



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Nichole Cooper, Vice President-Marketing & Public Relations
773-398-3252 (c) | 262-373-5034 (w) | ncooper@wilson-center.com

Margie Heyworth, ArtsPark Project Manager
262-373-5044 | mheyworth@wilson-center.com

WILSON CENTER CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARTSPARK SCULPTURE CONTEST WINNERS INAUGURAL SCULPTURE "FLIT" ALSO READY FOR JUNE INSTALLATION



Brookfield, WI (April 22, 2016) Three new sculptures will unite nature and art in inspiring ways for the Greater Milwaukee-area community, as the [Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts](#) (Wilson Center) announces the winners of the second [Lynn Chappy ArtsPark](#) (ArtsPark) sculpture contest—Wisconsin-based artists Gail Simpson, Aristotle Georgiades, and Michael Kautzner— and prepares to unveil the inaugural ArtsPark sculpture, “Flit,” by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller.

In 2014, the Wilson Center was awarded a prestigious \$50,000 Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which served as the catalyst for the vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape in Brookfield’s Mitchell Park. Thanks to generous support from naming sponsor Lynn Chappy and cooperation from the City of Brookfield, ArtsPark will feature numerous non-traditional works of art and provide visitors of all ages with free educational activities

including docent-led tours, field trip opportunities, and artist talks.

For each ArtsPark sculpture contest, finalists are selected by a professional jury, and community members then have an opportunity participate in the selection of the winners through a public input phase. “It is wonderful to see how quickly people connect to the proposed designs and to hear how passionately they talk about their favorites,” said Wilson Center ArtsPark Project Manager Margie Heyworth.

Submitted as a design concept by the internationally known Simpson and Georgiades, the acorn-shaped “Host” is designed to interact with nature, with its shape and color to reflect the natural setting of its installation site: the North Woods location on the north side of the Wilson Center. “Oak trees are an important part of the natural environment of Wisconsin as well as its history. At least seven kinds of oak trees are native to the area and several significant oaks are located on the grounds of Mitchell Park, some dating as far back as 1750,” said Simpson and Georgiades. “The acorn seems like an apt metaphor for the role of the Wilson Center in the community—helping residents and visitors grow into their potential as citizens and stewards of the culture and environment.”

A graduate of the UW-Milwaukee School of Architecture, Kautzner 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. Comprised of panels six feet in height and various lengths, Kautzner’s winning sculpture proposal, “Traveler,” has been selected for installation at the bend in the Greenway Trail south of the Wilson Center. The inside is covered in chalkboard paint that provides children and adults the opportunity to leave their mark. “Traveler provides the community a unique opportunity to essentially

have an outdoor gallery and classroom available 24/7. The piece provides the space for dialogue between artists, community members and nature,” said Heyworth. “Look for interesting art and programming surrounding Traveler!”

“Flit” by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller was announced as the winner of the Circle Drive Sculpture Contest at the Wilson Center’s 10th annual Hidden River Art Festival in September 2015. Expected to stand 15 feet tall, the sculpture will be installed in Soerens Circle Drive outside the Wilson Center main entrance. “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. “Flit” has been made possible through a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

“The creation of ArtsPark and the selection and installation of the first six sculptures is an exciting way to launch into the Center’s 15th Anniversary Season,” said Wilson Center Interim President & CEO Kathryn R. Martin. “Since opening our doors in 2002, it has been our mission to be the catalyst for lifelong learning and discovery of the Arts, and ArtsPark is making it possible for us to extend this mission beyond the walls of the Wilson Center. These unique sculptures will provide numerous opportunities to engage visitors to the Wilson Center in new ways!”

“Flit” will have its unveiling at the Wilson Center’s premier arts education fundraiser, The Big Event, on Saturday June 4, 2016. Installation of “Host” and Traveler” is anticipated by the end of July. A third call to artists for interactive sculptures will open this May, and the public will be invited to weigh in artist proposals throughout the summer. By the end of 2016, a total of six sculptures will be installed in ArtsPark.

As part of the ArtsPark multiphase initiative, 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 about Lynn Chappy ArtsPark, contact Heyworth at mheyworth@wilson-center.com or visit wilson-center.com/artspark.

Photos included with press release, from left to right: “Host” created by Gail Simpson and Aristotle Georgiades; “Traveler” created by Michael Kautzner; and “Flit” created by Nizar Schaller. Additional images and full artist bios are available upon request.

About the ArtsPark Artists

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.

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 work is characterized by a strong profile, a sense of

humor, and excellent craftsmanship, and their public art 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. 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.

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.

About the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is one of the finest multi-disciplinary cultural arts centers in the United States, with a mission to be the catalyst for lifelong discovery and exploration of the Arts. As a year-round hub of activity, the Wilson Center 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. The 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, Trinity Irish Dancers, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. From performances and recitals to meetings and special events, our beautiful spaces are available for rental to individuals, schools, organizations, and corporations throughout the community. To learn more, visit www.wilson-center.com.

###