

News from theNate

DIGITAL
Newsletter December 2021 Issue 5

During a recent "Ambassadors for theNate" event, Jane Castle gets the perfect shot of the new acquisition: "Stargazing with Contrails" by Terrence Karpowicz. Find out more about volunteer and docent opportunities on our website and in this issue.



We are grateful for YOU, our friends, fans, and followers for voting us the BEST sculpture park in the country.



News from theNate

NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

New Sculpture Coming Soon

Bernard Williams has been working to bring his vision to life, but supply chain issues, and workflow for engineers, fabricators, and the like have slowed the process somewhat. Progress has been made – structural engineers have provided detailed drawings, the state review is underway, and a fabricator has begun to review the work to be done – and we hope to see the installation early in 2022.



Inside

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Ambassadors for theNate
- Calendar for 2022

Whenever a new state building project is completed, a percentage of the overall budget is set aside to commission a new work of art from an Illinois artist. The GSU F Wing renovation was completed years ago but due to the budget impasse the funds were not released until recently. The Illinois Capital Development Board, Art in Architecture funds attracted artists and proposals for a work of art fitting of the collection. The Butterfly Ranch prairie restoration site was selected for this project because the F Wing is home to GSU's science programs; GSU students as well as area school children and other visitors will benefit from the project. The CDB/AIA call for proposals resulted in over 40 applications that provided three finalists: Barbara Cooper, Jerry Monteith, and Bernard Williams.

The selection committee and representatives from GSU's committee met with the artists virtually on December 4, 2020 to see their designs. The winning proposal was from Bernard Williams and will act as an observation deck, inspired by birds, birdwatching, and The Butterfly Ranch.

See an animated rendering of the proposal here:
<https://youtu.be/b3opfKxVaRQ>

Winter Walk / Empty Bowls / Holiday Party



Saturday, December 11, 2021

3 – 5:30 p.m.

Location:

E Lounge / Visual Arts Gallery



Please RSVP to sdenault@govst.edu by Monday December 6 – although walk-ins are welcomed.

Masks must be worn indoors even if vaccinated and all other CDC guidelines will be in place.

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NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

www.govst.edu/sculpture

Governors State University
1 University Parkway
University Park, IL 60484

Our annual holiday event is coming up – not everyone will go for the Winter Walk, some of us will remain indoors and enjoy refreshments and holiday cheer, shop for bowls to benefit GSU Students, and celebrate a terrific year for **theNate!**

Holiday Party (in E Lounge 3 – 5:30)

Enjoy some holiday cheer! The Advisory Board for theNate welcomes our friends, fans and followers to join in the celebration of being voted the Number One Sculpture Park in the nation, new acquisitions, and so much more.



Winter Walk (departs from E Lounge)

3 – 3:45 p.m. join us for our annual winter walk and tour of the collection, take in views of the sculpture set against the dramatic Illinois landscape which is inspiring during all four seasons. Dress for the weather knowing we will return to E Lounge / Visual Arts Gallery to warm up with some hot soup, tasty food and holiday beverages. We are a hardy people, but in the case of inclement weather, a slide show presentation of theNate will be on display.



Empty Bowls (in E Lounge 3 – 5:30)

This grassroots movement by artists and crafts people in cities and towns around the world, cares for and feeds the hungry in their communities. Our Empty Bowls event will support the GSU Student Emergency Relief Fund and the GSU Student Food Pantry. During this event on December 11 attendees will be the first to shop hand-made ceramic bowls available for purchase; remaining bowls will later be auctioned online. Just in time for your holiday gift-giving needs, these one of a kind works of art made by GSU students and our art program are sure to satisfy – and will provide much needed help right in our own community. Go to emptybowls.com to find out more about the history of Empty Bowls.



Advisory Board for theNate (left to right):

Elizabeth L. Kelley, Paul Uzureau, Leona Calvin, Kim L. Bright, Jennifer Traff, Patricia Mell Ragland (president), Jeff Stevenson (director, curator), Dr. Cheryl Green (GSU president), Tim Brennen, Yvonne Orr El, Jason Zingsheim (DAL chair), Gregg Lunceford, Jacqueline James Lewis, Aaron West (student member), Al Sturges.
Not pictured: Shay Brokemon, Levoi Brown, Susan Ormsby, Victoria Strole

Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

Jeff Stevenson, *Director & Curator*
Patricia Mell Ragland, *President*
Elizabeth L. Kelley, *Immediate Past-President*
Gregg Lunceford, *Vice President*

