martin Puryear's *Bodark Arc* is overgrown with grass – we hope to have it cleared back to a distinct walkway this summer. This environmental land art piece is the largest work in the collection, and yet the artist designed it to disappear into the landscape only to be discovered and reveal itself slowly as visitors move through it. A favorite in the collection, *Bodark Arc* will be featured in our upcoming Earth Day Walk on April 18th.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Not all contributions are monetary – many also give of their time. Come to one of our events and find out how you can help us share the treasure that is your sculpture park. Volunteer opportunities range from being a greeter, helping set up for events, sharing basic information about the park at events and in the community, assisting with group tours of adults and children, organizing materials for school visits, and more. Choose a little or a lot, we can always use your help. Contact Sherri Denault, Education and Outreach Coordinator for more information 708.534.4021 [sdenault@govst.edu](mailto:sdenault@govst.edu).

## I'm a Friend of NATE!

If you are reading this, you are probably already on our email distribution list. Please help us share our newsletters with all the folks in the communities we serve by encouraging your friends, municipalities, organizations, and clubs to sign up and become a Friend of NATE. Go to our website and fill out the "Want more info?" form on the homepage ([www.govst.edu](http://www.govst.edu)) and comment: newsletter. We only send news about once a month and promise not to use anyone's information in any other way. You can unsubscribe at any time. Help us share YOUR sculpture park with friends around the world.

## Butterfly Ranch

The Art-in-Architecture Program of the Illinois Capital Development Board has announced a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to Illinois professional artists to create permanent original public art here at theNate. The deadline for submission of March 27th has the committee excited to begin reviewing artists' ideas for a functional work of art. The science and biology programs at GSU, *Outdoors@theNate* school children, and visitors in general will enjoy views of the Illinois Prairie flora and fauna from this new work of art. Stay tuned for more!



### Take a Walk with OTOCAST



The free **Otocast app** is your personal tour guide. 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.

## EDUCATION

### Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative

Thanks to the generous and inspired giving at Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2019, theNate is able to carry out the vision of our founder to present monumental outdoor sculpture and to do social good. The park staff are working toward a Common Ground Summit in October 2021 that will feature performances and presentations from nationally recognized artists as well as engagement with local talent. We are focused on the 22 communities that surround theNate:

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



The diversity of these communities provides opportunities to bridge social divides and celebrate the work already being done by individuals and organizations focused on social justice. Here at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, we believe that the confounding nature of abstract art offers us equal opportunity for curiosity, and provides a level playing field because of its mysteries. And we also believe that simply getting to know people who are different from ourselves is a powerful way to foster understanding, create connection, and build relationships – relationships that one by one can ultimately improve the divisive world we all experience today.



### More Upcoming Events

**Thursday, May 14**

Nate and Frank Friendraiser – Bradley House, Kankakee

**Saturday, June 20**

Summer Solstice Celebration – featuring Claire Ashley

**Friday, July 31**

CSI 20 20 – Visual Arts Gallery exhibition

**Saturday, September 12**

**NEW community event – details TBA in the next newsletter**

**Saturday, October 31**

Kids in Costumes / Bark in the Park – family fun and pet adoptions

**Saturday, December 12**

Winter Walk / Empty Bowls / Holiday Party



All events are Rain or Shine! Indoor alternatives are planned in case of inclement weather.

RSVP is requested, but walk-in's are always welcome!

All events are free of charge

**Saturday, September 11, 2021 – Sculpture, Wine & Dine BIENNIAL fundraiser (ticketed event)**

**Come join us at YOUR sculpture park!**

*the***Nate**  
NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

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

