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GREATER MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY INVITED TO HELP SELECT SCULPTURE CONTEST WINNERS Three finalists announced in Wilson Center ArtsPark Summer Sculpture Contest



Brookfield, WI (December 22, 2015) The Greater Milwaukee-area community has an opportunity this winter to help the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Wilson Center) select two leased sculptures for display in [Lynn Chappy ArtsPark](#) – a free, interactive sculpture garden that will unite nature and art in inspiring ways.

Four design concepts by three Wisconsin-based artists/artist teams have been selected as the finalists in the [ArtsPark Summer Sculpture Contest](#): “Host” by Gail Simpson and Aristotle Georgiades, “The Explorer”

by Michael Kautzer, and “The Traveler” and “Newly Discovered” by Trenton Baylor. Maquettes of the proposed designs are on display at the Wilson Center through the month of December for input from audiences, students, special event guests, and visitors; in January, the public will also be able to share their input at four locations throughout the Greater Milwaukee area.

The public also has an opportunity to view images of the maquettes online and share their thoughts at www.wilson-center.com/summer-sculpture-input. The public input process will close in February.

The Summer Sculpture Contest opened in the summer of 2015, and Wisconsin artists were invited to submit applications for two locations in Brookfield's Mitchell Park—the highly visible Southeast Field location and North Woods location along a well-traveled hiking and biking trail—as part of the creation of ArtsPark. The finalists were selected by a jury that included independent curator, art historian, author, and former Associate Curator of the Haggerty Museum of Art Dr. Annemarie Sawkins; Visiting Associate Professor at UW-Milwaukee in Sculpture Glen Williams; Senior Lecturer of Art and Community Arts Program Coordinator at UW-Milwaukee Raoul Deal.

“We are excited that each of the proposed sculptures from our finalists relate to and enhance the beautiful natural setting of the park surrounding the Wilson Center,” said ArtsPark Project Manager Margie Heyworth. “It is our goal that ArtsPark will include ‘non-traditional’ sculpture that encourages people to interact, engage, and learn about art and nature.”

The selected sculptures will be displayed in their respective locations in Mitchell Park for approximately three years. “The long-term vision for ArtsPark is that it will include temporary and ephemeral sculptures in addition to the permanent works so that we are able to continually provide new experiences for park visitors for many years to

come,” said Wilson Center President & CEO Jonathan Winkle. “This also will allow us to create more opportunities for artists and to contribute our voice to visual arts dialogues relating to new art forms and trends.”

The winners of the Summer Sculpture Contest will be announced at the Wilson Center’s Big Event gala on Saturday, June 4, 2016, and anticipated installation is July. By fall of 2016, a total of six sculptures will be installed in ArtsPark, to include the inaugural ArtsPark sculpture, “Flit” by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller, which was selected as the winner of the Circle Drive Sculpture Contest at the 10th annual Hidden River Art Festival in September.

“Giving our community the opportunity to experience art in such an incredible outdoor setting is a natural extension of the work we do at the Wilson Center,” said Winkle. “ArtsPark will transform Mitchell Park into a destination where people can experience and learn about art in many forms.”

To learn more about the Summer Sculpture Contest or Lynn Chappy ArtsPark, contact Heyworth at mheyworth@wilson-center.com or visit www.wilson-center.com/artspark. ArtsPark is made possible by a National Endowment for the Arts’ Our Town grant awarded to the Wilson Center in 2014, as well as generous support from our naming sponsor Lynn Chappy and cooperation from the City of Brookfield.

Pictured: “Host” by Gail Simpson and Aristotle Georgiades, ArtsPark Summer Sculpture Contest finalists. Photos of all four maquettes and artist biographies are available upon request.

About the Artists

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **Trenton Baylor** received a Bachelor’s degree in Art and Certification to Teach Art (K-12) from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside ’96 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison ’99. He is currently a tenured faculty member in the Art Department at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside where he teaches Sculpture, Woodworking, and Furniture Design courses. He continues to exhibit his sculpture in local, regional, and national exhibitions and has several works in public and private collections. When he is away from the classroom and studio he enjoys spending time with his wife and children.

A graduate of the UW-Milwaukee School of Architecture, **Michael Kautzer** has spent the last eight years exploring the concept of “epitecture” or “architecture that relies upon”: a concept that focuses on the positive aspects of adding architectural elements to natural and man-made environments. This exploration has produced such projects as FRAME gallery (a backpack-mounted gallery space), Epitectural Blockks (markers of underappreciated spaces), and Neu Museum of Contemporary Art (a museum celebrating the life and times of his grandparents), with each making use of a variety of media/art forms, including: sculpture, performance, and installation.

Gail Simpson and **Aristotle Georgiades** are sculptors and public artists who work individually and as part of Actual Size Artworks, a collaborative team. They are committed to the idea of artist as citizen and believe in the transformative potential of artwork in the community. Their projects can be seen in Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Nevada, Kansas, North Carolina, Minnesota, Illinois, and other locations nationally. They have also exhibited temporary projects around the United States and Europe. Simpson has an MFA in Sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is originally from Chicago. Her individual work expresses her interest in the intersection between the built and natural environment. Aris Georgiades is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BFA from University of Michigan. His sculptures use salvaged building materials and objects, related

to issues of adaptability and the changing nature of work, usefulness, and ambition. His work can be seen at Carl Hammer Gallery in Chicago. Both artists reside in Stoughton, Wisconsin, and teach at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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 www.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 www.wilson-center.com.

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