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### SCULPTURE CONTEST WINNER TO BE REVEALED AT HIDDEN RIVER ART FESTIVAL TWO-DAY FESTIVAL KICKS OFF THIS SATURDAY AT THE WILSON CENTER



**Brookfield, WI (September 16, 2015)** More than 100 artists from across the Midwest will be part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary [Hidden River Art Festival](#) on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19-20, 2015. In addition to the numerous events taking place throughout the weekend, this year's Festival will include a special announcement—the winner of the [Circle Drive Sculpture Contest](#).

Located at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Wilson Center) in Brookfield's Mitchell Park, the Hidden River Art Festival attracts more than 3,000 art-engaged visitors each year and includes jury awards totaling \$2,000. Festival artists work in a variety of mediums—including

photography, painting, jewelry, ceramics, fiber arts, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and more. Day passes are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door, and children 12 and under are free. Weekend passes may be purchased for an additional \$3. To purchase tickets, visit [www.HiddenRiverArtFestival.com](http://www.HiddenRiverArtFestival.com) or call the Wilson Center Box Office at 262-781-9520.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Festival marks the culmination of a year-long sculpture contest at the Wilson Center. In the fall of 2014, the Wilson Center announced a call to Wisconsin artists for a commissioned sculpture to serve as the introduction to [Lynn Chappy ArtsPark](#), a vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape that will unite nature and art in inspiring ways for all visitors. Five artists were selected as finalists, and the public was invited to share their input this summer as maquettes of each proposed sculpture were displayed at Greater Milwaukee-area businesses, organizations, and events, as well as at the Wilson Center. The winning sculpture will be revealed on Saturday, Sept. 19, at Noon; following the announcement, Festival attendees are invited on the first public "Arts Walk," which will include a tour of future sculpture locations.

"It made our choice difficult to have such strong sculpture concepts to choose from, and truly, any of the pieces would be a beautiful addition to ArtsPark," said ArtsPark Project Coordinator Margie Heyworth. "In the end, we are confident that we have selected the sculpture that is the best fit for the Soerens Circle Drive location. We are very excited to share that choice with the community this Saturday, and we are even more excited to be working with the artist on plans for the June 2016 installation.

Additional activities throughout the Festival weekend include artist workshops and demonstrations, a Gallery Showcase, 2015 Pfister Artist-in-Residence Finalists' Display, Ploch Art Gallery exhibit featuring 2011 and 2013 "Best in Show" winners Peter Ciesla and Skye of Bazyl Studio, a silent auction featuring exhibiting artists' work, artist awards, and the annual Emerging Artist Exhibition. New to the festival this year, visitors of all ages will be able to participate in a hands-on, collaborative collage workshop led by RedLine Milwaukee resident artists. The community collage that is created will be displayed at the Wilson Center at a later date.

“The Hidden River Art Festival has grown over the past 10 years in size, quality, and variety of artists and their work,” said Wilson Center President & CEO Jonathan Winkle. “Literally, tens of thousands of people have now visited the Wilson Center specifically to attend this Festival and survey and purchase the wonderfully creative work by so many superb artists from the region.”

The 2015 Hidden River Art Festival is sponsored by Lynn Chappy, Holly and Jon Sorenson, American Transmission Company, Crest Cadillac, and M Magazine.

### **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](http://wilson-center.com/artspark).**

### **About the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts**

Now entering its 14<sup>th</sup> season, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is Brookfield's premier non-profit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center that presents performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles; offers arts education opportunities; curates the Ploch Art Gallery, which features both national and Wisconsin-based fine artists; and is committed to extending the arts beyond the walls of the Center through Lynn Chappy ArtsPark—a vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape that will engage and inspire the broader Southeastern Wisconsin Community. 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 is just minutes west of Milwaukee, nestled in Brookfield's Mitchell Park, south of Capitol Drive, just west of Brookfield Road. **For additional information about the Wilson Center and its programming, visit [www.wilson-center.com](http://www.wilson-center.com) or call (262) 781-9470.**

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