Timothy Brennan
Kim L. Bright
Shay Brokemon
Levoi Brown
Leona Calvin
Jacqueline James Lewis
Susan Ormsby
Yvonne Orr-El
Victoria Strole
Al Sturges
Jennifer Traff
Paul Uzureau

Ex-officio

Lewis Manilow, (08/11/1927-12/12/2017), *Founder*
Cheryl Green, *Ph.D., GSU President*
Will Davis, *Vice President, Institutional Advancement, Marketing and Communications, Chief Executive Officer,*
Jason Zingsheim, *Ph.D., Division of Arts and Letters Chair*

Website: www.govst.edu/sculpture

General Email Address: jstevenson@govst.edu

Phone: 708-534-4021

Hours: Dawn until dusk every day

Admission: Free admission to park, some activities have fees.

© 2021 Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Please direct questions or comments to
Jeff Stevenson, *Director & Curator, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery, Governors State University.*

Director's Notes

Chances are good that you are already a friend, fan, and follower of theNate if you are reading this – thank you for all you do to fulfill the mission of theNate! Thanks for making us the Number One Sculpture Park in the nation, through USA Today's Readers' Choice competition. Please continue to tell those in your network about this free public resource and encourage everyone to engage. Plan your visit soon, and/or join us on December 11th for the annual Winter Walk / Empty Bowls / Holiday Party – we will be celebrating *your* sculpture park! Thank you for being an advocate for theNate!

Our founder, Lewis Manilow taught us how art serves as one of our brain's organizing systems, and that one of the reasons ART has survived and thrived for tens of thousands of years is that it raises our aspirations and helps us to imagine and achieve great goals. We, at theNate, seek to enrich the lives of those who live in the communities we serve, by bringing Lew's vision to fruition. Thank you for helping us tell our story.

You can make a gift to **theNate General Fund** knowing that we are leveraging resources (the art collection, the land, and supporters' dollars) to enrich the lives of GSU students, faculty and staff, our surrounding communities "from Frankfort to Ford Heights", and visitors from around the world. Your gift today will host visiting artists and exhibitions; your gift maintains the collection in the condition that our community deserves.

Or, you can direct your gift to *your* area of interest and passion:

Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative – By making a gift today, you will grow our education and outreach programs with an emphasis on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our surrounding communities (Beecher, Crete, Country Club Hills, Chicago Heights, Flossmoor, Ford Heights, Frankfort, Glenwood, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Markham, Matteson, Monee, Olympia Fields, Park Forest, Peotone, Richton Park, Sauk Village, South Chicago Heights, Steger, Tinley Park, University Park) have the number one sculpture park in the nation right in their own backyard and we are committed to remaining a free public resource. Your gift represents access, admission, and parking that other museums and parks charge at the door. Your gift of \$250 is like paying for 25 visitors to have an inspiring experience with monumental art – the gift that keeps on giving!

Outdoors@theNate – our experiential, interactive, STEAM based school program, could reach an estimated 10,000 middle school children in our proximity - your gift will ensure that all have equal access to this important resource. A \$350 gift represents an average school field trip visit for Outdoors@theNate and our goal of creating a tradition for annual visits.

New Acquisitions Fund (started by Paul and Linda Uzureau) – to acquire new and important works of art by the next generation of artists including women and artists of color. We are committed to providing access to artists who have otherwise experienced barriers in the art world. Your gift of any amount will grow this fund for future acquisitions, adding new artwork to your sculpture park.

Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund – Your gift restores the prairielands and frames the collection with a magnificently cultivated landscape, showing the artwork in the best way for maximum impact. A \$1000 gift represents restoration of one acre within the 11-acre Butterfly Ranch each year, preserving a living laboratory for GSU students, area school children, and visitors of every kind who will experience the native landscape, wildlife, birds, flowers, and of course butterflies.

It takes substantial funding to sustain the three pillars of our mission: Art, Conservation, and Education – and with no admission fees or membership fees, we rely entirely on donations from friends like you – along with corporate sponsors, major donors, and grant funding – to achieve our goals together.

Thank you for supporting and sustaining theNate now and into our bright future. I'm wishing you and your family a holiday season filled with love, peace, and hope.

With Warm Regards,
Jeff Stevenson
Director & Curator, theNate

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NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

NEWS FROM THE PARK

Bruce Nauman

Happy Birthday! December 6, 1941



Bruce Nauman, Self-Portrait as a Fountain, 1966, C-print, 19 1/2 x 23 1/4"
© Bruce Nauman/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

House Divided 1983

Bruce Nauman (American, b. 1941)

cast concrete

Commissioned by the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, G.S.U.

