ArtsFund KENOSHA

2013-15 BIENNIAL INSTALLATION

SCULPTURE WALK

HARBORPARK

An outdoor sculpture exhibit located along the HarborPark promenade.

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Sculpture Walk – HarborPark is an initiative of the Kenosha Communuty Foundation Arts Fund.

SCULPTURE WALK

FEATURING

FREE TO FLY BRUCE NIEMI

VORTEX MICHAEL YOUNG

BOUNTIFUL BEACH CHRISTINA MURPHY

MY PI JOHN ADDUCI

CONSCIOUS OF HER SHORES JAYSON LOWERY

LITTLE ROOTIE TOOTIE TED SITTING CROW GARNER

TALL SHIP II BRUCE NIEMI

ON BALANCE PAUL BOBROWITZ

YES MA'AM LESLIE BRUNING

HEELS OVERHEAD PAUL BOBROWITZ

Michael Young hooks a strap on his new piece "Vortex" so it can be lifted into place.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY KEVIN POIRIER

New crop of statues in position

BY DENEEN SMITH
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With the installation of the second series of Kenosha's Sculpture Walk, organizers see signs of success.

"The fact that we were able to do it a second time around was big for us," said Clara Tappa, chairwoman of the Arts Fund executive committee for the Kenosha Community Foundation. "It proves that the community finds value in this, finds value in public art, and to have that support is very assuring that it will have sustainability."

More online

A Sculpture Walk app for smartphones and tablets is available for download at kenoshanews.com. The free app includes a virtual tour with directions to the sculpture sites, plus photos and video of the artists and their works.

The new-look walk will feature 10 pieces of sculpture in the Kenosha Harbor area, most in HarborPark, the pieces created by eight different artists. Pieces will remain on display until 2015.

"We have a great variety of size and medium in the exhibit, from 'Conscious of her Shores' (which is 4½ feet tall) to 'On Balance,' which is 28 feet," Tappa said.

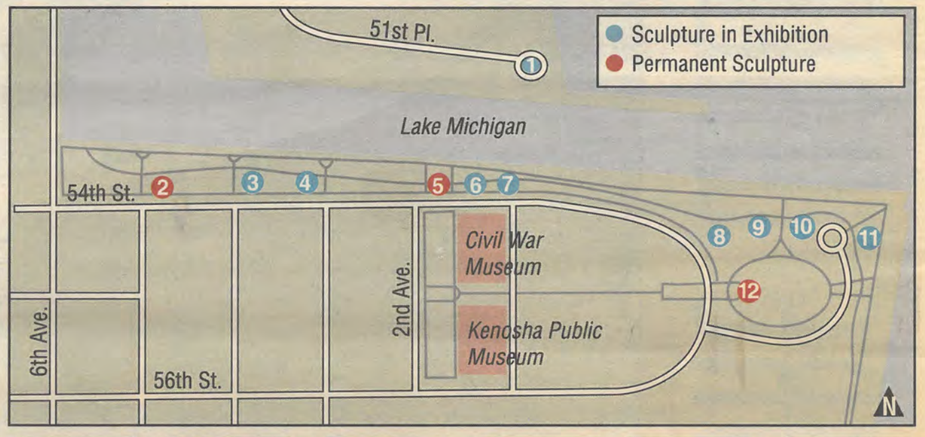
The Kenosha Community Foundation's Arts Fund aims to promote public arts in the community. Works for the Sculpture Walk are chosen by a jury that selects pieces from applications by artists. Tappa said about 20 artists submitted applications for this series.

"I think everyone finds a favorite piece, but it is really difficult to choose a favorite because each piece speaks to you in a different way," Tappa said.

The project is funded by private donors, who sponsor individual pieces. Artists are paid a $2,000 stipend to show their work.

Sculptor Bruce Niemi of Bristol, who has two pieces in the Sculpture Walk and who also serves on the Arts Fund committee, said one of the group's hopes is that donors will step forward to purchase pieces to keep them in the community.

