



**PUBLIC** FOUNDATION  
GREATER **ART**  
DES MOINES

# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020 — DECEMBER 2021

A stunning swirl of white, Alice Aycock's *Liftoff*, the Foundation's most recent installation at the entrance and exit to the Des Moines International Airport, is an apt metaphor for capturing the energy of the city and speaks to the exhilaration and sense of excitement that travelers may feel during takeoff and landing.





## MISSION

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation places inspiring art in increasing numbers of visible public spaces through public-private collaborations and partnerships. We educate and engage the community in an awareness and understanding of public art identity and culture.

## VISION

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation is a catalyst for outstanding public art projects with the power to inspire people who reside, work, and visit Greater Des Moines and to shape a fair and just community. With our priorities, we seek to be a world-class destination for transformative public art.

## ROLES and FUNCTION

We facilitate placement of site-specific art through public, private and community collaborations. We rely on our values to guide the use of a structured process. That process monitors site opportunities, identifies artists, carries out project review inquiries and juried artist selection processes. It also oversees concept development, installation, community engagement and long-term maintenance of its art installations.

## CORE VALUES

Our values of Excellence, Inspiration, Integrity and Accessibility define our partnerships and collaborations. These provide the basis for criteria in selecting and prioritizing projects and acquisitions.

Installers from Wolf Magritte, weld late into the night to connect the two pieces of Juanjo Novella's *Threshold* during its December 2021 installation in the Greater Des Moines Founder's Garden. Photo: M. Jessica Rowe

# ACCOMPLISHMENT AND CHANGE

This has been a year of accomplishment and change. As the coronavirus pandemic continued, we planned, raised funds, and accomplished myriad preparations for the implementation of major public artworks despite the challenges of continued social distancing. In 2021 many of these efforts came to fruition, with the Foundation installing an unprecedented number of projects in diverse settings throughout Des Moines.

The Foundation changed its fiscal year to calendar year in 2020. Therefore, this annual report covers the 18-month transitional period of July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

First to be completed during this period was Gail Folwell's sculpture honoring the founders of Iowa's famous bicycle race. *RAGBRAI®: River to River*, was installed in late 2020, with a community celebration and dedication in April of 2021.

The long-term project *SWISH*, an effort to bring painted basketball courts to neighborhoods throughout the city, was inaugurated this year. Des Moines-based artist Jordan Weber met with groups from the Oakridge Neighborhood and held workshops to develop his mural, *King Yore*. The finished court memorializes Yore Jieng, a 14-year-old Oakridge resident who was the victim of a drive-by shooting. The project was celebrated on August 18, 2021 with a joyful community event which concluded with a basketball game on the court.

The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation's collaboration with DART and the 6th Avenue Corridor Urban Neighborhood Main Street District has been growing for years. One of our long-term projects came to fruition in 2021, the integration of art into DART's bus shelters along the 6th Avenue Corridor. The first five in a series of 12 shelters were installed in late 2021, with a dedication planned for 2022. The vibrant designs by Barbados artist Sheena Rose incorporate imagery and iconography from the neighborhood and from greater Des Moines, as well as capturing a sense of the diversity and energy of the community.

Alice Aycock's massive *Liftoff* is carefully pieced together by Wolfe Magritte, art handlers and installers, at the entrance to the Des Moines International Airport.

December 2021 was an exceptionally busy period, seeing two major sculptures installed over a short 10-day period. Spanish artist Juanjo Novella's *Threshold* was installed at the Des Moines Botanical Garden in the recently completed Founders' Garden. The piece is a lacy 16-foot-tall leaf sculpture fabricated from 2-inch-thick plate steel. Visitors can walk under the arching structure as they enjoy the environment along the Des Moines River.

Capping off a decade of engagement with the internationally renowned contemporary sculptor Alice Aycock, the Foundation was proud to complete the installation of Alice's *Liftoff* at the Des Moines International Airport. Alice Aycock had made multiple proposals for Des Moines projects since 2011. The board doggedly advocated that her work should be represented in Des Moines, and our board enthusiastically celebrates the successful collaboration with the airport.

All of these completed projects make this 18-month period the most fruitful in the history of the Foundation, seeing public art installed across many scales, many neighborhoods and many media.

An element of change comes through a leadership transition at the Foundation. Since 2010 Executive Director M. Jessica Rowe led the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation through a period of immense accomplishment and growth, bringing over \$5.5 million of art investment to the City during that period. Jessica always championed excellence and inclusion, bringing transformational art to all citizens and visitors in our community. Her tenure ended during the first quarter of 2022 as she moves on to other career opportunities. The board is completing a search for her replacement.

The board is proud of what we accomplished this year, and wants to thank the City of Des Moines, its generous citizens, corporations and collaborating non-profit organizations. This work requires vision, creativity, and major tenacity. Profound thanks to all who have made these projects possible through the donation of their resources.

Tim R. Hickman, AIA  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# THANK YOU

In December, 2021, M. Jessica Rowe resigned after 12 years as the Executive Director of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation.

During her tenure she led the Foundation through a period of immense accomplishment and growth, bringing over \$5.5 million of art investment to the City during that period. This investment literally changed our city landscape with the projects that she envisioned and helped bring to life. Her belief in the vibrance of this community and its capacity to embrace and appreciate contemporary art projects of great scope set the bar high and resulted in such high profile projects as: Jun Kaneko's *Five Dangos* and *Expansion* on the Principal Riverwalk; Kerry James Marshall's *A Monumental Journey*, which, in 2019, was awarded one of the 50 best public art projects in North America by the Americans for the Arts; Oyoram Mevorach's groundbreaking spectacle *Mental Banquet: Painting with Lights* on the facade of the World Food Prize building, and, most recently; Alice Aycock's *Liftoff* at the Des Moines International Airport.

The imagination, research, planning, scholarship, collaboration, and fundraising it took to envision, manage and bring these huge public art projects to fruition, as well as manage a never ending list of other ongoing projects, has been admirable.