Foundation Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park 1983.02



Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1941, Bruce Nauman attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the University of California, Davis, receiving his MFA in 1966. House Divided is his first large outdoor artwork. The piece is an enigmatic, yet ultimately an illustrative, example of the way he works.

Nauman draws on his roots for the form of this sculpture, a large white building typical of Midwestern farming sheds. Yet inside, the structure has been divided in half, diagonally. The carefully considered placement of three entries creates an uncomfortable space with no corners. Fully half of the structure has been rendered useless. Nauman has observed that sometimes sculptures are created that appear to have a function, but when examined, don't. Ultimately, the object's function is for the viewer to ponder.

When visiting the campus in 1983, Nauman said he, "... wanted to make some kind of art statement, and social statement – at the same time not be overbearing, to force people into something they don't want anything to do with."

By associating the piece through its title with Abraham Lincoln's **House Divided** speech, the artist forces a consideration of the significance of this unassuming work on a new level. In the end, Nauman challenges the passerby to address their curiosity, visit his **House Divided**, and confront their expectations of where architecture ends and sculpture begins.

Read more about Bruce Nauman here.

https://www.artspace.com/magazine/art_101/book_report/bruce-nauman-55396

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park – theNate – is a collection of 31 master works of large-scale sculpture situated within 100 acres of prairie landscape. The Park provides programs for adults and children, with a focus on integrating art and nature.



Voted Best Sculpture Park 2021, USA Today, 10Best Readers' Choice! It is only with the support of trailblazing advocates like you, that we can continue to offer free access to this extraordinary resource, with education, acquisition and conservation activities year-round.



Take a Walk with OTOCAST

The free **Otocast app** is your personal tour guide. Explore the park with the voices of multiple renowned sculptors leading the way. Look for it in your app store on your phone, and use it at destination attractions all over the world.

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park: A Balm for the Soul

Contributing writer: *Johnsie McAuley-Davis*

Having found myself in a reflective stance about the many happenings over the past two years while under COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the play that opened recently in GSU's Center for Performing Arts (CPA), "A Delightful Quarantine" was a welcome reprieve. In addition to wonderful productions through the CPA, Governors State University also brings us the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, (theNate). A free attraction, theNate offers all of us a beautifully landscaped, year-round public space, to enjoy.

This space affords one an extraordinary opportunity to sit with one's thoughts, enjoy lunch with friends and family, or just bask in the beauty of the grounds referred to as "[the intersection of art and nature, with its 31 master works of contemporary sculpture.](#)" On my own recent tour through the park, I had the wonderful experience of tapping into what the artists may have been trying to portray. *Field Rotation* by *Mary Miss* reminds me of a lost friend; **Yes! For Lady Day** by **Mark di Suvero** reminds me of the brokenhearted women, especially black women and *House Divided* by *Bruce Nauman* felt like what it might have been like for those going through the Middle Passage, especially when the sunlight hits the doorway in a certain way- all extraordinary experiences!

As an employee of GSU, I value theNate as a destination, and as a student in GSU's Anthropology program, I began to appreciate theNate as a healing balm for the soul. In "Toward an Anthropological Understanding of Place, Space and Hermeneutics", Pauline Aucoin writes,

"The anthropological study of space and place recognizes that landscape, space and place represent important sites for cultural meaning, social and political memory, and public discourse. Space can be used to carry social meanings that are culturally and historically constructed as well as contested, while a sense of place develops out of human relationships,



feeling, and imagination. As Walter (1988, 9) explains, places grow out of "the drama of dwelling together. They [are] intimately connected with the local, imagination, with the spirit of the place." A hermeneutic approach (the branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation) is well suited to the study of culture, space and place as it explores space as a symbolic medium whose meanings can be read as a text. As well, hermeneutics recognizes that space and space language convey a culture's meanings about the immediate world, while place carries with it sentiments of attachment and identity that emerge out of lived experience."

The spaces of Governors State University have been here for over fifty-years, for all to enjoy. I am grateful to GSU for theNate, a "museum-in-the-prairie" - the museum and I await you!

Come, explore, interpret and enjoy!

References

Aucoin, P. M. K. (2017). Toward an anthropological understanding of space and place. *Place, Space and Hermeneutics*, 395–412.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-52214-2_28

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, Governors State University, University Park, IL
https://www.govst.edu/Centers_and_Culture/Nathan_Manilow_Sculpture_Park/About_the_Park/

USA Today – 10 Best Sculpture Parks, 2021
<https://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-sculpture-park/>

2022 CALENDAR EVENTS

Here are the dates for our annual and biennial events, and our traditions:

Saturday, April 23, 2022 Earth Day Walk at the Nate

12 p.m. Ambassador lunch
1 p.m. Public Tour

Saturday, June 18, 2022 Juneteenth Summer Solstice

Public event

Friday, July 29, 2022 Ann Coddington: Sculptural Basketry

Workshop and Exhibit in the Visual Arts Gallery
July 7 – August 6, 2022

Saturday, September 10, 2022 Prairie Party

Featuring dedication ceremony for
"Stargazing with Contrails"

Biennial friend-raising event that alternates with
Sculpture, Wine & Dine – which will return
Saturday, September 9, 2023

Saturday, December 10, 2022 Winter Walk, Empty Bowls, Holiday Party

Public event

Keep an eye out for visiting artists, additional events, and attractions throughout the year.

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The Art of Sustainability: Holiday Edition

By Julia Rockwell

When we choose to live sustainably, like a sculptor chiseling away wood, stone, or plaster, we are chipping away at the world around us. Our actions have the capacity to create shape and form out of the metaphorical rock. When we shift out of mindless habits and bring intention and purpose to our everyday actions, we not only transform our patterns into more sustainable ones, we are also actively constructing the future we wish to see.

As winter approaches and the natural world starts to slow down, now is a fitting time to pause and take stock of how our choices are impacting the earth. With the holidays right around the corner, it may seem like a counterintuitive time to ease off the excess and take stock of our environmental choices. In a time of year meant to be full of merriment and thanks, we often get caught up in overabundance and stress. Our unsustainable actions not only put a strain on our time, wallets, and overall sanity, they are overwhelming the planet too. When we start to bring eco-mindfulness to our holiday mindset, we get back to the basics of what is truly important: friends, family, love, time, community, and a connection to the world around us.

Not sure what I'm talking about? From food, gifts, wrapping paper to decor, entertaining, and stuff in general, our nation has a tendency towards holiday excess. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans throw away 25 percent more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than any other time of year. If you're looking to reduce your footprint on the earth this season, here are five ways to limit your holiday waste:



1. **Give Better:** Instead of giving stuff, consider gifting experiences such as a spring picnic at theNate, a cooking class, or a museum membership. If opting to give physical items, look for ones that are usable (think bubble bath or wool mittens), reusable (like a travel mug or reusable tote), consumable (such as organic chocolate, wine, or spices), or secondhand (like a great vintage purse or beautiful antique candle holders) to limit your gift's everlasting impact on the earth. Additionally, consider giving items that are plastic-free, made from sustainable materials, and uphold ethical work practices.

2. **Green Wrapping:** Skip traditional gift wrap and use old newspaper, children's art, maps, brown paper bags, or even cloth instead. If buying new wrapping paper, avoid ones that use glitter, metallic, glossy, or shiny coatings as they cannot be recycled. Opt for paper washi tape instead of traditional plastic tape. Repurpose ribbons -- otherwise, they are destined for the landfill. Reuse shipping boxes and packaging materials, and opt for paper shipping tape to seal packages.

3. **Eco-Energy:** If you're in need of new holiday lights, go with LED. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, LED lights use up to 75% less energy, and last 25 times as long (a sustainability double-win) than traditional incandescent lights. Additionally, they don't get hot to the touch, so they're a lot safer too. And when your holiday lights have run their course, don't forget to recycle them through a specified collection center.

In addition to holiday lights, you may want to consider adding a smart thermostat to your home to help you monitor your heating usage during the holiday season. In addition to saving an average of 10% to 12% on heating bills during cold seasons, you will also reduce your carbon footprint.

4. **Deck the Halls:** Make your holiday decor part of your holiday traditions by reusing the same items from year to year. If you do need to buy something new, opt for secondhand. Go natural and decorate your mantle and dining table using pinecones, foliage, or winter fruits and vegetables.

5. **Entertain:** If throwing a holiday soiree, opt to rent linens or borrow from friends instead of using disposable single-use tablecloths or buying cloth ones brand new. Head to your secondhand shop to purchase a set of event dishes, cutlery, and glassware that can also be used for parties throughout the year (plus, you will save you money in the long run). Keep the menu easy. Go to a local deli and have them fill your containers



instead of bringing home pre-made food in disposable plastic containers. Make your holiday dinner meat-free, or at minimum, cut out the beef. (Animal agriculture is the second-largest contributor to human-made greenhouse gas emissions after fossil fuels. Additionally, it is

a leading cause of deforestation, water and air pollution, and biodiversity loss.) Make Christmas cookies using what you have in the pantry. And if you need to buy ingredients, opt for bulk bin ingredients instead of packaged. Use a drink dispenser or large glass bottles that people can pour from instead of offering drinks in individual disposable containers. In addition, consider serving local, organic foods and wines as well. Lastly, set out clearly labeled recycling and compost bins for attendees to throw out beverage containers and food waste. (Food waste is a major contributor to climate breakdown. Not over serving to reduce food waste and composting any food scraps is one significant way to reduce your holiday party's impact).

It may take you a moment to reorient yourself as you shift away from unsustainable holiday practices, and that's ok. Living sustainably is not about being perfect. It's about bringing consciousness to your everyday choices, and doing what you can, given your circumstances. In time, your newly found eco-habits will weave their way into the fabric of your holiday traditions and become part of the spirit of the season.

Julia Rockwell is the author of [Our Simple Song](#), an eco-lifestyle blog celebrating a practical and purposeful approach to simple, slow, and zero waste living. You can follow her on [Instagram @oursimplesong](#).

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Ambassadors for theNate – Join us as a Volunteer

Volunteering at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is both productive and personally rewarding. We need assistance with mounting programs, events and activities, especially during our primary visitors' season of May through October. We utilize student volunteers to help with our annual fundraiser, community volunteers to assist with our **Outdoors@theNATE** school program, and Docent volunteers to assist with tours in the park – or let us know what you would like to do - join us!

As our lively group of volunteers, Ambassadors for theNate get an opportunity for socializing with other art lovers, over lunch or a glass of

wine, while enjoying the collection. Many take pride in sharing theNate in their own community through organizations, family and friends by presenting videos or slide shows, or simply telling others about this treasure in our region. The more ambitious Ambassadors take the online course with GSU's Art Historian, Dr. Becky to earn a certificate and learn about theNate, modern and contemporary art in general.

Volunteers can customize their experience to do a little or a lot, but either way you will be part of something great. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary, just an interest in art, the outdoors, and the communities we serve.

Contact Sherri Denault sdenault@govst.edu to find out more about volunteer opportunities at theNate.



Calling all art lovers! Do you want to learn more about theNate, a world-class sculpture park and the best-kept secret of the South Suburbs? Do you already know and love theNate, and want to share that love with your community? Do you want to have fun while learning something new? If so, we want you! We are building a network of volunteers to help us with our mission.

BENEFITS

Ambassadors for theNate get an opportunity for:

- **Social meet-ups once a month**
 - enjoy gathering with others for lunch or an evening glass of wine - compliments of theNate – and a walk through the park
- **Service**
 - represent theNate in your community through family, friends, and organizations
 - join some or all of our planned events, bring friends
 - help park staff with school tours
- **Life-long learning**
 - engage with the history of theNate / Art History with Dr. Becky through a free online course at your own pace



- earn the Certificate of Completion
- explore other valuable resources provided for learning

You can customize your experience to do a little or a lot, but either way you will be part of something great. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary, just an interest in art, the outdoors, and the communities we serve.

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JOIN Ambassadors for theNate!

For more information about volunteering or taking the course, contact Sherri Denault, Education and Outreach Coordinator (email) sdenault@govst.edu.

News from theNate



Text To Give

- Text: govst to 44944
- Select theNate on the menu
- Indicate the dollar amount
- Enter your credit card information

Donate Online <https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/>

or by checks made payable to:

NMSP/GSU Foundation

And mailed to: Jeff Stevenson

theNate at Governors State University

1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484

You can also stay up to date with new developments by following us on our website and social media:

www.govst.edu/sculpture

[www.instagram.com/ thenate](https://www.instagram.com/thenate)

www.facebook.com/nathan.manilow.sculpture.park/

The **free Otocast app** is a valuable resource for visitors to enhance your experience at your sculpture park right on your own phone!

SOUTHLAND
A·R·T·S



BMO  Harris Bank

Mesirow 

Special thanks to: Marquardt Painting & Decorating, Michael W. and Jacqueline James Lewis, Paul and Linda Uzureau, Shay Brokemon, and The Manilow Family Trust.



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