2013-2015 HarborPark Sculpture Walk



1. **"Free to Fly"** is one of two pieces by Bristol-based artist Bruce Niemi. The artist said his work is inspired by his Christian faith, and by dance, sports and nature. Birds in flight was the inspiration for the sculpture.

2. **"S.S. Kenosha"** is an existing sculpture of a ship sailing toward the sun by Dan Blue. The piece was donated in the fall of 2000 by Riley Construction Co. in honor of the builder's 34th anniversary.

3. Michael Young's **"Vortex"** is both an abstract depiction of the movement of a flame or a tornado, but is also inspired by life drawings. "While they are still abstract, there is the twisting and turning of a person in space. I want them to have a life other than just an abstract quality."

4. **"Bountiful Bench"** is a cast bronze Mother Nature that invites viewers to climb up and have a seat.

5. **"Millenium Gate"** is an existing sculpture by David Floyd that features a collection of steel shapes, rising pointedly off the ground. The piece was first unveiled in 2000 at Chicago's Navy Pier Sculpture Walk.

6. "The sculpture is part of a body of work that was inspired by my culture-shock experience of moving from Phoenix to Detroit," sculptor Jayson Lowery said of his work, **"Conscious of Her Shores."**

7. Made of welded and painted steel, **"Little Rootie Tootie"** is inspired by a jazz piece by pianist Thelonious Monk. Artist Ted Sitting Crow Garner said the sculpture was inspired by the "lurching rhythm" of the jazz tune.

8. **"Mi Pi"** depicts the mathematical symbol on a heroic scale. "I wanted to breathe life into it, so it almost has its own vitality and own breath," said sculptor John Adduci.

9. "The face is composed of several dozen 'yes' pieces that are welded together to make a large face," sculptor Leslie Bruning said, of his work, **"Yes Ma'am."** "If the viewer pushes on the face it will nod an agreeable 'yes.' I had already made a 'no' piece so I thought it needed a companion."

10. **"Tall Ship II"** by Bruce Niemi is an abstract work in stainless steel inspired by the sails of a tall ship in the wind. "Tall ships represent freedom for me," Niemi said.

11. "Both sculptures integrate motion — **'Heels Overhead'** by implication of form, and **'On Balance'** by the swinging of the suspended sphere's movement in the wind," sculptor Paul Bobrowtiz said. "Both exemplify the ongoing core themes of my work: Relationships, uplifting joy and exuberance for life."

12. **"Christopher Columbus"** is a permanent statute by Micahel Martino of La Crosse. The 8-foot-tall bronze statue is the centerpiece of the Piazza Consenza and fountain built in 2007.

** "Heels Overhead" is positioned at the Kenosha Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (not on map).*

BRUCE NIEMI: FREE TO FLY

Artist's Christian faith inspires abstract work

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

Bruce Niemi's sculpture, "Free to Fly," is one of two the Bristol-based artist has in the Sculpture Walk. Installed along the lakefront near the Kenosha Water Utility production plant, the abstract stainless steel sculpture was created in 2013.

"A lot of people ask me what my inspiration is," Niemi said, adding he finds inspiration in his Christian faith. "Also from my life's loves —dance, sports and nature — it gives me a lot of opportunities for exploration."

Local sculptor Bruce Niemi talks in his Bristol studio about the piece he created that is now on display at the Kenosha Sculpture Walk.

Birds in flight were the inspiration for "Free to Fly," he said. The piece has three horizontal pieces. "I use threes a lot, it's part of my faith," he said, saying it is a reference to the Trinity.

The sculptor said he seeks simplicity in his work.

Niemi grew up in Gurnee, Ill., and began working with abstract metal sculpture as a teen under the tutelage of his father, a self-taught sculptor. He studied sculpture in college at Northern Illinois University, but did not begin pursuing art full time until he was encouraged by his wife, Suzi. He has been working exclusively as an artist for 25 years, working in stainless steal and bronze.

