



# Sculpture, Wine & Dine: The Prairie Party

*the art, the land, the future, theNate*

*theNate*  
NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

**PROGRAM**

*September 13, 2025*



**WELCOME!** This year at *“Sculpture, Wine & Dine: The Prairie Party”*, we have a lot to celebrate. Many of our treasured sculptures have been conserved, repaired, protected, and preserved for years to come. We are dedicated to presenting all the artwork in the condition the artist envisioned and intended, and in the way that our visitors expect and deserve.

On the front cover of this program, Mary Miss’ *“Field Rotation”*, Martin Puryear’s *“Bodark Arc”*, Christine Tarkowski’s *“Working on the Failed Utopia”*, Bruce Nauman’s *“House Divided”*, are featured; Barry Tinsley’s *“Butte”*, and Dan Yarbrough’s *“Sisyphus’ Aviary”*, are featured on the back cover. The diverse materials require a roster of diverse experts to complete the work whether it is concrete, excavating earth, landscaping, rebuilding and replacing wood, painting metal, resurfacing fiberglass, or waxing and patinating bronze.

We are also celebrating our visiting artist series: Eric Stephenson’s *“Vessel 111”*, and Denise Milan’s *“Earth the Blue Stone”* and *“Circle of Gold: Destruction and Renewal”* remain on view, and new this year are works by Andrew Light and Gwen Yen Chiu.

During your visit for this event, you will get a glimpse of what theNate has to offer and we hope it will inspire you to return for a more in-depth visit, bring friends, and join us for another one of our programs. Lewis Manilow’s vision of a diverse collection of artists whose work transcends time in both beauty and relevance, remains our inspiration.

Our three core pillars—Art, Conservation, and Education—are evident throughout the park. *“Sculpture, Wine & Dine”* is our opportunity to come together, celebrate our art and land, acknowledge our collaborative achievements, and envision our future.

Thank you, as always, for your generous support.

Warm regards,  
theNate Advisory Board



#### **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board**

Jeff Stevenson, *Director & Curator*

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#### **Ex-officio**

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*Founder*

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**Saturday, September 13, 2025**

- 4 p.m.**      Guests arrive  
                 Guided tours by golf cart  
                 Self-guided walking tours with our  
                 free app “Otocast”
- 5 p.m.**      Cocktail Hour, open bar, at  
                 *“Field Rotation”*, by Mary Miss
- 6 p.m.**      Welcome: Mary Miss
- 6:30 p.m.**   DrewBBQ buffet dinner, open bar,  
                 at *“Running Table”*, by Dan Peterman

**Program**      Our Story and Mission

**Exhibition in the Visual Arts Gallery:** *“Ground Beneath Our Feet”*, a survey of earthworks made by Mary Miss around the time of *“Field Rotation”*, 1981.



# Mary Miss

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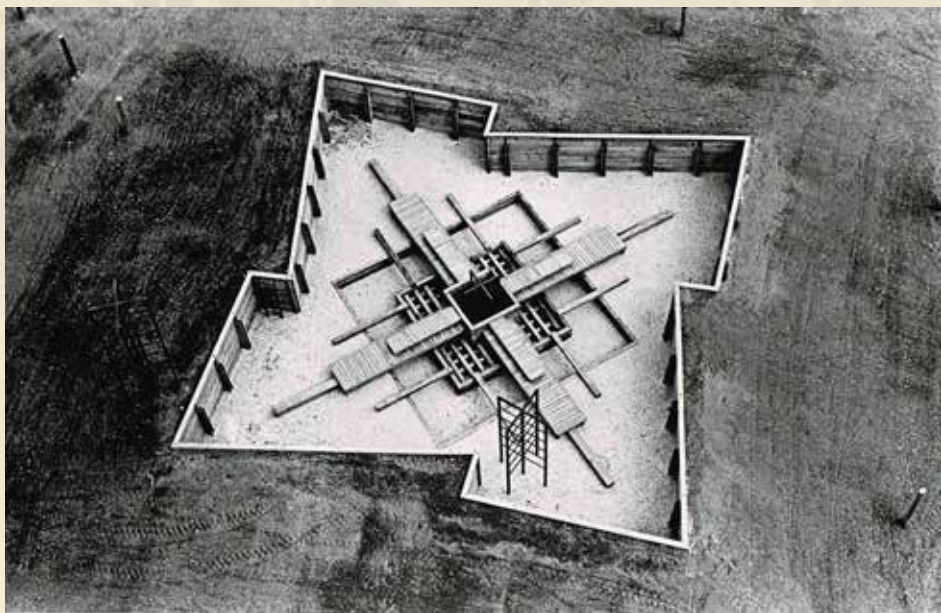
Mary Miss has redefined public art since the 1970s, making environmental and social sustainability tangible, often through collaborative projects. Her site-specific work spans landscape architecture, urban design, and graphic communication, emphasizing history, ecology, and overlooked environmental aspects.

