

News from theNate

DIGITAL
Newsletter August/September 2021 Issue 3



Juneteenth celebration at theNate, shown here beneath "Illinois Landscape, No. 5" by John Henry, guests listen to the original compositions by Ernest Dawkins and the Young Masters.



This issue of News from theNate builds on our first-place ranking as the BEST sculpture park in the country, because of friends and supporters like YOU!



News from theNate

NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

Juneteenth is a New Tradition at theNate

The Juneteenth event was a festive and fun celebration that also included educational segments throughout. Jovani Robinson led a drum circle to bring visitors into the event – souvenir photographs with the Juneteenth logo were provided to guests free of charge. Dr. Cheryl Green provided opening remarks to contextualize the events of the day and provide history about the holiday of Juneteenth.

President Biden said that signing the law making Juneteenth a Federal holiday was one of his greatest honors as president. It was signed June 17th to go into effect for Friday, June 18th as a day of observance, as the holiday fell on Saturday, June 19, 2021. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, June 18, 2022 when theNate will host the second annual Juneteenth and Summer Solstice Celebration.

The longest day of the year, the Summer Solstice which falls between June 20 and 22 each year, is a great time to enjoy late sunsets – usually around 8:30 – and watch the sun descend between the “wings” of Phoenix, by Edvins Strautmanis.

Inside

- Sculpture, Wine & Dine is even bigger this year
- Traditions at theNate
- New sculpture shoots for the stars





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*

Timothy Brennan

Kim L. Bright

Shay Brokemon

Levoi Brown

Leona Calvin

Jacqueline James Lewis

Gregg Lunceford

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, *CEO, GSU Foundation*

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

This year we are excited to bring back Sculpture, Wine & Dine with features from the 2019 50th anniversary celebration, plus some new additions you won't want to miss. But it was really during 2020 when we had to shift gears and go virtual with our "Prairie Party" online, that I got to see and experience the strength of our team here at theNate.

During that year of uncertainty, this group of friends - the Advisory Board for theNate - all pulled together to tell our story in new ways, using new platforms, to reach new audiences. Our virtual walk in the park, led by board president Patricia Mell Ragland, provided an opportunity for each of our members to tell their story from their own unique perspective, letting viewers know why they are so passionate about the mission of theNate. The video of the program is just under an hour long and can be viewed on YouTube through this link: <https://youtu.be/roLcGGXnvE>

Our group has changed and grown a bit, adding new members who bring their own talents to the project. But what we have in common is a connection to the principles our founder Lewis Manilow demonstrated from the start of this project. Our commitment to social justice in the communities we serve was demonstrated recently through our inaugural Juneteenth Celebration - a free community event featuring significant and meaningful connections through the sculpture - and with local talented musicians, poets, and GSU representatives.

We'll be sharing more photos and videos of Juneteenth on our social media; we hope you'll follow us through the links below.

I'm so proud to be part of this group and I'm thrilled to be doing meaningful work that I love. It is with much gratitude that I welcome you to read on, and to find your own connection to theNate.

With Warm Regards,
Jeff Stevenson
Director & Curator, 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!

Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2021 –

A benefit for The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park



Saturday September 11, 2021

All the things you loved about the 2019 event will be back this year, plus a few more features you are sure to love.

4:00 p.m. registration opens with welcome beverages

- Meet and Greet Artists represented in the collection
- Guided tours by golf cart
- Self-guided walking tours with our free app “Otocast”
- Screenings of “Searching for Lady Day: A Portrait in Steel” a 30-minute documentary about artist Mark di Suvero
- Enjoy cocktails and hors d’oeuvres
- “Crowd Gate” by Rodrigo Lara Zendejas will be on view in the Visual Arts Gallery as a special tribute to 9/11
- Silent Auction featuring artwork from regional favorites, and other items

7:00 p.m. farm-to-table dinner in the Park

- Dedication of the new acquisition, “Stargazing with Contrails” by Terrence Karpowicz
- Debut of commissioned musical tribute to Richard Hunt by Ernest Dawkins