Free to Fly is sponsored by Mary Tunkiecz.

Bruce Niemi's Free to Fly

Bruce Niemi

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

BRUCE NIEMI: TALL SHIP II

Bruce Niemi's "Tall Ship II."

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

Tall ship sculpture represents freedom

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

Bristol-based artist Bruce Niemi's "Tall Ship II" is one of two pieces the artist is showing in the Sculpture Walk.

It is an older sculpture that has been exhibited a number of times, the artist said. The tall ship theme is one he has returned to in his art, saying sailing is one of his inspirations.

"Tall ships represent freedom for me," he said. Niemi said the sculpture's name also refers to his feelings about living in the United States "because we have the freedom here in the U.S. to fly, we have that freedom here and it's a matter of making that choice."

Niemi's work ranges from small, table-sized sculpture to soaring public works in stainless steel and bronze. The artist has sold more than 40 large pieces to collectors around the country.

Although he grew up in Illinois, Niemi settled in Bristol about 12 years ago, creating a studio and sculpture garden where clients can see his work. Since living in Kenosha County he and his wife, Suzi, have become active in the local arts community, and both are members of the Kenosha Community Foundation's Arts Fund committee, which is the force behind the creation of the Sculpture Walk.

Bruce Niemi moves his new sculpture, "Tall Ship II," into place with the help of fellow sculptor Jayson Lowery, right, while city heavy equipment operator Joe Donais raises it with a crane.

Niemi said one of the committee's hopes is that sponsors may step forward to purchase works for permanent donation to the city. "Our hope is that people will come and see it, and they'll say 'this is beautiful here' and want it to stay."

Congratulations...

to the artists, sponsors and the Kenosha Community Foundation's Arts Fund Committee on the installation of . . .

Sculpture Walk – HarborPark

Sculpture Sponsors:

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Best Western Harborside and Kenosha Convention Center

Great Job!

To view photos of the works, visit the Foundation on Facebook.

Kenosha Community Foundation

Kenosha's Resource for Charitable Giving

ArtsFund KENOSHA

A component fund of the Kenosha Community Foundation

Our mission: To encourage and enhance cultural life and public art in the Kenosha area through facilitation, recognition, and financial support.

Members:

Clara Tappa, Chair
Marsha Caporaso
Connie Ferwerda, *Member Emeritus*
Ray Forgianni • Bruce Niemi • Suzi Niemi
Patricia Petretti • Natalie Strohm
Jennie Tunkieicz

To provide financial support to the Arts Fund go to www.kenoshafoundation.org/donate.html

CONGRATS SCULPTURE WALK

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

Michael Young's "Vortex."

Michael Young hooks a strap on his new piece, "Vortex," as city heavy equipment operator Joe Donais prepares to lift it into place.

MICHAEL YOUNG: VORTEX

Sculptor Michael Young describes how he created his new sculpture, "Vortex," at his Chicago studio. The piece will be on display in the Kenosha Sculpture Walk.

Twisting and turning, a tornado's energy wrapped up in 'Vortex'

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

Michael Young's sculpture Vortex appears to be metal in motion.

"It's meant to be the energy of something like a tornado or a flame, the way little twisters form," Young said.

"It is also meant to be figurative in a way," Young said, saying he uses life drawings to inspire the sense of movement in his work. "While they are still abstract, there is the twisting and turning of a person in space. I want them to have a life other than just an abstract quality."

A small scale model of Michael Young's "Vortex" sits on a table in front of him at his Chicago studio.

Young began his career as a neon artist, moving into sculpture that is typically of aluminum, stainless steel or bronze, sometimes with lighting incorporated into the work. His work has been exhibited most commonly in the Chicago area, but he has had public exhibitions from Florida to California, and overseas in Japan. One of the works of which he is most proud is a commission by the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum to create an entryway sculpture and mural to commemorate the museum's anniversary.

His sculpture "Water" was previously exhibited in Kenosha along the lakefront north of 54th Street and east of Fourth Avenue.