Her work *Field Rotation* draws from diverse art historical references while remaining wholly original. It features a central mound with a sunken gravel garden, tiered platforms, and moats that temporarily fill with rainwater. Steel ladders provide access, and two steel towers contrast with the wooden structure. Outside, 125 wooden poles radiate in pinwheel fashion, their uniform elevation emphasizing the Midwestern landscape's gentle slope.

In 2024, theNate proudly completed the extensive conservation and restoration of *Field Rotation*, ensuring it is presented as the artist originally intended. That same year, the announced destruction of Miss' *Greenwood Pond Double Site* marked the unfortunate loss of a significant land art masterwork by this pioneering woman artist.

Other notable projects include a Ground Zero memorial, flood markers in Boulder, and revealing Union Square's subway history. In 2009, she founded *City as Living Laboratory* to engage the public in sustainability. A Guggenheim Fellow and Rome Prize recipient, Miss has received numerous honors, including the 2023 Arts and Letters Award and grants from NEA and NSF.

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**Field Rotation 1981**

Mary Miss (American, b. 1944)

earth, wood, steel, water

Commissioned by the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park,

*GSU Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts*

*Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park 1981.01*

## Conservation Costs

Field Rotation	\$150,000.00
Bodark Arc	\$67,000.00
Working on the Failed Utopia	\$41,812.50
House Divided	\$14,500.00
Butte	\$2,450.00
Sisyphus Aviary	\$7,322.00
	<b>\$283,084.50</b>

Thanks to the foresight of our founder, Lewis Manilow, the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park has flourished as a beacon of artistic excellence, conservation, and education. His visionary leadership ensured that funds from a land sale would be dedicated to the preservation of our world-class collection—securing vital conservation projects and allowing us to maintain the park at the highest standards. Because of this, we recently completed significant restoration efforts on landmark sculptures listed above, in addition to other projects. These restorations ensure that our visitors experience the collection at its very best.

Now, it's time for the next generation of supporters to step forward. To continue this legacy of care, we must replenish our conservation fund and prepare for future restoration needs. We have set an ambitious goal: raising \$250,000 by *Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2026*. Our public campaign launches now at *Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2025*, and with your support, we will safeguard these masterpieces for generations to come.

Donate online [www.thenate.org](http://www.thenate.org)

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

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## STEWARD:



**Jacqueline James Lewis & Michael W. Lewis**

## FRIEND:

**Debbie L. Berman**

## YEAR-ROUND SPONSORS:



**theNate** acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council



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## Thank You to Our Generous Host Committee Members

Gregg & Susette Lunceford

Barbara G. Sturges

Elizabeth McKnight & Dalila Fridi

John Litchfield & Joe Olszewski

Elizabeth Lee Kelley

Susan Manilow

# History of *theNate*

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**In 1968** Lewis Manilow invited artist Mark di Suvero to come to the property that is now GSU, to make his sculpture.



**By 1978** the John Henry sculpture, “Illinois Landscape, No. 5” was commissioned, a major sculpture exhibition “The Sculptor, The Campus, and The Prairie” was presented, and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park was named.

**By 1988** the first catalog was printed and included the newest commissions: Mary Miss – “Field Rotation”, Martin Puryear – “Bodark Arc”, and Bruce Nauman – “House Divided”.

**By 1998** theNate was 30 years old; the young artists Lewis Manilow had commissioned are now internationally acclaimed and their early masterpieces have withstood 30 winters in place. The importance of a future maintenance and conservation plan for the artwork and the prairie was recognized.

**By 2008** Dr. Ora Simcha-Fagan had overseen three new commissions: Richard Rezac - “Frame”, Tony Tasset – “Paul”, and Christine Tarkowski - “Working on the Failed Utopia”; and laid the groundwork for a fourth: Dan Peterman – “The Granary Project”. An Advisory Board had been formed and the first Director and Curator, Geoffrey Bates, had been appointed.

**By 2018** Solo Exhibitions of visiting artists' work had been established, including Neil Goodman, Steinunn Thórarinsdóttir, Sophie Ryder; the Outdoors@theNate program was created; "Searching for Lady Day: A Portrait in Steel" documentary video about Mark di Suvero was made, an Education and Outreach Coordinator was hired, and "Carts and Cocktails" was established.

**Since then,** "Carts and Cocktails" grew into "Sculpture, Wine & Dine", the Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative was created to enhance our education programs with an eye toward social justice; we were voted the Number One Sculpture Park by USA Today's Readers' Choice; the Butterfly Ranch is established and thriving; new acquisitions including "Stargazing with Contrails", Terry Karpowicz; "Hand Heart", Jason Pickleman; "Sound of the Woods", Neil Goodman; "Avian Station", Bernard Williams; visiting artists Chakaia Booker, Denise Milan, Indira Johnson, Eric Stephenson.

**By 2028** You, our loyal supporters will usher us on to the next level – what will it look like? Your support today will lead us to that future.



## ***theNate* Mission**

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The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is a collection of over 30 master works of large-scale sculpture situated within 100 acres of prairie landscape. This “museum-in-the-prairie” is open for public viewing 365 days a year and is free of charge. The Park provides programs for adults and children that integrate art and nature. Although it is located on the campus of Governors State University, it was founded and is maintained through grants and donations from businesses and individuals.



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# Art / Conservation / Education

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## ART

Through generous contributions from our supporters, new sculptures have been added to the collection recently. But we can't stop there! Group and solo exhibitions, and new acquisitions will be aimed at the next generation of artists, with emphasis on women and artists of color. Help theNate grow through new exhibitions of important, meaningful sculptures. Your gift today will strengthen the collection and its mission for the future.

## CONSERVATION (art and land)

The weather in Illinois takes its toll on everything, including the collection at theNate. Your contributions allow our robust art conservation plan to address any and all needs in a timely fashion. Year after year, your donations maintain the artwork by making possible the repairs, paint, and other needs that arise – this critical work isn't possible without supporters like you!

Now that the Butterfly Ranch is established, it is more important than ever to maintain the prairielands so that visitors can experience and learn about native landscapes. In partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences at GSU, this important work is directly linked with academic instruction. Humanist and scholar Bill Dodd's mission was to leave the landscape better than we found it through land conservation; your donation augments the Bill Dodd Memorial Fund to support this important work.

## EDUCATION

**The Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative (LMCGI)**, was established in 2019 as a tribute to our founder Lewis Manilow. Lew's vision of social equity and justice in the surrounding communities we serve is just as important today as it was in the 1960's. Your gift today will ensure that every community, from Frankfort to Ford Heights, has access to world-class art. School groups engage in activities that nurture empathy, understanding, and friendship by interacting with the artwork of theNate and discovering how the art responds to social, cultural, and political issues.

In our Outdoors@theNate program. S.T.E.M. becomes STEAM with the infusion of ART. This program opens young minds through critical thinking, investigation, play and exploration. Your gift and continued support will condo the most good in these young lives as we establish local traditions of combining outdoor activities, art, and reciprocal learning, year after year.

# The Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative (LMCGI)

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**What if monumental, abstract, outdoor sculpture turns out to be the very thing we've been looking for to change the world for the better?** Our founder, Lewis Manilow recognized how art serves as one of our brain's organizing systems, and that one of the reasons it has survived and thrived for tens of thousands of years is that art raises our aspirations and helps us to imagine and achieve great goals.

Here at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, we believe that the confounding nature of abstract art offers us equal opportunity for curiosity and provides a level playing field because of its mysteries.

And we also believe that simply getting to know people who are different from ourselves is a powerful way to foster understanding, create connection, and build relationships – relationships that one-by-one can ultimately improve the divisive world we all experience today.

We can all think of a time when we got to know someone very different from ourselves, and the positive impact that experience had. Maybe it was through travel across the country, travel overseas, or simply getting out of our comfort zone and talking to a stranger.

Frankfort is 9.6 miles to the west of GSU, and Ford Heights is 9.8 miles to the east. For those who are familiar with these communities, they could not be more different. Frankfort is a primarily white community, that benefits from being invested-in, affluent, with resources and access, while Ford Heights is a black community and one of the most neglected, impoverished, and socially isolated in the whole Chicagoland region.

Would visitors from disparate communities such as these – “from Frankfort to Ford Heights” – be able to experience neutral ground here at theNate?

What if on this neutral ground, sharing the mysteries of the collection, new friendships are born and new projects are imagined? Projects that could eventually improve our communities.

Historical documents, news articles, and catalogs about the collection all seem to contain a central theme: Lew Manilow's relationships – his relationships with the artists, the administrators, and the neighbors that brought into being this project we now call theNate.



Common Ground is a term used to describe something that can be agreed upon even when people are in conflict.

Common Ground is this shared location, this sense of place, this region, this history we have shared.

When you experience the park for yourself, you understand the power of the collection.

Your support enables this work to continue through:

- Maintaining and caring for the art in the collection and the land around it
- Energizing the collection through new acquisitions and visiting exhibitions
- Welcoming more area school children to *Outdoors@theNate*

And through the Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative, which will foster relationships and reciprocal learning, we can continue to follow Lew's example of working toward social equity in our region and beyond.

With your support throughout the year, we plan to do all that we can, from where we are, with what we have – to make a difference in our community and our world.

### Won't you join us?

The Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative was introduced in September 2019 to honor our founder for the 50th anniversary of Governors State University and theNate.

The Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative serves as a dedicated program and fund of the park aimed at bringing local communities together through arts education. The initiative provides support materials for area schoolteachers and classrooms and other resources to create a tradition for regular visits to theNate.

# Outdoors@theNate Education Fund

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The **Outdoors@theNate Education Fund** brings area school children to explore the action and adventure of the sculpture park.

Outdoors@theNATE is a hands-on, interactive program designed to build awareness of visual thinking, address elements of the Common Core Curriculum, help satisfy aspects of the ISBE Standards and Goals, present artworks as part of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, ARTS, and Math) principles.

Outdoors@theNate is a customizable, action-packed experience that has received rave reviews from teachers and students alike:

*Thank you so much for hosting us today! We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was not only very well organized, but also incredibly educational and relatable to our students. It is amazing when students can connect what they are doing in the classroom with the outside world. Thank you for a wonderful field trip today!*

~ 4th Grade Teacher, Flossmoor

*The most memorable things were when we saw the Windwaves and when we went hunting for plants in the sculpture that Mary Miss made.*

~ 4th Grade Student, Chicago Heights

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Stargazing with Contrails



Running Table



Bodark Arc



Illinois Landscape #5

# Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund

## Butterfly Ranch

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As a remarkable humanist, scholar, development officer, and active citizen, **Bill Dodd** altered the face of the south suburban region during his 27 years in the area. His professional life at Governors State University, combined with his interest in social change, brought people together.

In 2011, a group of Bill's friends approached theNate to establish an endowed fund in honor of Bill, his appreciation of the outdoors, and his visionary work with the permanent collection at theNate.

In 2014 the Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund reached full endowment and made the 12-acre prairie restoration project, the "Butterfly Ranch" at theNate possible. Bill Dodd was an enthusiastic, supporting visionary of theNate and had a particularly energetic love of nature, native habitats, along with an understanding that preserving the prairie would enhance the enjoyment of GSU's treasures for everyone – the GSU students, staff, faculty, visitors, and area school children alike.

The project was initiated in 2017 and since that time the annual maintenance fees average \$8,000 to \$10,000. The Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund continues to provide revenue of about \$2,500 dollars annually.

We rely on donors like you, who share Bill Dodd's love for the outdoors and theNate, to support this important work. With your help we can continue to provide a living laboratory for GSU students, area school children, and life-long learners from around the world – as well as creating a gorgeous setting for our beloved collection of monumental sculptures.



# Ambassadors

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NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

## 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.

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.

## JOIN Ambassadors for theNate!

For more information about volunteering, contact **Sherri Denault**, *Education and Outreach Coordinator* (email) [sdenault@govst.edu](mailto:sdenault@govst.edu).



**Dr. Rebecca Siefert**, Art Historian for GSU's Art Program, with a group at Christine Tarkowski's "Working on the Failed Utopia"

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