Afterglow Party drinks by the fire, live music and mingling

Tickets: \$200 per person; \$1500 for a table of six
Vegetarian and vegan options available upon request

RSVP by August 30, 2021

To purchase tickets visit www.govst.edu/sculpture

Sponsorship and ticket information Contact:

Sara Tweddle, GSU Foundation stweddle@govst.edu,
708.235.7559

SILENT Auction



A silent auction will be a new feature this year. If you are an artist who is a friend of theNate, we would like to promote, display and then auction off one of your pieces of art at Sculpture Wine & Dine. Artists get asked to do this a lot, but here is how our invitation is a little different: **We will split the proceeds of the final selling price of your piece with you 50/50.** Besides the opportunity to sell your work, you will be promoted on our event site and at the event. Since we have not been able to hold an event like this in nearly two years, we are expecting a lively, vibrant crowd that will be anxious to support our mission and affiliated artists like you.

If you would like to participate – and we really hope you do – contact Sherri Denault sdenault@govst.edu by August 1st and send images of your work. Then someone from theNate will follow up with delivery information and other details. Early responders will be featured in the promotions for the event and the online component of the auction – which will go live a few weeks ahead of *Sculpture Wine & Dine*.

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park – theNate – is a collection of 30 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.

NEWS FROM THE PARK

Victoria Strole interviews Terry Karpowicz

I caught up with Terry Karpowicz this week to chat about the new sculpture he's working on for theNate. Here are a few snippets of our conversation.

VS: Hi Terry Thanks for joining me today! Less than a year ago Paul and Linda Uzureau announced the donation of your new work for theNate. I understand you're on track to install and premiere that sculpture at the upcoming Sculpture, Wine & Dine event this September. Is that still on track?

TK: Yes, I am on track!

VS: We can't wait so can you give us a little taste of that work in progress? Can you describe it and tell us about the inspiration for that?



TK: Well the inspiration came from Living in Chicago for the last forty years and not being able to see stars. You can see one or two, maybe, but you go down to Governors State and the sky is full of stars! That was my initial inspiration. Also, I'm down at GSU in the daytime and look up into the sky. The planes that traverse the sky go in different directions and they leave a trail behind them sometimes they cross...they're contrails. So anyway, it's an abstraction of that.



Maquette for
"Stargazing with Contrails"

[shows the maquette]

It's all going to be steel. It includes steel I-beams in references to Mark di Suvero who uses I-beams a lot. These penetrations are star patterns or constellations, one for Linda Uzureau and one is for Paul Uzureau; Sagittarius and Leo.



Paul and I know where it will be placed but not how it will be oriented in relation to the sun. I have really enjoyed working with Paul on ideas of citing the work; where it's going to be in relation to the sun, what's going to happen on the equinox and the solstice.

VS: This commission was such a surprise to me. Was it a surprise to you?

TK: It blew my socks off! It came out of the blue. You know I already have a sculpture inside at Governors State, Art Arc. That was placed there in 1982. It was put outside with the help of Ora Simcha-Fagan who was in charge of the park at the time. It was outside and met its demise, so she asked me to rebuild it. That was 20 years later or more. Going backwards was a trip. I asked myself "How the hell did I do that?!" So, I said let me do another sculpture for the park, but Ora said no we want Art Arc back. Going backwards is not an easy task for me.

VS: That reminds me of how you said in previous interviews that it's about action and moving forward, not sitting around waiting for something to happen.

TK: Yes, that is my mantra since I began making sculpture. I started making sculpture because of interaction with Mark di Suvero's sculpture.

VS: Go on...