Born and raised in Chicago, Young studied art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Since 1995, he has lived and worked at Sedgwick Studio, a former CTA substation in Chicago.

Chicago artist John Adduci guides his sculpture, "My Pi," as city heavy equipment operator Joe Donais lifts it into place.

JOHN ADDUCI: MI PI

Pi with a personality: Artist turns to common images to create his art

A sculptor for 40 years, John Adduci often uses common images or symbols as the inspiration for his work.

"I like taking familiar symbols or images and twisting them into a different visual state," Adduci said.

As for the inspiration behind "Mi Pi," he said, "I think it's pretty obvious."

"Since a lot of my work — almost all of my work — is fabricating rather than casting, I do a lot of geometry," Adduci said. "Using the symbol pi is a frequent situation for me."

While the 12-foot-high sculpture is obviously pi, it is pi with personality and a soft, cartoonish quality. "I wanted to breathe life into it, so it almost has its own vitality and own breath," he said.

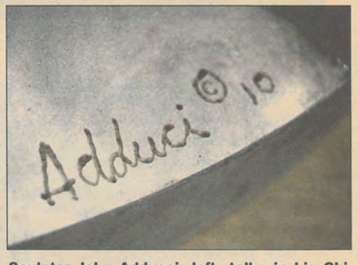
"Mi Pi" was previously shown in the annual Chicago Sculpture Exhibit, and later on Promontory Point near the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

For 35 years, Adduci has lived and worked in a former Chicago Transit Authority generating station in the Old Town neighborhood. Built at the turn of the century to support the El train, the building still has a working crane in the main bay. It's now used to move large-scale sculptures. The El regularly rumbles by as the artists work. He is one of several artists who work in the building, including two others — Michael Young and Ted Sitting Crow Garner — with works in the Kenosha Sculpture Walk.

"We're all sculptors, we're all doing the same thing, so there is respect there," Adduci said.

John Adduci's "My Pi."

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER



Sculptor John Adducci, left, talks in his Chicago studio recently about his piece, "My Pi," which stands behind him, and is now displayed in the Kenosha Sculpture Walk.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

Chicago Sculptor Ted Sitting Crow Garner's "Little Rootie Tootie."

Sculptor Ted Sitting Crow Garner directs the installation of "Little Rootie Tootie" on Kenosha's Sculpture Walk.

TED SITTING CROW GARNER: LITTLE ROOTIE TOOTIE

Thelonious Monk lends name to Garner's 'Little Rootie Tootie'

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

Music is the inspiration for Ted Sitting Crow Garner's Little Rootie Tootie.

"It's an abstraction about jazz, which is an abstraction itself. It's named after a Thelonious Monk tune," Garner said. "It's kind of a lurching rhythm, this particular tune, it kind of fits and starts a little bit, and that's what this piece is aiming to depict, that kind of sensation in music, while being an abstract sculpture that is interesting to look at."

Sculptor Ted Sitting Crow Garner talks about a piece he was working on recently at his Chicago studio.

A member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Garner stumbled into the art world after coming to Chicago 40 years ago for an anthropology fellowship at the Field Museum. Both of Garner's parents were anthropologists, and he looked to follow their interests. But the death of a friend so shook him that he left college and found a job at a local gallery where he eventually began to help sculptors install their work.

Garner soon began creating art of his own. His abstract works, typically in welded steel, find inspiration in the natural world, in music and in the traditions of Native Americans.

He still does installations for other artists, as well — work he said helps keep him thinking about new techniques and new practices.

Garner said he likes his pieces to pull viewers from every direction.

Ted Sitting Crow Garner

"One of the things I aspire to is having pieces that have completely different signal viewpoints from different directions, and different interaction of the forms as you move around them," he said. "I like my pieces to act like solid three-dimensional movies — not really with a plot that has a beginning and end, but as a way to interact with space and have the viewer try to interact with space as well."