Equally impressive was her commitment to engaging every citizen and her efforts to include the community in the celebration of these projects. During public dedication ceremonies the diverse artistic talent that oozes from this city was showcased with many artists' involvement in the unveilings. From the Rebel City 515 Dancers flash mob at the DART Bus Central Station to unveil the newest DART bus wrap, to Movement 515 poets at the unveiling of *Miffy Fountain* at the Central Library, to Simon Estes singing at the *A Monumental Journey* celebration—she helped to create events that showcased the diversity of our city and helped us all celebrate and take ownership of these public art projects.

Whenever possible, Jessica looked for projects that would be meaningful and where she could create connections between the work of the Foundation and the community it serves. A unique collaboration between the Foundation and artist Mitchell Squire, commissioned to design a DART bus, provided awards of \$500 to local non-profit organizations to purchase bus passes, reducing the transportation barrier for underserved youth and families.

One of Jessica's many accomplishments was the myriad of relationships she forged to face the unique challenges of each endeavor—from city officials, to donors, to installers, to truck drivers, to board members, to musicians and performers and especially to the artists themselves, who say it best on these pages.

Thank you, Jessica.

Tim Hickman | PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan M. Fitzsimmons | INCOMING 2022 PRESIDENT,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



M. Jessica Rowe and Alice Aycock spent many days and nights in freezing December 2021 weather with this amazing crew during the installation of Alice Aycock's *Liftoff* at the entrance to the Des Moines International Airport. LEFT TO RIGHT: Donny Gettinger, installer, Wolf Magritte / Kyle Carlee, installer, Wolf Magritte / M. Jessica Rowe, Executive Director, GDMPAF / Alice Aycock, artist / Leonardo "Leo" Sierra, representative, EES Design, LLC / Tyler Warren, lead installer, Wolf Magritte / Kevin Marshall, installer, Wolf Magritte; former head of Preparation Department, J. Paul Getty Museum.

## From Alice Aycock, renowned artist and creator of *Liftoff* at the Des Moines International Airport

**"*Liftoff* was the first commission the studio began and completed during the pandemic, and I am so appreciative of Jessica's patience and support of my team throughout the entire process. Jessica was an extraordinary professional art consultant to work with and her expertise from start to finish through the proposal phase, fundraising, fabrication and engineering as well as the coordination with the installation crew was an enormous contribution to the success of a complex project. As the project manager, she acted as a liaison between myself as the artist and the Board of Directors of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, the Airport team, and community groups.**

**I have worked in the field of public art for many years and I rate the process of realizing the *Liftoff* commission as one of the top 10 in all ways because of Jessica's involvement. Jessica has a long and distinguished career in the arts and her dedication to excellence and her sensitivity to art and artists is unparalleled."**



Artist Mitchell Squire commenting on the inspiration for his DART bus, *Multiple Black*, during the July 2019 unveiling ceremony. During her tenure, Jessica Rowe was involved in commissioning 10 artists to create contemporary bus designs, supporting the Foundation's ongoing initiative of placing compelling, temporary works of art in highly accessible and visible public space.

## From Mitchell Squire, artist, professor of architecture at Iowa State University, and creator of the Foundation's 10th DART bus, *Multiple Black*

**"Being tirelessly supportive of the art culture of Des Moines is simply part of M. Jessica Rowe's civic DNA. I don't know of any person who has had the same impact on Des Moines' art climate as Jessica. No gallerist. No curator. No artist. I'll go out on a limb and say that Jessica's work is, in fact, an art practice. Through her leadership in the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, she has been able to transform not only public space in the greater Des Moines area but more importantly the public's acknowledgment of the necessity for public art in their daily lives. This is precisely what artists do. I cannot overstate the impact her work has had on me and my family's life in addition to my art career."**

## From Susan M. Fitzsimmons incoming 2022 Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation board president

**Jessica's impact on this community and on our visual landscape will be visible for generations to come both in the public art she brought to our community, in the careers of artists who she has supported and elevated, and in the prestigious public art foundation she has left for us to build on. She has set the bar high for all of us.**

## Selected highlights from M. Jessica Rowe's tenure at the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation

- Acquisition and installation of *Five Dangos* by Jun Kaneko
- Development of the Foundation logo and branding
- Initiation, research and launch of an online presence including the Foundation website, social media platforms, and Public Art App
- Collaborations and partnerships for public art education; development of free, public art education curriculum resources
- Establishment of public art conservation and maintenance program
- Establishment of ProjectSPACES, community-based initiatives for compelling temporary public art
- Commission of *Expansion* by Jun Kaneko
- Commission of *A Monumental Journey* by Kerry James Marshall
- Organization and management of 15 national calls for artists
- Commission of 10 contemporary designs for DART transit buses
- Accession and installation of *Miffy Fountain* by Tom Sachs, plus establishment of the *Miffy Fountain* Endowment for care and maintenance
- Collaboration with RAGBRAI® to commission *River to River* by Gail Folwell in Waterworks Park
- Commission of *Mental Banquet* by Oyoram Mevorach
- Collaboration with City of Pleasant Hill for two major public art projects
- Partnerships with 6AC Urban Neighborhood Main Street Program and DART for bus shelters expressing two sets of seven designs by Sheena Rose
- Commission of *SWISH*, artist designed basketball courts (King Yore) by Jordan Weber, in collaboration with Oakridge Neighborhood
- Commission of *Liftoff* by Alice Aycock in partnership with Des Moines International Airport
- Commission of *Threshold* by Juanjo Novella for the Botanical Garden of Greater Des Moines
- Public community unveiling celebrations for every major art commission

M. Jessica Rowe on site with artist Juanjo Novella during the December 2021 installation of his commissioned artwork, *Threshold*, at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Following its creation in Bilbo, Spain, transporting the piece by boat and then by truck from the US port of entry in Houston, Texas, in a pandemic, proved logistically challenging and involved a determined team to get the piece here and installed successfully.



# ART TAKES FLIGHT LIFTOFF



## COMPLETE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

### ARTIST

Alice Aycock

### ARTWORK

*Liftoff*

### PUBLIC ART SITE

Des Moines International Airport

### PUBLIC ART / PROJECT COMMITTEE

Pamela Bass-Bookey  
Jonathan deLima  
Lois Fingerman  
Susan Fitzsimmons  
Tim Hickman | COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Harriet 'Rusty' Hubbell  
Martha James  
Dale Jansen  
Darren Jirsa  
John Krantz  
Pat McFarland  
Kathy Murphy  
Jerry Patterson  
Kimberly Shadur  
Linda Westergaard

### CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS

Jake Christensen | DMIA AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER  
Substance Architecture  
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc  
Liz Ward | DMIA AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER .

### COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS

Alice Aycock Studio (AYC. LTD.)  
City of Des Moines  
Des Moines International Airport  
Des Moines Airport Authority

### FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION

EES Design LLC | FABRICATOR  
Eric Small | PRESIDENT, EES DESIGN, LLC  
Leonardo "Leo" Sierra | REPRESENTATIVE, EES DESIGN, LLC  
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc | LANDSCAPING ARCHITECTURE  
Wolfe Magritte LLC | ART HANDLERS AND INSTALLERS  
Luke Boehnke | PRINCIPAL, WOLF MAGRITTE, LLC  
Donny Gettinger | INSTALLER, WOLF MAGRITTE, LLC  
Kyle Carlee | INSTALLER, WOLF MAGRITTE, LLC  
Tyler Warren | LEAD INSTALLER, WOLF MAGRITTE LLC  
Kevin Marshall | INSTALLER, WOLF MAGRITTE LLC; FORMER HEAD OF  
PREPARATION DEPARTMENT J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM

### MEDIA COVERAGE

*Des Moines Register* article, January 19, 2021.  
[www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2021/01/19/famed-artists-sculpture-greet-motorists-des-moines-airport/4217522001/](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2021/01/19/famed-artists-sculpture-greet-motorists-des-moines-airport/4217522001/)

*DSM Magazine* article, December 7, 2021  
<https://dsmmagazine.com/2021/12/07/new-sculpture-arrives-at-des-moines-airport/>

### DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION

Forthcoming, September 2022

Alice Aycock (American, born 1946)

*Liftoff*, 2021

Powder coated aluminum and steel

H. 21 ft., 3 in x Dia 21 ft, 9 in

Commissioned in 2020 by Greater Des Moines  
Public Art Foundation in honor of Johnny Danos;  
Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, 2021.1

Prominently located at the entrance and exit of the Des Moines International Airport complex, the sculpture will be seen by about 3 million airline passengers each year when entering and exiting the airport, taking-off and landing. Its beauty will also be enjoyed by the 4.3+ million residents annually traveling along Des Moines' Fleur Drive.

The realization of an ongoing conversation between the Foundation and internationally acclaimed artist Alice Aycock took the form of a stunning swirl of white steel on metal on Des Moines' Fleur Drive. Prominently located on the median formed by the divided entrance and exit to the Des Moines International Airport complex, *Liftoff* is an apt metaphor for capturing the energy of the city, and speaks to the exhilaration and sense of excitement that travelers may feel during takeoff and landing. To experience the moment the plane leaves the ground can be a truly magical sensation of levitation.

"Alice Aycock's sculpture makes visible the air that sustains, delights, and frightens us and that also represents our awareness of things beyond the ground we stand on. Her structures are precisely engineered to embody the forces of nature and to suggest the feelings they provoke in us. Often made up of thin, curving slices of steel, Aycock's sculptures evoke currents of air, especially ones that could lift us beyond the earth – in our imaginations as well as our actual bodies.

Painted a dazzling white, *Liftoff* catches the light that, like air, is constantly moving and changing. Every view of the sculpture is different and distinct, tracing the sun's progress across the sky or, at times, the clouds that drift overhead. Even at night, the sculpture is dramatically lit so that it will glow as travelers pass in and out of the airport." LEA ROSSON DELONG, PH.D., ART HISTORIAN / CURATOR

Aycock considers *Liftoff* to be one of her most beautiful and demanding compositions. She and Foundation Executive Director, M. Jessica Rowe, were onsite over the five days of installation in temperature readings of 14 degrees. It was literally a numbing experience for all involved. When the work arrived on two semis at midnight on December 4, art handlers from Wolf Magritte immediately began itemizing each of the 267 components of the sculpture prior to the start of the installation. Over the next five days those pieces were meticulously reconstructed into the soaring sculpture we see today.



A team of expert installers from Wolfe Magritte worked diligently day and night for five days to reconstruct the 267 pieces of metal into the Aycock's soaring *Liftoff*.



# JOHNNY DANOS PUBLIC ART EDUCATION FUND

*Liftoff* was commissioned by the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation in honor of the late Johnny Danos, prominent Des Moines community leader, and former president of the Community Foundation of Des Moines. During his tenure as president, Danos was instrumental in the creation of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation.

Contributions in memory of Danos were used to support the commissioned artwork and to create The Johnny Danos Public Art Education Fund in acknowledgement of his passion for education.

The fund supports the Foundation's educational activities varying from traditional teaching experiences to new content for the website, and the DSM Public Art App. The Fund will also support art education efforts, strengthen partnerships with community organizations, like the Science Center of Iowa, and engage students, teachers and communities in opportunities to learn about and experience public art.



Alice Aycock at the installation of *Liftoff* in December, 2021

Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa participants met with Alice Aycock during Camp Liftoff, an educational camp offered in partnership with the Science Center of Iowa.



## CAMP LIFTOFF

SEPTEMBER 14–16 AND 21–23, 2021

Camp Liftoff was a perfect partnership between the Foundation and the Science Center of Iowa that offered educational camps to Hiatt Middle School students from the Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa. The students had exposure to architects, engineers, contractors, designers, and other creative professions they had not previously encountered.

In this unique physics-themed camp, the students explored both the Science Center of Iowa's Innovation Lab and Adventureland Park. They were issued PocketLabs, a digital sensor that fits into a pocket and connects with a smart phone or computer. The sensor measures motion, acceleration, velocity, altitude, and the effects of light. Each participant carried their miniature science lab with them to Adventureland Park and collected data while investigating physics and motion of the rides.

The science portion of the camp was led by Renee Schull Harmon, Vice President of Science Learning and Jolie Pelds, Director of Innovative STEM Teaching of the Science Center of Iowa. Artist Alice Aycock then reinforced the student's knowledge of practical physics with examples of artistic expression. Students enjoyed studying the artist and her work. They learned from Aycock that art is not about answers, but about questions. Students were captivated by Aycock's idea of conveying motion with an art object such as *Liftoff* that does not move.