TK: In 1979 I had moved from the Midwest to NYC and was working at Max's Kansas City which was an art bar in the evening and at that time I was a painter. One afternoon Larry Poons asked me to go help a sculptor get set up, that sculptor was Mark di Suvero. Mark had already had his accident and I was still an able-bodied, cocky, young guy from the Midwest. Well, trying to lift a steel beam introduced me to the idea of weight, mass, and gravity. I was like the frog in "Wind in the Willows", it was sort of an epiphany for me. It was like eureka! I knew something had changed because painting was no longer satisfying. I realized you could use your entire body and make sculpture; to make art and sweat.

Then I enrolled at the University of Illinois in Champaign, had an exhibition inside at the Krannert where there were signs everywhere saying "don't touch the art". That's when I moved outside and interacted with the wind. Then I applied for a Fullbright scholarship to work with windmills and that's where I had my accident.

Continued on next page.

Victoria Strole interviews Terry Karpowicz

Continued

Then, I met Mark in 1997. I told him my story of moving his sculpture and we kinda bonded at that time and I'd like to think we've been friends since then.

VS: It's interesting that you have a relationship with him and both have artworks at theNate.

TK: Yes, using the I-beams are a nod from me to him saying thank you for introducing this industrial material to the sculptor's life.

VS: Did you feel the need to consider this new sculpture's relationship to *Art Arc*?



TK: That's a good question and it's the first time I've ever really thought about it. All work is autobiographical. It's kind of a self-portrait. As you get older life changes, more experiences happen. I did not think about *Art Arc* but it's a part of my history and my past and that comes along with me. Now that I look at it, there's definitely a reference to *Art Arc* in the prow of the ship and the forms of the contrails. Every sculpture becomes part of your being and informs your work.

VS: What is it like to finish a sculpture? Do you have a ritual such as a celebration or period of rest?

TK: Usually a bottle of Jack Daniels! [Smiles big] It's just standing back in awe, the thoughts from the experience and a lot of gratitude. It's the best!

VS: I know we're all looking forward to a new sculpture in the park. We'll see you at our fall event! Thanks Terry!

For more about Terry Karpowicz go to <http://www.karpowiczstudios.com>

Wright in Kankakee – Thank you Mike Baur!



Sherri Denault and Mike Baur



At the end of May, the Frank Lloyd Wright B. Harley Bradley House was the destination for art and architecture lovers near and far. Artist Mike Baur generously loaned three of his sculptures to provide outdoor art for our friends in Kankakee during the long months of the pandemic. The recent event was a festive gathering featuring remarks by the artist and GSU president Dr. Cheryl Green. The success of the event resulted in conversations to begin planning the next "Nate and Frank: Sculpture and Architecture, Making Connections".

For more about the Bradley House go to <https://wright1900.org>

BIRTHDAYS

August 11, 1943

John Henry

<http://www.johnhenrysculpture.com>



August 25, 1951

Mike Baur

<https://www.mikebaursculpture.com>



August 28, 1931

Charles Ginnever

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Ginnever



September 12, 1935

Richard Hunt

<https://richardhuntstudio.com>



September 17, 1929

John Payne

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/214311619.pdf>



September 18, 1933

Mark di Suvero

<http://www.spacetimecc.com>



September 21, 1947

Michael Dunbar

<https://www.michaeldunbarsculpture.com>



September 27, 1941

Joel Shapiro

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joel_Shapiro



How to Pack a Sustainable Summer Picnic

By Julia Rockwell

It's picnic season! Whether you're packing your basket and heading to The Nate or you're gearing up to have lunch at your local park, now is the time of year where food just tastes better when you're outdoors. However, picnics and plastic have also become the norm. Here are some ways to reduce your picnic waste while still having fun in the sun.

What is a Trash-Free Picnic?

When you pack a planet-friendly picnic, there isn't anything that needs to be tossed in the trash or recycling once you're done with your meal. That means no single-use plastic baggies or containers, no paper napkins, and no plastic utensils. Instead, every element used to support the meal is reusable. The only thing you may have leftover is inedible compostable food waste (such as cherry pits).

