



****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

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

WILSON CENTER UNVEILS INAUGURAL ARTSPARK SCULPTURE AT THE BIG EVENT

NEA Grant, Mary L. Nohl Fund, Individual Gifts Provide Funding for Expanding Art Beyond Wilson Center Walls



Brookfield, WI (June 7, 2016) The [Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts](#) (Wilson Center) unveiled the inaugural [Lynn Chappy ArtsPark](#) (ArtsPark) sculpture, *Flit* by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller, at The Big Event on Saturday, June 4, 2016. More than 500 Greater Milwaukee-area business and community leaders were in attendance at this premier arts education fundraiser as the Wilson Center officially expanded its mission—to be the catalyst for lifelong learning and discovery of the arts—beyond the Center’s walls.

Designed as a tribute to nature by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller, *Flit* stands 15 feet tall in Soerens Circle Drive outside the Wilson Center.

As guests arrived on Saturday, the sculpture emitted a soft white light, creating a nocturnal presence. Later in the evening, a colorful lighting display demonstrated the whole array of *Flit*’s 122 LED lights. (To see an example of *Flit*’s lighting capabilities, visit <https://youtu.be/WIGhZBF9kol>.)

Flit was announced as the winner of the inaugural ArtsPark sculpture contest at the Wilson Center’s Hidden River Art Festival in September 2015. The sculpture has been made possible by the generous donation of Andrea and Tony Bryant. ArtsPark has been made possible by a \$50,000 National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant, a generous founder’s gift from Lynn Chappy, a grant from the Mary L. Nohl Fund in the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and through a partnership with the City of Brookfield.

“As we prepare to celebrate our 15th Anniversary Season this fall, the unveiling of *Flit* marks such an exciting time for our community,” said Wilson Center Interim President & CEO Kathryn R. Martin. “Every year, we enrich more than 45,000 lives through our performances, classes, community celebrations, and more. Additionally, more than 9,000 children experience the arts at the Wilson Center each year—many of them for the first time. ArtsPark will now provide us with numerous opportunities to engage students and visitors of all ages in new ways!”

Two additional sculptures—*Host* by Wisconsin artists Gail Simpson and Aristotle Georgiades, and *Traveler* by Michael Kautzner—were announced as the winners of a second sculpture contest this April and are anticipated to be installed in ArtsPark by the end of the summer. A third call to artists for interactive sculptures is currently underway, and by the end of 2016, a total of six sculptures will be installed in ArtsPark.

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.

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 ArtsPark, visit www.wilson-center.com/artspark.

Photos and complete bio for Flit artist Nizar Schaller available upon request.

About the *Flit* artist

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 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 Academy of Irish Dance, 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.

###