It was a positive experience from every aspect. Since the public art project will be a permanent installation, there is hope that the camp can be repeated each year for new students. There is a desire to utilize the summer months and longer camp experiences, as well as an after school program during the academic year.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alice Aycock is a pioneering American artist who has created artwork since the early 1970s. Over the course of Aycock's decades-long career, many of her works of art have been inspired by science. The physics of fluid dynamics has been of particular interest to the artist. The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in Contemporary Sculpture by the International Sculpture Center in 2018 acknowledged Aycock as a master sculptor. She also received the Academy of the Arts Achievement Award in Visual Arts in 2019. Since 1983 she has had four international retrospective exhibitions of her drawings and sculptures. Museums around the world have collected her art including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Metropolitan Museum in New York, The National Gallery of Art, the Sprengel Museum in Hanover, Germany and the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris, France to name a few. Aycock is well known for public art installations, included at 14 different universities and major US airports. In 2014, a series of seven sculptures entitled *Paper Chase* was installed in Park Avenue in New York City.



# THRESHOLD

## LARGER-THAN-LIFE BOTANICAL SPECIMEN CONVEYS FRAGILITY

**ARTIST**

Juanjo Novella

**ARTWORK**

*Threshold*, 2021

**PUBLIC ART SITE**

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

**PUBLIC ART / PROJECT COMMITTEE**

Susan Fitzsimmons

Tim Hickman

Ardis Kelly

Kimberly Shadur

Ted M. Stuart

**CONSULTANTS**

Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects

**COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS**

Juanjo Novella

Des Moines Botanical Garden

**PROJECT TEAM**

Fred Weitz

M. Jessica Rowe | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GDMPAF

Juanjo Novella | ARTIST

Kim Perez | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOTANICAL GARDEN

Luke Boehnke | WOLFE MAGRITTE LLC,

Emmanuel Didier | PRINCIPAL, DIDIER DESIGN STUDIO

Michael ("Mike") Simonson | SIMONSON & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS LLC

John Rhodes, PE, SE | RAKER RHODES ENGINEERING

Rick Trower | NEUMAN BROTHERS

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

*Des Moines Register* article, published December 16, 2021

[www.desmoinesregister.com/story/life/2021/12/16/new-public-sculpture-juanjo-novella-des-moines-botanical-garden/8895832002/](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/life/2021/12/16/new-public-sculpture-juanjo-novella-des-moines-botanical-garden/8895832002/)

*DSM Magazine* article, December 21, 2021

[dsmmagazine.com/2021/12/21/artist-contributes-two-sculptures-to-metro](http://dsmmagazine.com/2021/12/21/artist-contributes-two-sculptures-to-metro)

**DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION**

Des Moines Botanical Garden, May 29, 2022

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Installed at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden in December 2021, the 16-foot-tall sculpture is of a Combretaceae leaf, a type of leaf that can be found on maple or oak trees in Iowa. The artwork is Novella's first public art installation in a U.S. botanical garden.

Juanjo Novella (Spanish, born 1961, Basque Country)

*Threshold*, 2021

Steel / H 19.6 feet x W 26.2 feet x D 16.4 feet. / weighs approximately eight tons

Commissioned by the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation on behalf of friends

of Tom Urban and his family for the collection of Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

Photo: Connie Wilson



*Threshold* gets its natural rust colored appearance from the interaction of the steel with the salty sea air as it travelled from Spain to the United States. The artist insisted that the piece be on the deck of the ship in the open air so that the salty air would start the natural patination process of creating the color that Novella wanted.

Juanjo Novella's delicate looking steel sculpture graces the new seven-acre Founders Garden that opened spring 2022 at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. The commission honors former Des Moines Mayor Tom Urban, who died in 2020. Urban was one of four individuals who, from 2009 to 2013, endeavored to establish a new botanical garden in Des Moines. Tom's leadership was key to their success in launching this Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. The Foundation commissioned the artwork on behalf of Urban's friends and family for the collection at the botanical garden, which will showcase native Iowa plants.

Retired business leader Fred Weitz, who sits on the Botanical Garden's board of directors, approached the Foundation about the project and worked with them to find an artist for the sculpture. Internationally renowned Juanjo Novella was chosen and his concept design for the project attached great significance to the relationship between location and design and the special effect that light can have in his work, especially the importance of shadows.

The site chosen for Novella's *Threshold* is a dry meadow garden, part of the Botanical Garden's 7-acre master plan expansion stretching to University Avenue and incorporating a fusion of art and horticulture to provide meaningful, memorable experiences. *Threshold* appears to be a huge delicate leaf, rising out of the meadow that showcases Midwestern native plants and includes a natural amphitheater for educational programming.

"From a distance, [the work] appears to be a delicate leaf that may have floated through the air and gently landed in the dry meadow," Novella said. "It stands as a towering, twisted form made of iron. Its lace-like surface of veins gives form to a dramatic Combretaceae leaf. As the sun moves across the sky, its rays will cast shadows through the sculpture's perforated surface onto the ground below. Constantly changing, the shadows will form the intricate natural patterns within the leaf."

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Internationally renowned artist Juanjo Novella, lives in the Basque Country of Spain and is known for his exquisite, large-scale work with metal sculptures that enhance their urban surroundings and offer visitors interesting opportunities to interact with the light and shadows cast by his sculptures. As an artist with more than 37 years of experience, he is sought after as a lecturer on public art. He now works exclusively on public art sculptures, often participating in urban regeneration campaigns and his sculptures are featured across the globe.

A team from Wolf Magritte including Donny Gettinger, Kyle Carlee, and lead installer Tyler Warren worked meticulously with the artist, Juanjo Novella, over four days in mid-December, 2021 to place the eight ton *Threshold* upright in the new Founders' Garden.



# SWISH

PUBLIC ART  
HONORS  
LIFE OF  
DES MOINES  
YOUTH

**ARTIST**

Jordan Weber

**ARTWORK**

*Swish*

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION EVENT**

Oakridge Neighborhood, August 18, 2021

**PUBLIC ART SITE**

Oakridge Neighborhood, Des Moines

**COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS**

Bravo, Greater Des Moines, GC20 Grant  
Director's Discretionary Fund, GDMPAF  
Tony Filippini  
Oakridge Neighborhood  
Wm C. Knapp Charitable Foundation

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

Combined social media impressions reached 4,555 on GDMPAF's FaceBook and Instagram accounts

[www.desmoinesregister.com/picture-gallery/news/local/des-moines/2021/08/04/des-moines-neighborhood-mural-honors-yore-jieng/5448668001/](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/picture-gallery/news/local/des-moines/2021/08/04/des-moines-neighborhood-mural-honors-yore-jieng/5448668001/)

[www.kcci.com/article/mural-dedicated-to-yore-jieng-who-was-killed-by-a-stray-bullet/37342490#](http://www.kcci.com/article/mural-dedicated-to-yore-jieng-who-was-killed-by-a-stray-bullet/37342490#)

A team of painters and volunteers worked with artist Jordan Weber to bring the vision of King Yore to life and honor a life lost too soon.  
Photo: M. Jessica Rowe





It seemed as if the entire Oakridge neighborhood turned out for the dedication ceremony to hear remarks by Oakridge CEO Teree Caldwell Johnson (above left), artist Jordan Weber (above right) GDMPAF Board president Tim Hickman and Yore Jeing's mother and family.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

*Swish* was initiated by the Foundation in July 2019 as a way to bring public art directly into ethnically diverse and economically disadvantaged urban neighborhoods. The idea of refurbishing neglected basketball courts and enhancing them with a painted mural was met with enthusiasm by leaders at Des Moines' Oakridge Neighborhood, the site of the inaugural project.

Oakridge Neighborhood is a nonprofit housing and human services agency located on 17 acres in Des Moines' urban core. It has served the communities' most vulnerable children and families since 1969. Oakridge Neighborhood's mission is to create pathways to success for adults, children and families by providing exceptional housing combined with comprehensive education programs and employment services. With its 300 units, Oakridge is Iowa's oldest and largest project based Section 8 housing organization. It is one of the most globally diverse neighborhoods in Iowa — Oakridge is home to nearly 1,200 individuals, representing 23 countries who speak 29 languages, and 66% of the community is refugees and immigrants.

Des Moines-based artist Jordan Weber met with groups from the Oakridge Neighborhood and held workshops to develop the concept for the mural, *King Yore*. With a support team of artists and community members, Weber transformed the first basketball court into a design embodying the dreams and potential of a 14-year-old Oakridge resident Yore Jieng, whose senseless death was caused by a stray gunshot while sitting in the passenger seat of a car with his family. A second design for Oakridge Neighborhood is in process.

Neighborhood families and friends joined the dedication. Brief comments were made by Teree Caldwell Johnson, CEO of Oakridge Neighborhood, Foundation Board president Tim Hickman, the artist, Jordan Weber, and Yore Jeing's mother and family. The Urban Bike Food Ministry stopped by with free food for the Neighborhood.

It was a joyous celebration and the first basketball game in more than a year was played on the newly renovated court featuring "King Yore." Yore's sister said that this will become a place where children can create happy memories.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Jordan J. Weber is a Des Moines-based multi-disciplinary artist/activist who works at the cross section of race and environmental justice. His work has been exhibited at White Box, New York; Union for Contemporary Art, Omaha; Intersect Art Center, St. Louis; Des Moines Art Center; Macalister College, Twin Cities, Smack Mellon, New York; Manifest Justice, Los Angeles; Charlotte Street Foundation; Kansas City; Open Engagement, Chicago. Weber is best known for his deconstructed police vehicles turned community gardens/workout equipment, and recontextualized abandoned structures. Honors and fellowships include A Blade of Grass Fellowship, African American Leadership Fellowship, Harvard LOEB/ArtLab Fellowship, Joan Mitchell Award, Pulitzer Arts Foundation residency, and Tanne Foundation Fellowship. He is currently an artist-in-residence at Yale University and a United States Artists Fellow.



Artists Jill Wells (ABOVE LEFT) and Marissa Hernandez (RIGHT PHOTO) led the painting effort supported by many neighborhood volunteers. Photos: M. Jessica Rowe

# RAGBRAI<sup>®</sup> RIVER TO RIVER

## SCULPTURE COMMEMORATES IOWA CYCLING TRADITION

### ARTIST

Gail Slatter Folwell

### ARTWORK

RAGBRAI<sup>®</sup>: River to River

### EVENT

Public Dedication and Celebration, April 17, 2021

### PUBLIC ART SITE

Water Works Park, Des Moines

### PUBLIC ART / LOGISTICS COMMITTEE

Michael Bell, PLA, ASLA | RDG PLANNING & DESIGN

Sam Carrell | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DES MOINES WATER WORKS PARK FOUNDATION

Dieter Drake | RAGBRAI DIRECTOR

Jason Knipp | VP OF OPERATIONS, CENTRAL IA OFFICE, HENKEL CONSTRUCTION

Anne Lawrie | SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER, DES MOINES REGISTER

M. Jessica Rowe | DIRECTOR, GREATER DES MOINES PUBLIC ART FOUNDATION

Carl Voss | CYCLIST, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, PROJECT ADVOCATE

AND DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

### COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation

Des Moines Register

Iowa Bicycle Coalition

RAGBRAI<sup>®</sup>

### MEDIA COVERAGE

[www.desmoinesregister.com/picture-gallery/life/living-well/](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/picture-gallery/life/living-well/)

[ragbrai/2020/07/15/photos-sculpture-honoring-ragbrai-founders-installed-des-moines/5446195002/](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/2020/07/15/photos-sculpture-honoring-ragbrai-founders-installed-des-moines/5446195002/)

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

RAGBRAI: River to River was dedicated on April 17, 2021. Standing about seven feet tall and made of steel and bronze, RAGBRAI: River to River is a contemporary portrayal of RAGBRAI founders, John Karras and Donald Kaul. In a dramatic pose, Karras looks east while Kaul gazes toward the west boundaries of the state. Once the viewer imagines the bicycles standing alongside each individual, a common pose can be recognized: one hand steady on the handlebar, the other hand resting on the bicycle seat. Formed aluminum spanning across 50-feet creates Iowa's billowy hills. Dozens of lighted circular shapes are integrated along this rolling pattern, representing bicycle wheels for the more than 10,000 riders who participate in this annual summertime ritual.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gail Folwell is an artist, designer, and sculptor from Boulder, Colorado. Her public and private installation clients include Denver Art Museum, University of Notre Dame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Vail Resorts. Her work is about the human experience, body language, spirit, mind and interaction. She sculpts abstractly figurative concept driven works. She has received numerous design awards from the Art Directors Club of Denver, Art Directors Club of New York, Art Directors Club of Los Angeles Art, Direction Magazine, NY, Print Communications, CA, Denver Advertising Federation, CO, and Type Directors Club NY, NY. Gail studied at the University of Denver and earned a BFA in 1983.

**RAGBRAI<sup>®</sup>: River to River is installed in Des Moines Water Works Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States.**

Gail Slatter Folwell (Canadian / American, born 1961)

RAGBRAI<sup>®</sup>: River to River, 2020

Bronze and Aluminum

Commissioned by RAGBRAI in collaboration with

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, 2020

Photo: Connie Wilson



# BUS SHELTERS

## REFLECT THE ENERGY OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

### ARTIST

Sheena Rose

### ARTWORK

*Untitled Series: 6AC Bus Shelters*

### EVENT

Community Celebration in Fall 2022

### PUBLIC ART SITE

12 DART bus shelters along Des Moines' 6th Avenue corridor

### PUBLIC ART / PROJECT COMMITTEE

MarKaus Ashworth | 6AC  
Breann Bye | 6AC  
Mary S. Chapman | GDMPAF  
Jonathan deLima | GDMPAF  
Lois Fingerman | GDMPAF  
Susan Fitzsimmons | GDMPAF  
Bill Gray | 6AC  
Christine Her | 6AC  
Khalid Khan | GDMPAF  
Jennifer Leatherby | 6AC  
Kim Poam Logan | 6AC  
Rene Owczarski | 6AC  
Benjamin Spellman | 6AC  
Linda Westergaard | GDMPAF

### COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS

Connie Wilson | CONNIE WILSON DESIGN  
Jessica Terrill AIA, LEED® AP | SUBSTANCE ARCHITECTURE  
6th Avenue Corridor Urban Neighborhood Main Street District (6AC)  
and Breann Bye | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DART and Matthew Harris | DART BUSINESS & COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER  
Richard Rawlins | RICHARD MARK RAWLINS DESIGN, UK,  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### MEDIA COVERAGE

<https://dsmmagazine.com/2022/01/18/revival-of-the-streetcar-suburbs>

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The 6th Avenue Corridor Urban Neighborhood Main Street Program is a nationally accredited Iowa Main Street Program through the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The neighborhoods surrounding the 6th Avenue Corridor are the most diverse, both ethnically and culturally, in the state of Iowa. Diversity has played a strong role in the history of the area as it was an early home of the Jewish community in Des Moines and has welcomed many new immigrants over the decades.

The guiding mission of the nonprofit Program is to coordinate and facilitate the revitalization of historic 6th Avenue from Interstate 235 north to the Des Moines River. The 6AC came to the Foundation with the objective of creating a collection with a common theme and inspiration to establish a distinct visual identity for transit in the 6th Avenue Corridor district.

Through a rigorous review process, a 12-member committee evaluated a large pool of eligible local, national and international artists and, in 2019, selected Barbados-based artist Sheena Rose to create designs to beautify 12 DART bus shelters along the 6th Avenue Corridor.

Each of Rose's six vibrant designs incorporates imagery and iconography from the neighborhood and from greater Des Moines, as well as capturing a sense of the diversity and energy of the community. The designs are digitally embedded into the glass panels of the bus shelters. Five of the designs were installed in 2021 and the balance will be installed before the end of 2022.

The light shining through the shelters creates additional layers of design on the surrounding sidewalks.

Sheena Rose

*Untitled Series: 6AC Bus Shelters, 2021*

Digital designs embedded into glass panels

Commissioned by Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation

Photo: Connie Wilson



ONGOING PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Breann Bye, Executive Director of the 6th Avenue Corridor Urban Neighborhood Main Street Program, remarked:

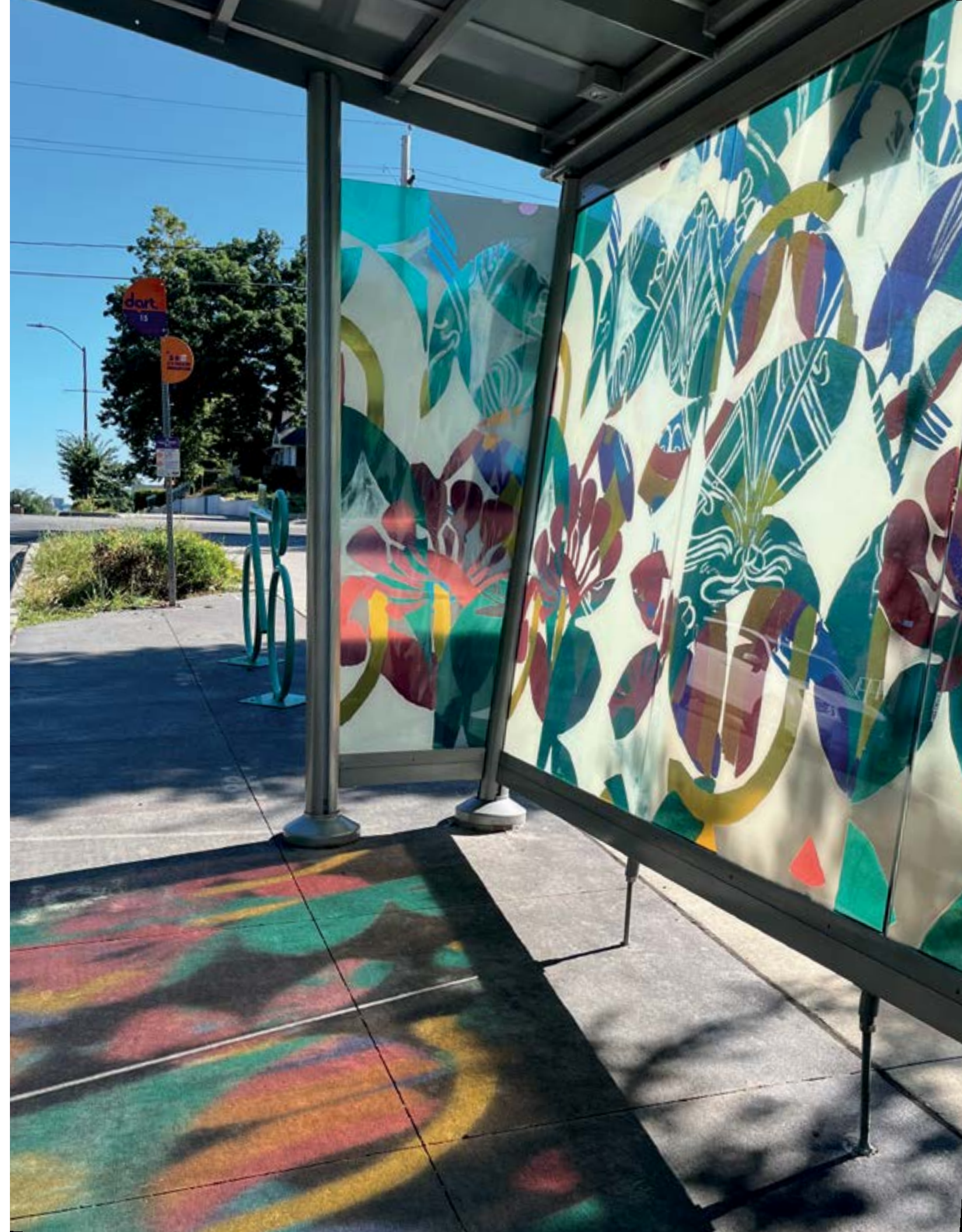
“We’re thrilled with the outcome of this engaging and participatory selection process. Sheena Rose’s concepts embrace the vibrancy and diversity of our district in a visually dynamic and powerful way. Sheena has captured the energy and resiliency of this community. These bus shelters will be an enduring celebration of all that makes this part of our city so special. We have very intentionally expanded our fundraising efforts to bring this type of compelling public art to our district as one part of the broader streetscape project.”



RIGHT Sheena Rose in her studio in Barbados  
15 January 2020 | Photo: Amy Butcher

**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Sheena Rose ( b.1985) is a visual artist who works in Barbados. Rose is a Fulbright Scholar and holds an MFA in Studio Art from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has a multi-disciplinary practice including paintings, drawings, performance art, new media, public art, and mixed media. Rose has exhibited internationally and has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Travel & Leisure Magazine*, *Vogue*, *Hospitality Design*, *White Wall*, and *Black Futures*. In 2019, She created a two-story mural at the Inter-American Development Bank Headquarters in Washington DC. Sheena also created a nine-foot tall mural for an exhibition called *The Other Side of Now* in the Perez Art Museum Miami. In 2020, she was one of the recipients of the Greensboro School of Art Distinguished Alumni award.

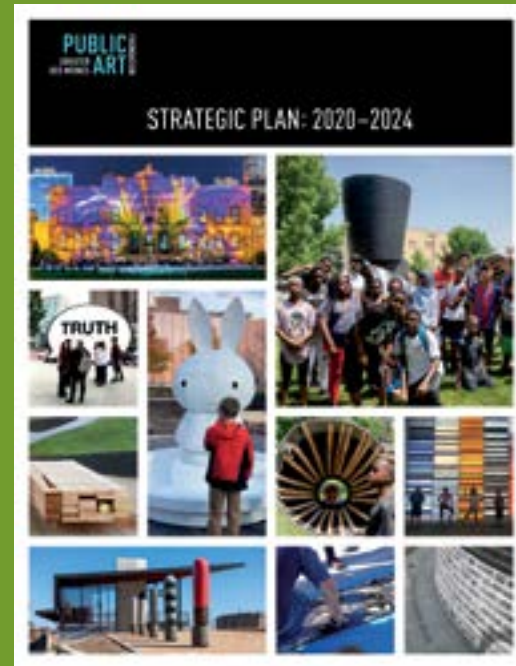


## SECOND SWISH BASKETBALL COURT MAKES A STATEMENT

Jordan Weber’s second *SWISH* basketball court concept design for the Oakridge Neighborhood was reconstructed from the primary subject of Yore Jieng — a 14-year-old boy from the neighborhood, who was tragically killed.

In the second interpretation, the artist Weber uses the recognizable silhouette of Yore completely shrouded with healing plants from his family’s country of South Sudan. The healing plants are woven together with colorful drawings of butterflies and flowers created by Oakridge children during workshops held in 2020.

The design also incorporates the title of the neighborhood youth’s spoken word poem “Success Is My Protest” which borders two sides of the basketball court.



The Foundation’s Strategic Plan was updated through the work of an ad hoc planning committee and a series of Board of Directors workshops. The mission and vision were updated and the plan will guide the Foundation through 2024.



## PUBLIC ART WORK MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Jun Kaneko’s public art project titled *Expansion*, a 15 x 21 foot mural of glass lit from behind with 39,000 LED lights, was commissioned by the Foundation in 2013. The mural, constructed of seven vertical hand blown glass panels, is integrated into the north exterior wall of the Court Avenue Pump Station, across from the HubSpot, on the Principal Riverwalk in downtown Des Moines.

On May 31, 2020, *Expansion* was damaged, fracturing and structurally compromising a number of the panels. A conservation team determined how the piece could be repaired and the newly conserved piece will be reinstalled in Fall 2022.

This underlines one of the critical responsibilities of the Foundation, to maintain, insure, protect and repair the works of art under its care.



## MEETINGS AT THE MONUMENT

In September 2021 the Iowa National Bar Association (INBA) held the third annual Meeting at the Monument: A Celebration of Diversity within the Iowa Legal Community at the site of Kerry James Marshall’s *A Monumental Journey*, in downtown Des Moines.

During the gathering, the INBA presented the Journey Award to two recipients for their demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion: The Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA) Young Lawyers Division and Former State Representative Helen Miller.