Trash-Free, Plastic-Free Lunch Swaps

This all sounds great but are you curious about how to actually pack a picnic without generating any waste? Here is a quick list of simple sustainable swaps to get you started:

INSTEAD OF...	TRY THIS...
Single-use utensils	Washable utensils
Paper napkins or paper towels	A cloth napkin or bandana
Plastic snack bags	A reusable snack bag or container
Aluminum foil or plastic wrap	A large reusable food container or mason jar
Single-use cartons, cans, or bottles	Refillable water bottle
Single-use bag to carry all of your food	A reusable tote or basket



Planning a Planet-Friendly Picnic

1. The Gear: You do not need to go out and buy anything new. Look through your cupboard, pantry, and drawers to see what you might have on hand. The most sustainable option is to use what you already own, even if that means using reusable plastic such as Tupperware.

2. Buy Less Packaged Food: Buying food entirely package-free is not an option in all parts of the U.S. However, if you have a bulk bin section in your grocery store, it's worth checking out. Additionally, look for alternatives to plastic packaging like paper, aluminum, and glass. If you have a local farmer's market, that is also a great way to get more of your produce plastic-free (just remember to bring your reusable produce bags).

3. Make Food At Home: Making your own sandwiches, slicing your own fruit, and prepping your own salads is not only an effective way to reduce packaging waste, it also saves you money.

4. Eat More Plants: From a climate standpoint, what you eat is more important than what your food comes packed in. So while reducing plastic and packaging waste is important, it is also vital to pay attention to the foods we eat and how they impact the world around us. Eating more plants and fewer animal-based products (beef, in particular) is key to fight the climate crisis. Pack an assortment of salads, sliced fruits and veggies, and a baguette and you're all set.

5. Pack It Out: Bring home any leftovers to snack on later. (Bringing a cooler is a great way to ensure your extras make it home.) If you ended up with a few recyclables but your park doesn't have recycling, pop them back in your picnic basket so you can recycle them at home or your local recycling center. The same goes for food waste. If you have curbside composting through your town or if you compost at home, bring home any food waste so it doesn't end up in the trash. (Food does not decompose as you would think it would in the landfill and, in turn, has a major impact on global warming).

That's it! Now you have the tools you need for a sustainable summer picnic. And remember, it's not about being perfect. It's about doing what you can. Every small sustainable choice has an impact.

Julia Rockwell is a [zero waste](#) expert, educator, and writer. She is the founder of [Our Simple Song](#), an eco-lifestyle website dedicated to helping others live sustainably. Additionally, she works with individuals and families to help them reduce their carbon, plastic, and waste footprints. You can follow her on Instagram at [@oursimplesong](#).

GSU Art Program Has Its First MFA Recipient



Debbie Burk has graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Ceramics. Her exhibition in the Visual Arts Gallery was filled with beautiful forms and a few of the pieces spilled out into theNate.

When Debbie first raised the question of having some of her large-scale sculptural forms outside the gallery, it made sense to go all the way – to the other side of the lake – where a concrete pad from a previous temporary piece is already in place.

The Art Program at GSU is excited to have such a hardworking, and high achieving student become the first graduate from the MFA program – the bar has been set very high. Burk has a background in theater that influences her propensity for large-scale, dramatic works.

The silent auction at Sculpture, Wine & Dine hopes to have a Debbie Burk original – watch for it to go live prior to the event so that you can bid on the art and other items in the auction.



2021 Calendar at a Glance

Saturday, September 11 – Sculpture, Wine & Dine (hybrid)*

Wednesday, October 6 – Communities Connect II (virtual)

Saturday, October 30 – Kids in Costumes / Bark in the Park (in-person)

Saturday, December 11 – Winter Walk / Empty Bowls (hybrid)*

**Hybrid events will be in-person with aspects in virtual format for those who prefer it.*

We are planning in-person events – outdoor, safe, socially distanced and following CDC and GSU guidelines, and the numbers for the pandemic help us to remain optimistic – so please check back on our website and social media pages for event details closer to the dates. But for now, mark your calendar and plan to join us at theNate!

