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WISCONSIN ARTIST NIZAR SCHALLER ANNOUNCED AS WILSON CENTER SCULPTURE CONTEST WINNER Sculpture Base Completed this Month; Installation Set for June 2016



Brookfield, WI (November 24, 2015) As the culmination of the year-long Circle Drive Sculpture Contest, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Wilson Center) is excited to announce that *Flit* by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller has been selected as the inaugural sculpture in [Lynn Chappy ArtsPark](#)—a free, interactive sculpture garden in Brookfield's Mitchell Park that will unite nature and art in inspiring ways for visitors.

Schaller drew his inspiration for *Flit* while watching a sparrow on the campus of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture that was

building its nest. "The sculpture is a tribute to nature. Growth in nature happens over extended periods of time; when you go out into the garden to observe a plant, it doesn't seem to change, but if you go a week later and then another week later, it is completely transformed," said Schaller. "There's an underlying geometry, but the unfolding is never the same."

This month saw the completion of the sculpture's base in the Soerens Circle Drive outside the Wilson Center main entrance—to include 6.5 cubic yards of concrete and approximately a quarter-ton of steel. Installation for *Flit* is expected to be completed by June 2016, and will stand 15 feet tall. "At night, *Flit* will animate its surroundings, emitting its own light in soft hues and colors, giving the sculpture a nocturnal presence. The combined energy for the whole array of the LED lights on the sculpture is 6-8 watts and can be controlled by the owner to animate and illuminate during functions," said Schaller.

More than 40 artists submitted sculpture designs last fall, with five Wisconsin-based artists selected as finalists in the spring by a professional jury that included independent curator, art historian, and author and former Associate Curator of the Haggerty Museum of Art Dr. Annemarie Sawkins; Assistant Director of the Tory Folliard Gallery Christine Anderson; and professional artist and Professor of Sculpture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee John Balsley.

Sculptural models, known as maquettes, were shared with the Greater Milwaukee-area community over the summer as part of a public input phase; locations included the Brookfield Public Library, Pilgrim Park Middle School, San Camillo Retirement Community, The Mitchell Park Conservatory (The Domes), and the Wilson Center's Starry Nights summer concert series.

“Each of our five finalists’ work expressed the connection between nature and art in ways that engaged the public—even beyond our expectations,” said ArtsPark Project Manager Margie Heyworth. “It was amazing to see how quickly people connected to the models and to hear how passionately they talked about their favorites.”

Flit has been made possible through a generous gift from an anonymous donor. ArtsPark is made possible by a National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town grant awarded to the Wilson Center in 2014, as well as support from the City of Brookfield and Lynn Chappy.

“We are delighted that *Flit* will welcome visitors to the Wilson Center and Lynn Chappy ArtsPark,” said Wilson Center President and CEO Jonathan Winkle. “In 2016, we will see a transformation of Brookfield’s Mitchell Park into a visual arts destination.”

The Wilson Center will soon be announcing the finalists for a second sculpture contest, which kicked off in June, and a third call to artists will open in the coming weeks. Both contests will again involve a public input selection process. By the end of 2016, a total of six sculptures will be installed in ArtsPark, to include *Flit* and five additional works that may be interactive, botanical, or ephemeral.

To learn more about the Circle Drive Sculpture Contest or Lynn Chappy ArtsPark, contact Heyworth at mheyworth@wilson-center.com or visit wilson-center.com/artspark.

Pictured in photo: Wilson Center President & CEO Jonathan Winkle, Circle Drive Sculpture Contest winner Nizar Schaller with his “Flit” maquette, and City of Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto at the 2015 Hidden River Art Festival.

About Nizar Schaller

Nizar Schaller is an artist and designer, with training in both the United Kingdom and South Africa. Exploring relationships between natural and built environments, Schaller takes a philosophical approach to his creative processes and design principles. Structural interventions are used to echo the natural environment, creating a place for open discourse and social exchange. His work exists in its natural state, combining raw materials with manmade to question the perception of natural environments. Schaller holds a Bachelor’s of Architectural Studies from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and is a Master of Architectural Studies candidate from the Taliesin, Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. He has worked as a designer and architect contributing to both residential and commercial projects; most recently, he designed and built an architectural folly on the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture Campus in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Recent awards include the Taliesin Fellows Scholarship Award.

About Lynn Chappy ArtsPark

Lynn Chappy ArtsPark is a central component of the Wilson Center's multiphase, strategic initiative to extend the arts beyond the walls of the Center, uniting nature and art in inspiring ways for its visitors. ArtsPark is a free, interactive sculpture garden, located in the City of Brookfield's Mitchell Park—a 405-acre community space with wetlands, woodlands, and outdoor recreation facilities along the Fox River. Made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town grant awarded to the Wilson Center in 2014, as well as support from the City of Brookfield and Lynn Chappy, ArtsPark will feature numerous non-traditional works of art with educational activities including docent-led tours, field trip opportunities, and artist talks. Caerulean Collaborative Design, headed by Gerould Wilhelm and Margot Mazur, was contracted to guide the process of creating the plan for the new park. This multi-faceted group of artists—a landscape architect, a botanist, a plants specialist, and a lighting specialist—were teamed with representatives from the community and the Wilson Center to create a master landscaping plan that will guide and direct ArtsPark planning and its multiple phases of development over the next 10+ years. **To learn more, visit wilson-center.com/artspark.**

About the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is Southeast Wisconsin's premier non-profit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center that presents performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles, offers arts education opportunities, and curates the Ploch Art Gallery, which features both national and Wisconsin-based fine artists. In August, the annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival celebrates the world's leading classical, rock/blues, jazz, and fingerstyle guitarists. Wisconsin fine artists are showcased at the Hidden River Art Festival each September. The Wilson Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including First Stage Theater Academy and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. **The Wilson Center is just minutes west of Milwaukee, located in Brookfield's Mitchell Park off of Capitol Drive, just west of Brookfield Road. For information about the Wilson Center, call 262-781-9470 or visit wilson-center.com.**

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