*A Monumental Journey* was commissioned by the Foundation in 2018 and created by world-renowned artist Kerry James Marshall to honor the founders of the National Bar Association (NBA). The project honors the National Bar Association founders: 12 courageous African-American attorneys who — in Des Moines, Iowa — changed the course of American history in 1925. At a time when the American Bar Association and other national legal associations denied membership to



*A Monumental Journey* has proven to be the community gathering place that its supporters had hoped. Top, the INBA holds its fall 2020 socially distanced celebration and below, a slightly more comfortable atmosphere around the monument in at the same time in 2021.

African-American lawyers, these attorneys created their own legal organization.

Today, the NBA remains the largest national network of predominantly African American attorneys, deans, professors, and judges. By honoring these individuals, the project preserves local cultural history that has had great significance at the national and international levels.

*A Monumental Journey* has become not only a community gathering place, but a beacon for justice.

In 2019, *A Monumental Journey* was awarded one of the 50 best public art projects in North America by the Americans for the Arts (the nation’s leading non-profit organization advancing arts and arts education in America).



# GREATER DES MOINES PUBLIC ART FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**GOVERNANCE**

As a mission-driven, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, the GDMPAF is sustained through the involvement of its governing Board of Directors comprised of 22 Des Moines residents. A board director may serve three terms or nine consecutive years. Decisions relating to the operations and governance of the GDMPAF occur at any of the regular monthly Board meetings, or at any of the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to four at-large Board Directors as named by the President, form the Executive Committee. In the periods between regular Board meetings, the Executive Committee conducts business. Actions taken by the Executive Committee are brought to the Board for ratification at its next business meeting.

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Principal, Substance Architecture

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Community Activist, Art Patron and Art Collector

**THE HONORABLE LINDA WESTERGAARD**  
Des Moines City Council, Ward 2

**DIRECTORS EMERITI**

In 2013, the Board of Directors expanded the organization to include emeriti members. Individuals awarded emeritus status have served a maximum term on the board of directors. Members are selected based on their distinguished service including active participation and engagement when serving on the board; consistent philanthropic support; and demonstrated interest in the organization.

**THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE L. HENSLEY**  
Appointed by Des Moines City Council

**KRISTI LUND LOZIER**  
Artist

**PAUL MANKINS, FAIA LEED® AP**  
Consulting Principal, Substance Architecture

The first basketball game in more than a year was played on the newly renovated court, *Swish*, during the dedication in August, 2021. Photo: M. Jessica Rowe



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of 31 December 2021

**ASSETS**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	569,593.11
Investment   Endowment	55,662.48
Investment   <i>Miffy Fountain</i> Fund	135,498.90
Accounts Receivable	45,774.28
Pledges Receivable	7,500.00
Prepaid Expense	8,902.58

**TOTAL ASSETS 822,931.35**

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable	253,891.63
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES 253,891.63**

**NET ASSETS**

Net Assets Without Restrictions	110,165.15
Net Assets With Restrictions	
GDMPAF Endowment	55,662.48
Miffy Fountain Endowment Fund	135,498.90
Public Art Project Funds – Board Restricted	112,271.11
Public Art Project Funds – Donor Restricted	155,442.08

**TOTAL NET ASSETS 569,039.72**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 822,931.35**

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

1 July 2020 through 31 December 2021

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER SUPPORT**

Government	\$111,500.00
Individual	\$681,326.87
Corporate   Foundation	\$381,035.00
Pledges	\$62,500.00
Investments and Other	\$144,147.71

**TOTAL SUPPORT \$1,380,509.58**

**EXPENSES**

Administration and Development	\$79,539.06
Consulting Services	\$136,335.72
Public Arts Program	\$1,227,676.20

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,443,551.48**

**Change in Net Assets \$(71,915.67)**

**Net Assets, beginning of year \$640,955.39**

**Net Assets, year to date \$569,039.72**

## GREATER DES MOINES PUBLIC ART FOUNDATION DONOR SUPPORT

This page lists the many extraordinary donors who inspire excellence at the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation. Their financial contributions support not only the expansion of public artworks but ongoing educational programs and events that enrich our community. These gifts are celebrated and publicly recognized for their impact now and long into the future. The following includes all gifts of \$100 or more, July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

### \$249,999 – \$150,000

Anonymous donor  
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Johnny Danos Better Together Fund and Teresa Van Vleet-Danos, In Honor of Johnny Danos

### \$100,000 – \$149,999

City of Des Moines  
Mary and John Pappajohn

### \$40,000 – \$99,999

Anonymous donor  
Bravo Greater Des Moines  
Danos Family Fund  
The Weathertop Foundation

### \$25,000 – \$39,999

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Trudy Holman Hurd  
Charlotte and Fred Hubbell  
Kyle and Sharon Krause Family Foundation

### \$10,000 – \$24,999

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### \$250 – \$999

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Michael Hajdu  
Allen L. Sabbag  
Kathleen and Jeffrey D. Stahl  
Maura Nelson and Jim Stick

### \$100 – \$249

Joann Bell  
James Carney  
Crowfoot Pollak Community Fund  
Richard E. Hernandez  
Kaye and Richard Lozier  
David Lundquist  
Meagan Mostrom  
Network for Good  
Andrew Norby  
Tom Rowles  
Cole Sisung  
Dawn Taylor  
Al Trickey  
Terrance Vorbrich

Juanjo Novella's 20-foot-high steel sculpture, *Threshold*, stands as a towering, twisting (Combretaceae) leaf form. Shadows of lace-like patterns from either sunlight or LED lumination shining through the sculpture's perforated surfaces will transform surfaces on and around the site.

Photo courtesy of the artist



**PUBLIC** FOUNDATION  
GREATER **ART**  
DES MOINES

FRONT AND BACK COVERS  
Juanjo Novella (Spanish, born 1961, Basque Country)  
*Threshold*, 2021 (detail)  
Steel / H 19.6 feet x W 26.2 feet x D 16.4 feet. /  
weighs approximately eight tons  
Commissioned by the Greater Des Moines  
Public Art Foundation on behalf of friends of  
Tom Urban and his family for the collection of  
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

All photos by Eric Salmon unless  
otherwise indicated

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation  
1915 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-3311

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