

the **Nate**

NATHAN MANILOW **SCULPTURE PARK**



theNate inspires

A CASE FOR SUPPORT



"Frame" by Richard Rezac

"If we can open ourselves to its mysteries, this monumental, abstract art inspires us to imagine, and to do great things."

—LEWIS MANILOW

theNate inspires.

theNate IS A TREASURE OF ART AND NATURE.

Art is inspiring on its own, but when you add the backdrop of the native prairie, you have a very special place. It beckons to the art enthusiast, the nature lover, the runner, the student, the dreamer ... theNate is accessible to everyone, every day, at no cost—and it is more than meets the eye. As a world-class collection of more than 30 masterworks of large-scale sculpture on 100 acres of prairie landscape, **theNate inspires.**

The 3 pillars of our mission embrace art, conservation, and education—and we integrate these pillars in the Chicago Southland through innovative exhibitions, programs, and experiences. In keeping with the social

equity focus envisioned by Lewis Manilow, theNate serves a higher purpose. It is a community resource that honors diversity through the art and artists represented in our collection. It inspires new perspectives through the content of our programming and the experiences we design to bring people together. It opens minds and inspires new perspectives that, with your help, will make a difference in the world.

We remain in the top rankings after being named the #1 Sculpture Park in the nation in 2021, and there is so much more we can do with the support of our friends and communities.



“Working on the Failed Utopia” by Christine Tarkowski

What is theNate?

- an outdoor museum of monumental sculptures by renowned artists
- a dynamic place to picnic and play with your family and friends
- a quiet place to study, or take a study break
- a lovely place to take a run on grass paths
- a living laboratory for students of all ages
- a habitat for wildlife
- a destination for photographers
- a peaceful sanctuary

ANYONE CAN EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF theNate.

Because theNate is open 365 days per year and is free to the public, it invites people of all ages, backgrounds, interests, and passions to enjoy its many intriguing facets. theNate is not a traditional brick and mortar museum. Instead, the grand sculptures by renowned artists are accessible in the spacious outdoors—and the prairie itself offers its own beauty to visitors in every season of the year.

theNate is surrounded by 22 very different communities that present a wide variety in culture, race and ethnicity, and economic stability, among other characteristics. Just as Lewis Manilow did, we see theNate as a common ground for all people—and are committed to bridging gaps between people by providing opportunities to gather, learn, and share experiences together.

Visitors can use our Otocast self-guided tour that leads them through the nearly endless features of the park, with recordings of renowned artist as their guides.

Art lovers come to experience exceptional sculpture up close in a unique museum on the prairie. Nature lovers visit theNate to learn about flora and fauna of the prairie, woods, and water or just enjoy a peaceful oasis that is beautiful in every season. GSU students and school groups use theNate as an enjoyable learning lab for STEAM-related topics, from biology to occupational therapy. Fitness enthusiasts come to exercise in the vast, open space that promises miles of interesting sights and sounds generated from the immense sculptures and the surrounding landscape. And, individuals and families share their experiences at the beautiful park in any number of ways.

"The quiet, secluded prairie setting of theNate helps me focus on the art and allows the rest of my mind's life to slip into the background for a while. The art, earth and sky take over and let me think about big and challenging ideas that leave me refreshed and inspired."