CHRISTINA MURPHY: BOUNTIFUL BENCH

"Bountiful Bench" by Christina Murphy is one of the new sculptures on display on Kenosha's Sculpture Walk.

'Bountiful Bench' invites viewers to take a seat, enjoy

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

Christina Murphy's "Bountiful Bench" invites viewers to interact — and even to climb right on — the sculpture.

"Absolutely, there should be a sign that says 'please come and sit on Bountiful Bench.'"

Murphy said she wanted to create a piece depicting "a woman of nature." The sculpture depicts a woman, her arms wide, under a blanket decorated with the bounty of the natural world.

"Then I thought her arms are open, so why not turn her into a bench so people can actually sit on her lap an become part of the piece," she said. "I wanted to invite people to come and sit and relax and take time out of our busy lives to appreciate and be grateful for all of the wonderful gifts we have from Mother Earth."

The piece is a contemporary take on an ancient way of creating sculpture.

Murphy used the "lost wax casting" method to create the 500-pound bronze sculpture. First, she sculpted the piece in clay. From the clay, an exact mold of the figure was made. From that mold, a wax replica of the original clay piece was made, and from the wax a second mold was made. Super-heated liquid bronze was then poured into that mold in a foundry, creating the final sculpture.

"It just amazes me that just a blob of clay can be made into something so beautiful. Then to do the bronze technique is even more interesting because the bronzes will outlast all of us, they will go on forever," Murphy said. "I also enjoy (working with bronze) because the patina is constantly changing as it oxidizes over time. So even though it is such a heavy material, it is still growing and still moving and still alive."

The piece was briefly installed in Kenosha for the opening day of the sculpture exhibit, then was removed to spend three weeks at another exhibition before coming back to Kenosha through 2015.

Sculptor Christina Murphy describes a scale model of "Bountiful Bench" at her Chicago studio.

LESLIE BRUNING: YES, MA'AM

Bruning's 'Yes, Ma'am' is the flip side of artist's 'no' piece

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

Leslie Bruning, of Omaha, Neb., isn't a "yes man," though he has created a piece for the Sculpture Walk titled, "Yes, Ma'am."

The metal sculpture is the flip side of another sculpture he created using the word "no," he said.

And this one invites viewer interaction.

What was the inspiration behind "Yes Ma'am"?

"I am very interested in having the viewer participate in my sculpture," Bruning said.

"This falls in a group of sculpture that I call 'street conversations.' The face is composed of several dozen 'yes' pieces that are welded together to make a large face.

"If the viewer pushes on the face it will nod an agreeable 'yes.' I had already made a 'no' piece so I thought it needed a companion."

Bruning said he hand-cut all the "yes" pieces with a plasma cutter and welded them together in a negative facial mold that he made for that purpose.

The sculpture, made of steel with a powder coat finish, stands six-and-a-half-feet tall.

"It took several months to make it," he said. "It's not unusual for me to have 20 pieces going at the same time."

Bruning is the owner of Bruning Sculpture Inc., a mold making, casting and fabrication studio that has artist clients across the country.

He is a founding member of the Omaha Creative Institute and a participant in numerous public art projects, including those at Chicago's Navy Pier.

Sculptors Bruce Niemi, left, and Ted Sitting Crow Garner install Leslie Bruning's "Yes, Ma'am" with the help of city heavy equipment operator Joe Donais. Bruning was unavailable to install his work.

Marsha Caporaso, owner of Abatron Inc., the sponsor of Leslie Bruning's "Yes, Ma'am," admires the sculpture shortly after it was set up on Kenosha's Sculpture Walk in early September.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

Leslie Bruning's "Yes, Ma'am."

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

Jayson Lowery's "Conscious of Her Shores" appears different from every angle from which it is viewed.

Virginia sculptor Jayson Lowery guides city heavy equipment operator Joe Donais to place "Conscious of Her Shores" onto its concrete pad on Kenosha's Sculpture Walk.