—Tim Brennan, theNate Advisory Board member



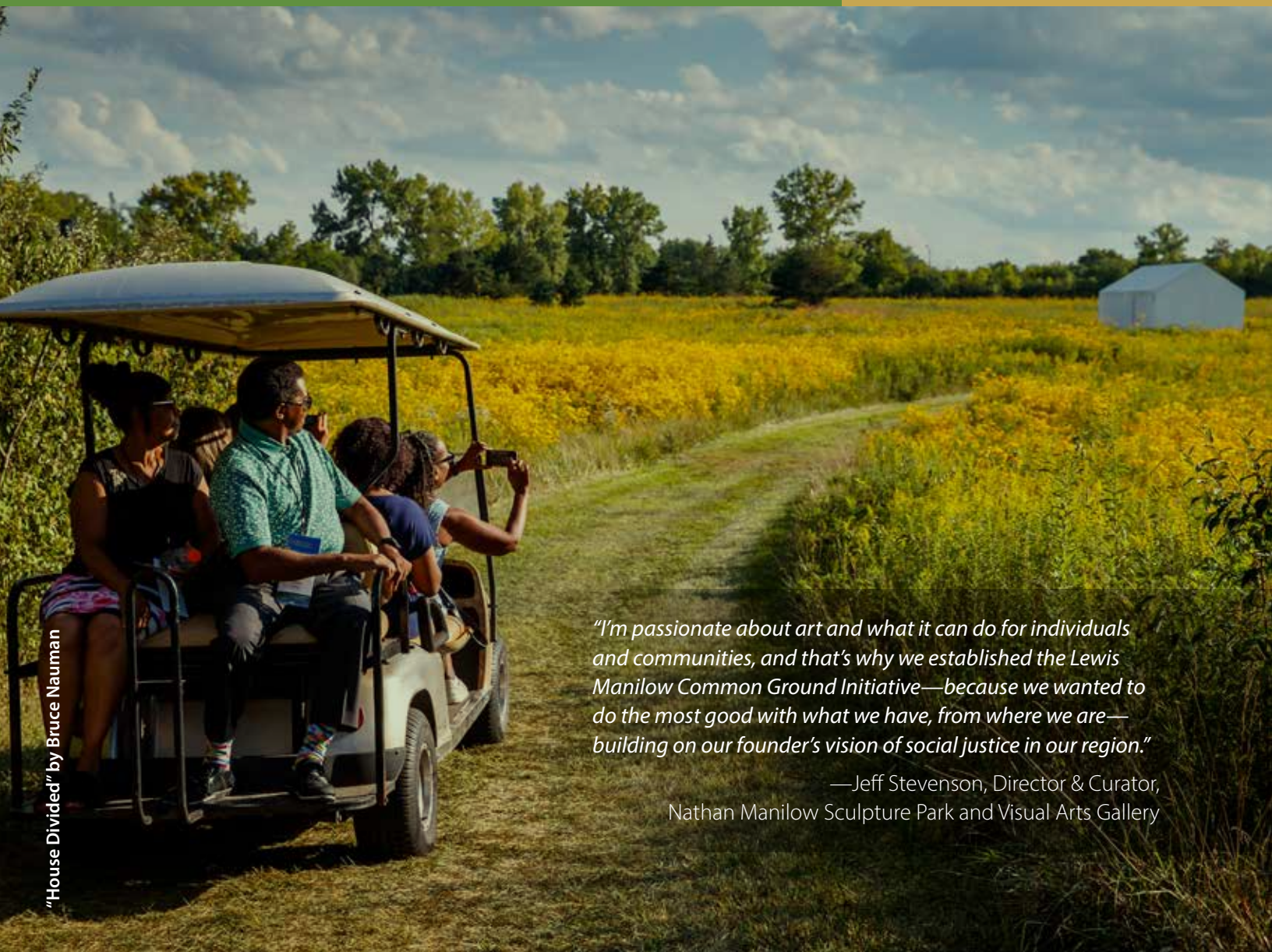
"Field Rotation" by Mary Miss

IT IS A PLACE TO TEACH, LEARN, RELAX, EXPLORE.

Each person's experience at theNate is different—and we continue to discover new ways to employ this incredible resource to benefit our region. While it is a truly unique and wonderful place to visit, theNate's leadership continually seeks opportunities to create educational and relational programs and events that will inform and unite.

theNate is a place to discover **the wonder of contemporary sculpture** ... art that is big and bold on

its own but takes on new life in the natural habitat on the prairie. Internationally known artists are represented in iconic pieces like "Yes! For Lady Day" by Mark di Suvero, the massive steel sculpture that started it all, "Field Rotation" by Mary Miss, "Bodark Arc" by Martin Puryear, and "Working on the Failed Utopia" by Christine Tarkowski. Renowned Chicago sculptors John Henry, Richard Hunt, and Jerry Peart, and many other master artists from across the country have created pieces that have become integral to the remarkable landscape of the park.



“House Divided” by Bruce Nauman

“I’m passionate about art and what it can do for individuals and communities, and that’s why we established the Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative—because we wanted to do the most good with what we have, from where we are—building on our founder’s vision of social justice in our region.”

—Jeff Stevenson, Director & Curator,
Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery

Creative programming brings people in to attend workshops, exhibitions, and panels with artists, encouraging lifelong learning. For students from area schools, theNate provides rare access to art, at a time when the many proven and inherent benefits of art education are undervalued, through STEAM initiatives in the **Outdoors@theNate program**. A recent study by the Brookings Institute provides strong evidence that arts educational experiences can produce significant positive impacts on academic and social development. Research shows that experiencing art opens young minds through critical thinking, investigation, play, and exploration—and

can often improve academic performance.