JAYSON LOWERY: CONSCIOUS OF HER SHORES

Lowery's work marries development, decay

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

"Conscious of Her Shores" is the appropriate title of a piece Jayson Lowery created for the Sculpture Walk along Lake Michigan.

"The sculpture is part of a body of work that was inspired by my culture-shock experience of moving from Phoenix to Detroit," Lowery said.

Lowery grew up in the midst of Phoenix's housing boom.

"The landscape I lived in was transformed from scrubby desert to streets, houses, and shopping centers," he said.

"Detroit reminded me of my childhood in the desert and construction sites, because it has a similar blend of empty spaces and incomplete structures."

Unlike Phoenix, that was the result of a destructive process, he said.

"It was previous development breaking down rather than building up."

He was struck by the differences in the types of buildings he saw as he drove around Detroit

"There were the old houses, art-deco towers downtown, the churches and the huge industrial facilities," he said.

"Gradually, I found that Detroit's local culture, its legacy of racial tension and high-contrast socioeconomic communities to be remarkably evident in the landscape itself.

"'Conscious of Her Shores' is part of a body of work where I was meditating on this landscape — both physical and social — in my art. There is a great deal of beauty and ugliness in both aspects of the landscape there and I wanted to work with that in a way that wouldn't come across as preachy or exploitative."

The sculpture contrasts an "upscale" body made of marble with a "common" body made of limestone.

The piece consists of marble and limestone blocks that are bound by inlaied steel to a welded-steel structure.

There are also cast-iron features in the sculpture.

"I enjoyed working on this sculpture, which required stone carving, foundry work, a little blacksmithing, steel fabricating and a good deal of puzzling out how to get it all together," he said.

Jayson Lowery

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

"On Balance" by Paul Bobrowitz Jr. is 28 feet tall and 5 feet wide.

Sculptor Paul Bobrowitz Jr., left, and his assistant, Neil Steirer, right, unload "On Balance."

PAUL BOBROWITZ JR.: ON BALANCE AND HEELS OVERHEAD

Artists' two Sculpture Walk pieces all about motion

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

You could get a little dizzy viewing the two creations Paul Bobrowitz has fashioned for the Sculpture Walk.

Both have to do with motion. And one is a towering 28 feet tall.

The pieces are titled "On Balance," made of rusting and stainless steel, and "Heels Overhead," which is aluminum.

Paul Bobrowitz Jr.

"I don't recall the inspiration for the original form that eventually became 'On Balance' — other than that I was doing the letters of the alphabet years ago and the torso of (the sculpture) is the letter 'A'," said Bobrowitz, of Colgate Wis.

The "A" originally had a human-like head.

"I removed the head and installed the current split, unicorned spherical form and added the suspended stainless and rusty spheres," he said.

"That spherical split form is one that I've used in a series of many other sculptures over the past years, and it occurred to me that the former sculpture would be much improved with that as the focal point."

The piece, in HarborPark, is 28 feet tall and about five feet wide.

It's made of I-beams, chain, steel spheres, plate and steel scrap from military tank manufacturing processes, he said.

"Heels Overhead" is an upended figure installed in May outside the main entrance of the Kenosha Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 812 56th St.

"Both sculptures integrate motion — 'Heels Overhead' by implication of form, and 'On Balance' by the swinging of the suspended sphere's movement in the wind," he said.

KENOSHA NEWS FILE PHOTO BY BRIAN PASSINO

Paul Bobrowitz Jr. works to install his new aluminum sculpture "Heels Overhead" outside of the Kenosha Convention and Visitors Bureau downtown earlier this year.

"Both exemplify the ongoing core themes of my work: Relationships, uplifting joy and exuberance for life," he said.

The 7-foot-tall "Heels Overhead" is welded from aluminum cut from a coil shipped to Germantown from Russia, Bobrowitz said.

He picked up the metal at scrap prices, because it had been cut to the wrong width.

It is one of five similar sculptures he has created from that aluminum.