The Butterfly Ranch, a 12-acre prairie restoration project, seeks to strengthen native habitats for wildlife and provides educational opportunities for GSU Students, area school children, and all visitors. theNate continues to boost our **events calendar** with meaningful offerings. Newer events like Juneteenth, a celebration of African American freedom, have joined annual traditions like Sculpture Wine and Dine, Earth Day celebrations, and our Annual Winter Walk. Workshops and panel discussions with artists encourage lifelong learning at theNate.

theNate IS LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

Our mission stands on the pillars of ART, CONSERVATION, and EDUCATION, and we are committed to keeping theNate a vibrant place to experience art and nature. That requires support from our friends and community. The leadership team for theNate has identified three key priorities that are critical to both maintain the park and grow our impact in the years to come.



"Oscar's Inclination" by Michael Dunbar

GROWING THE ART COLLECTION

To keep the visitor experience of theNate fresh and exciting, theNate seeks to acquire or commission a meaningful, substantial sculpture every five years. Like every museum, our outdoor gallery has to be updated to bring new energy to the park and attract new and repeat visitors to see something they haven't seen before. This will require significant ongoing support. Commissions that match the caliber of our collection are expected to cost \$250,000 or more. Artists under consideration will demonstrate the spirit of the collection, while also having a distinct voice. We will seek women and artists of color amongst the leading artists working today.

We will also work on smaller acquisitions and invite visiting artists to bring their work to the park.

IMPROVING THE PRAIRIE LANDSCAPE

"100 acres of beautiful" is how Lee Kelley, Advisory Board member, describes theNate. To keep it that way and ensure it is here for the future, it will require \$10,000 per year at a minimum. Measures like invasive species control, periodic prairie burns, and winter mowing protect the landscape, and purposeful plantings provide balance from both aesthetic and environmental perspectives. The campus and park received the designation of "arboretum," which provides opportunities, with proper funding, to continue to grow and improve the visitor experience at theNate.

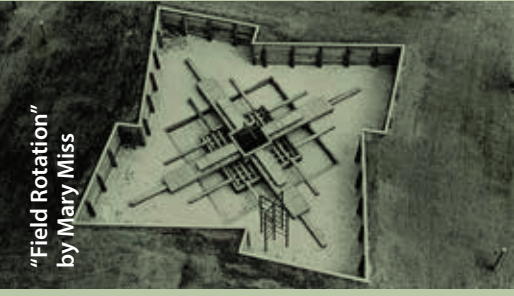


FURTHERING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Diversity is a priority at theNate, in our art, artists, board members, and staff—and by seeking to engage the 22 very different communities in the Chicago Southland we serve, bringing people together. The Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative is aimed at bringing local communities together through arts education—and fostering relationships and reciprocal learning. The initiative provides support materials for area school teachers and classrooms and other resources to create a tradition for regular visits to theNate, a tradition that will follow Lew's example and work toward social equity in our region and beyond. Plans are underway to build on the recent success of the Juneteenth celebration, which draws crowds of people with music, youth activities, refreshments, and highlights artworks that relate to the holiday themes. The expected cost to sustain and grow our education programs is \$150,000.



“Field Rotation”
by Mary Miss



Following Nathan Manilow’s death in 1971, Lewis Manilow wanted to honor his father and establish an art presence in the Southland. theNate is named after Nathan Manilow, who was the Chicago area’s leading home builder and developer of two new towns, a forest preserve, a commuter terminal, and a university.

Lewis Manilow, an attorney and real estate developer himself, had a great love of art, serving as a lifetime trustee at the Art Institute of Chicago, a founding member of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and honorary president of the Goodman Theatre. He created a permanent collection of extraordinary master sculptures at Governors State University, beginning in 1969 with the 50-foot “Yes! For Lady Day,” by Mark di Suvero, an internationally known sculptor—and theNate was born.

The extraordinary permanent collection has grown gradually over time through acquisitions and donations of spectacular sculpture, which is joined by temporary exhibitions from time to time. Lew Manilow reportedly said that the collection varied with time, location, and in juxtaposition to our own changing lives. He said that in other words, art was essentially a verb.

INVESTING IN: the art, the land, the future, theNate

Our park belongs to our communities **as a place of refuge and inspiration**—and we can grow its impact through *art, conservation, and education*. Together, we can:

Bring new artwork to theNate, reaching more people—both faithful friends and new visitors—with the wonder of vibrant, monumental sculptures and shared experiences.

Invest in the prairielands that so beautifully frame the sculptures, engaging visitors in new ways throughout the park.

Help create dynamic programs to inspire school children and visitors of all ages and backgrounds, building bridges across communities in this place of common ground.

We invite you to join us in supporting theNate to make these dreams a reality—and perhaps change our future for the better.



“Yes! For Lady Day” by Mark di Suvero

*the***Nate**
NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK