

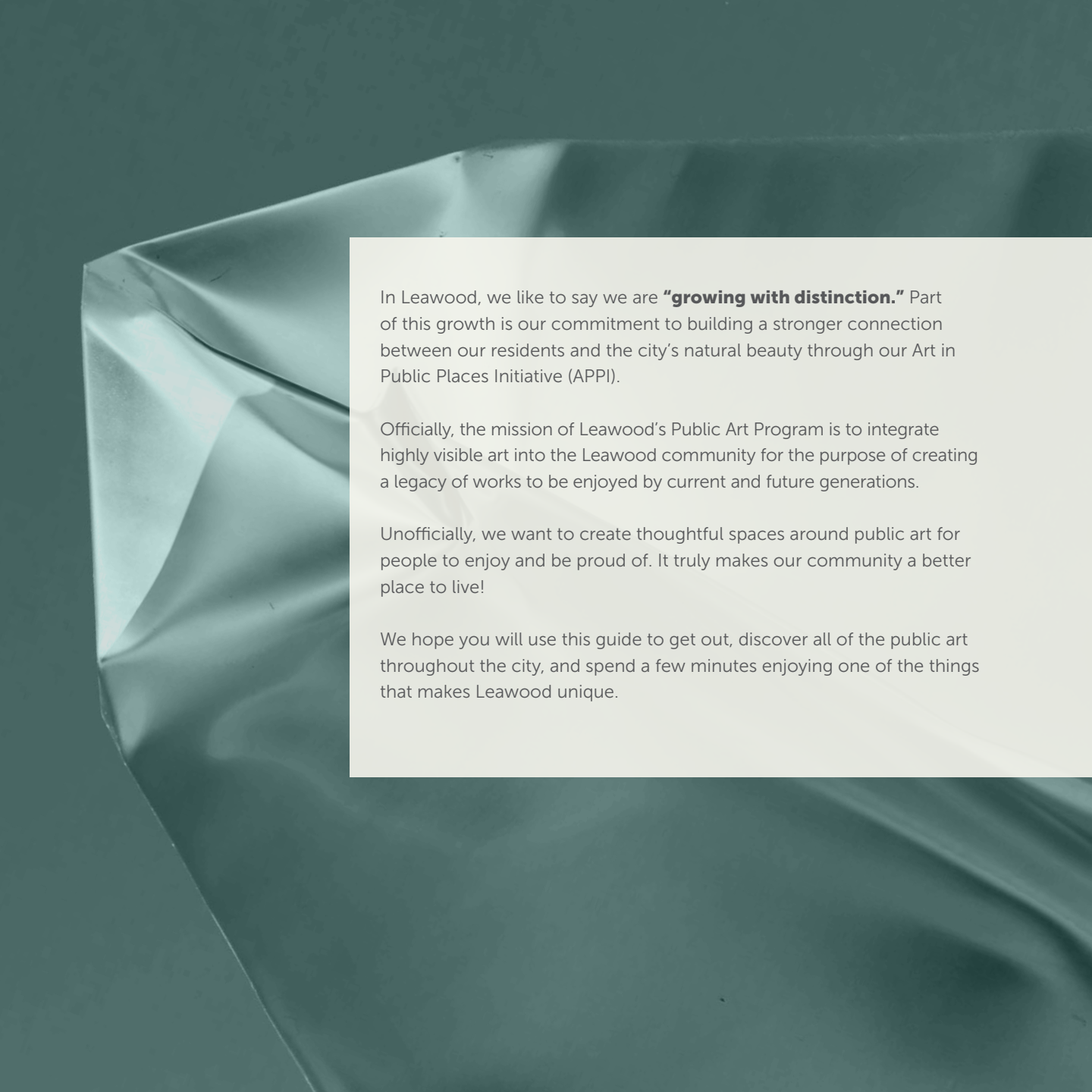


LEAWOOD PUBLIC ART

A GUIDE FOR THE CITY OF LEAWOOD, KANSAS

"GREAT ART
PICKS UP
WHERE
NATURE
ENDS."

- Marc Chagall -




In Leawood, we like to say we are **“growing with distinction.”** Part of this growth is our commitment to building a stronger connection between our residents and the city’s natural beauty through our Art in Public Places Initiative (APPI).

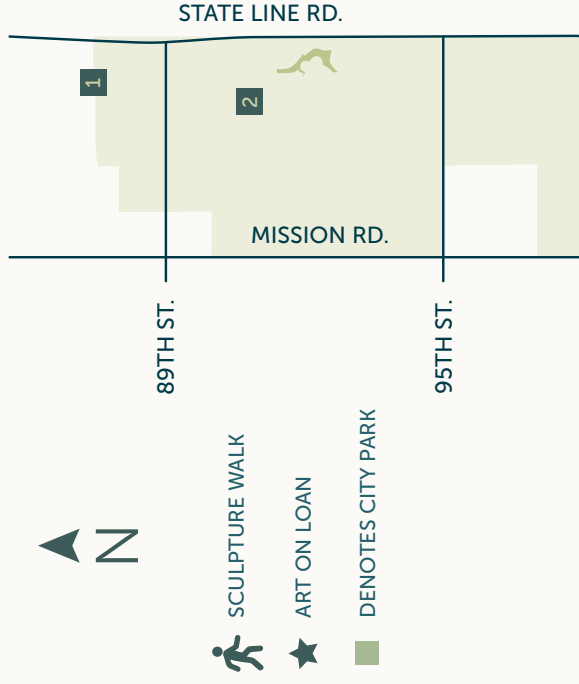
Officially, the mission of Leawood’s Public Art Program is to integrate highly visible art into the Leawood community for the purpose of creating a legacy of works to be enjoyed by current and future generations.

Unofficially, we want to create thoughtful spaces around public art for people to enjoy and be proud of. It truly makes our community a better place to live!

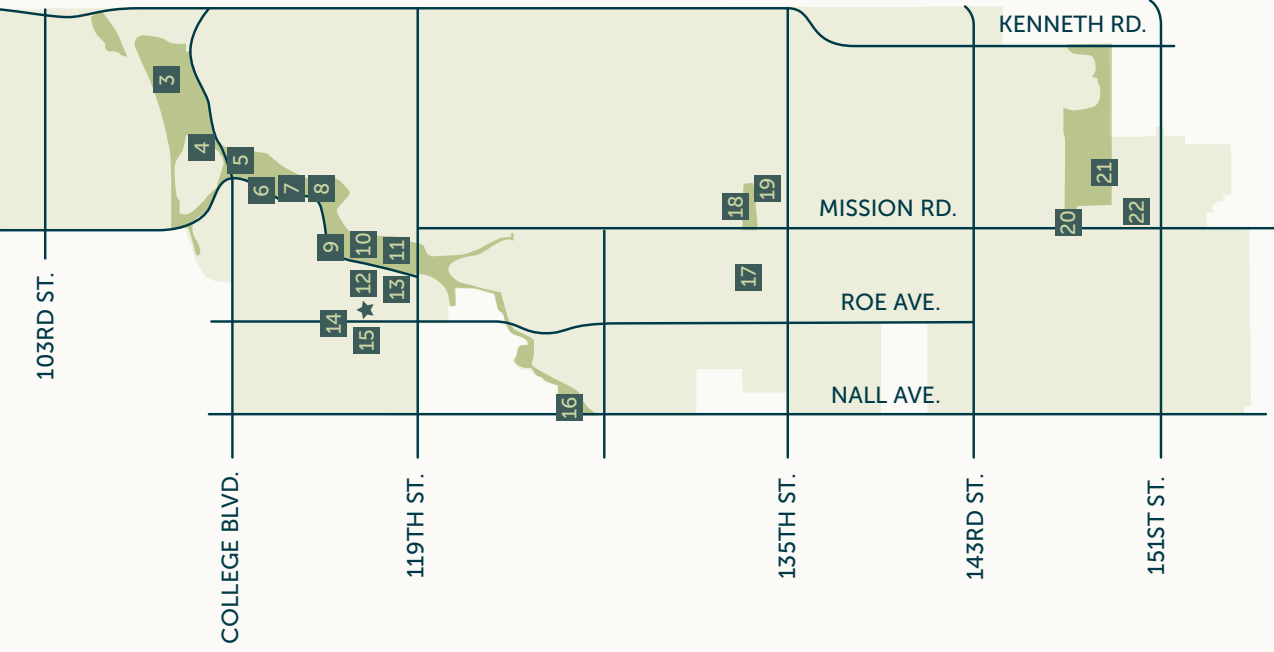
We hope you will use this guide to get out, discover all of the public art throughout the city, and spend a few minutes enjoying one of the things that makes Leawood unique.

- 1** **PORCH LIGHTS**
Intersection of Somerset Dr. & Lee Blvd.
- 2** **FAITH**
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- 3** **FOR THE GOAL & RUN RED RUN**
Leawood City Park
10601 Lee Blvd.
- 4** **LLLOOOPPI**
Leawood City Park
10601 Lee Blvd.
- 5** **INSPIRATION** 
Sculpture Garden near the Southeast corner
of Tomahawk Creek Pkwy. & College Blvd.
- 6** **SPOOKED** 
Sculpture Garden on Tomahawk Creek Pkwy.
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Sculpture Garden along
Tomahawk Creek Pkwy. near 115th St.
- 8** **GROWING** 
Sculpture Garden along
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- 9** **VARIANCE** 
Sculpture Garden along
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- 22** **PRAISE**
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- 11** **WALKING WOMAN** 
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- 12** **WEIGHT OF YOUR HEART/
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Leawood Justice Center,
Tomahawk Creek Pkwy. &
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- 14** **DANCERS (TANGO)**
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- 18** **AVANIM VETSEIADIM
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Gezer Park at 133rd St. & Mission Rd.
- 19** **STONE TABLET**
Gezer Park at 133rd St. & Mission Rd.



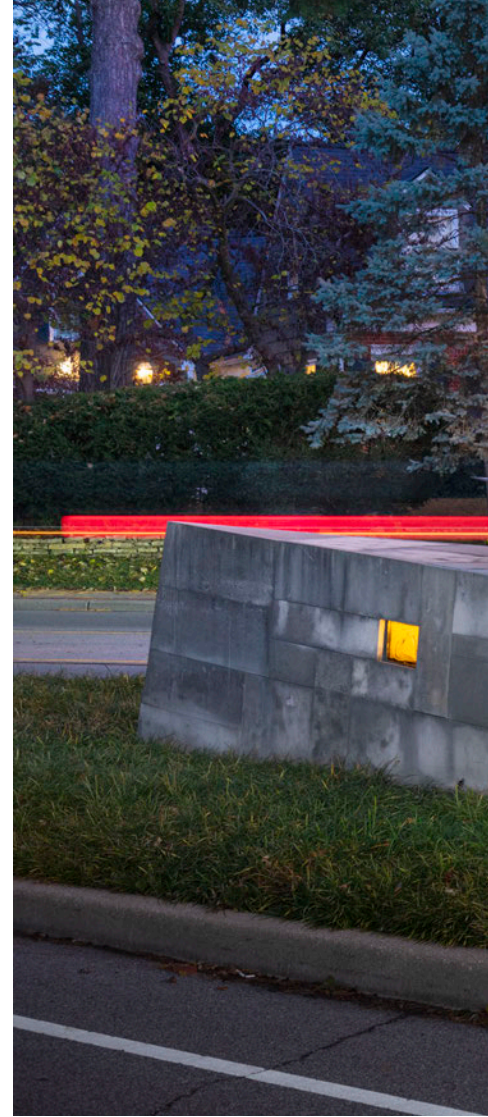
Porch Lights

Dennis Reynolds

Limestone, Molten Glass and Copper

Dedicated May 2009

Former Leawood resident Dennis Reynolds constructed *Porch Lights* from saw-cut Cottonwood Falls Kansas Limestone and backlit molten colored glass. This landscape artwork sits within the traffic Island at the intersection of Somerset and Lee Boulevard on land shared by the cities of Prairie Village and Leawood. It was commissioned as a “coming home” gesture at the gateway to the Historic District of Leawood, which was developed at the end of World War II. During World War II, Americans upheld a tradition of keeping their porch lights on in order to help “our boys” overseas find their way home. The glowing colored glass scattered throughout the triangular stone structure represents this welcoming home of porch lights. In addition, the V shape of the design is reminiscent of the “V” for victory, made famous by Winston Churchill during the same time period.





Faith

Wendell Castle

Bronze Bench

Dedicated June, 2002

Kansas native and internationally recognized artist, Wendell Castle, is known for his innovative designs in wood, plastic and bronze, as well as, a style which playfully marries organic and geometric forms. Widely regarded as the most important postwar American art furniture designer, Wendell Castle challenged traditional concepts of function and appearance, contributing to the transformation of the American tradition of handcrafted furniture into an experimental modern art form.

“From the beginning I have wanted to make art furniture. I like to be in the space between furniture and sculpture, because that area has enormous possibilities.”

Castle was commissioned by the City of Leawood to create this one-of-a-kind bronze bench, which features an upside-down flower across a trapezoidal support.

Castle’s work is in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Art and Design, The Smithsonian’s American Art Museum and many more. In 2007 he received the Modernism Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn Museum.



For the Goal & Run Red Run

Jorge Blanco

Powder Coated Aluminum

Dedicated April, 2009

These brightly painted sculptures by Jorge Blanco celebrate the athletic endeavors that take place throughout Leawood City Park. The abstracted figures of *For the Goal* and *Run Red Run* depict a moment of action frozen in time. Blanco's careful consideration of the site, as well as playful use of scale and punchy primary colors, fulfill his artistic vision to create relatable and joyful works of art. The influence of his formal education in industrial design is most noticeable in his use of heavy-duty industrial hardware. Always one for creative play, Blanco is also a recognized cartoonist, illustrator, and furniture designer with interests in science, music, sports, and humor.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Blanco currently lives and works in Sarasota, Florida. In addition to exhibiting globally, including in Japan, Belgium, Spain and his home country of Venezuela, his sculptures can be found in public art collections across the U.S.

For the Goal and *Run Red Run* were commissioned by the City of Leawood and titled by local school children.





Lllooppi

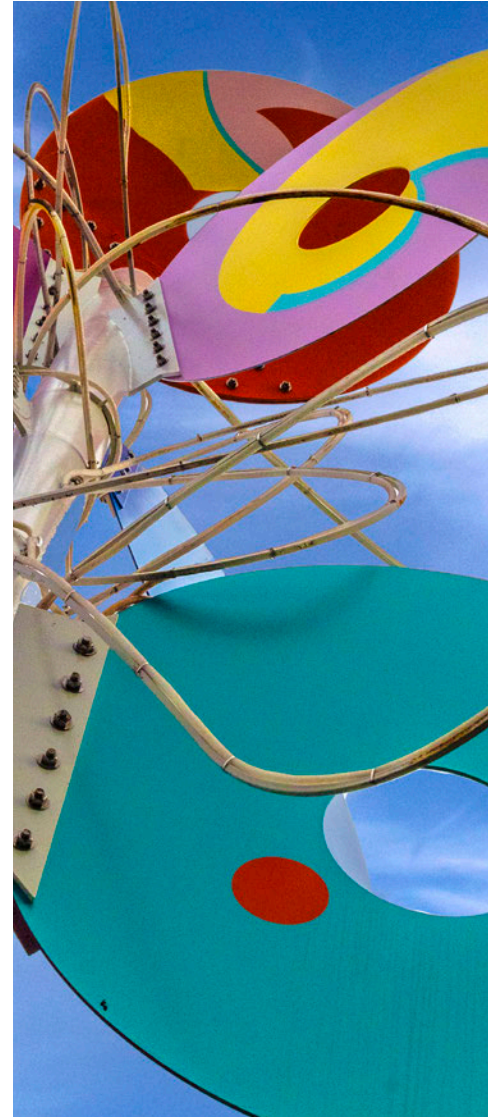
Nate Fors

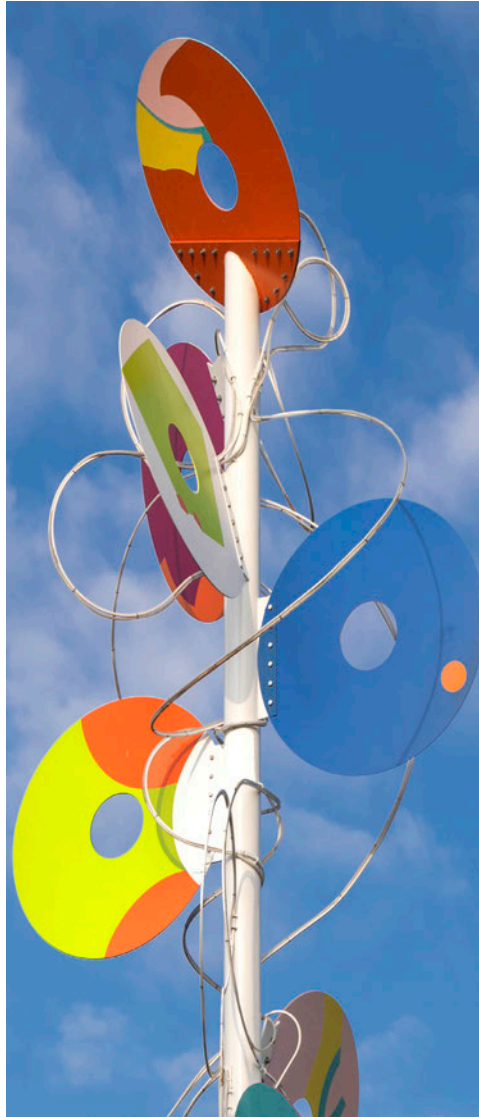
Mixed Media

Dedicated May, 2004

Lllooppi is a series of seven, 56 inch brightly painted metal disks jutting out from a 45 foot white pole, reminiscent of 45 rpm vinyl records and a larger than life record player spindle. The native Kansas artist's concept relates to his passion for music and record collecting. Known for his love of puns and witty-word-play, Fors scrambled the word "lollipop" to create the title *Lllooppi*. This playful piece was commissioned by the City of Leawood to sit near the entrance of City Park.

Fors is a multidisciplinary Kansas City based artist whose paintings are in the collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, The Spencer Museum of Art, and the Kemper Museum of Art. Fors is also the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.





Inspiration

Rita Blitt

Painted Steel

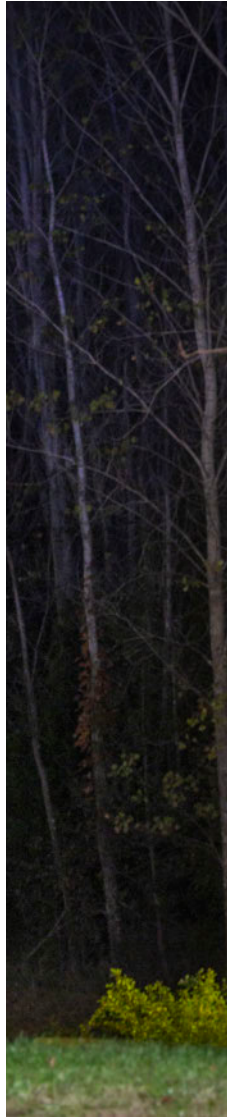
Dedicated September, 2021

Inspiration is a cheerful abstract dancing figure created by long-time Leawood resident Rita Blitt in 1987. *Inspiration* stands at a monumental 28' X 26' X 1.5' and weighs approximately 4,000 pounds, making it Blitt's largest piece to date. In 2005, a five-foot version of *Inspiration* won an award at the Florence Biennale.

Blitt's work celebrates nature, music, and dance. Her sculptures are inspired and directly translated from her single line drawings, often created to music. *"I let drawings flow from my subconscious. When I saw the drawing that later became "Inspiration," I knew immediately that it was special."* In addition, Blitt is a longtime collaborator of David Parsons of Parsons Dance Company, New York.

An international painter, sculptor, and filmmaker, Rita Blitt's work has been featured in over 70 solo exhibitions. Her works can be found in the collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, John F. Kennedy Library, National Museum of Singapore, and many more. Her sculptures are permanently placed in public art collections in Australia, Israel, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

Inspiration was offered as a gift to the City from Leawood residents Bill and Mary Walker.





Spooked

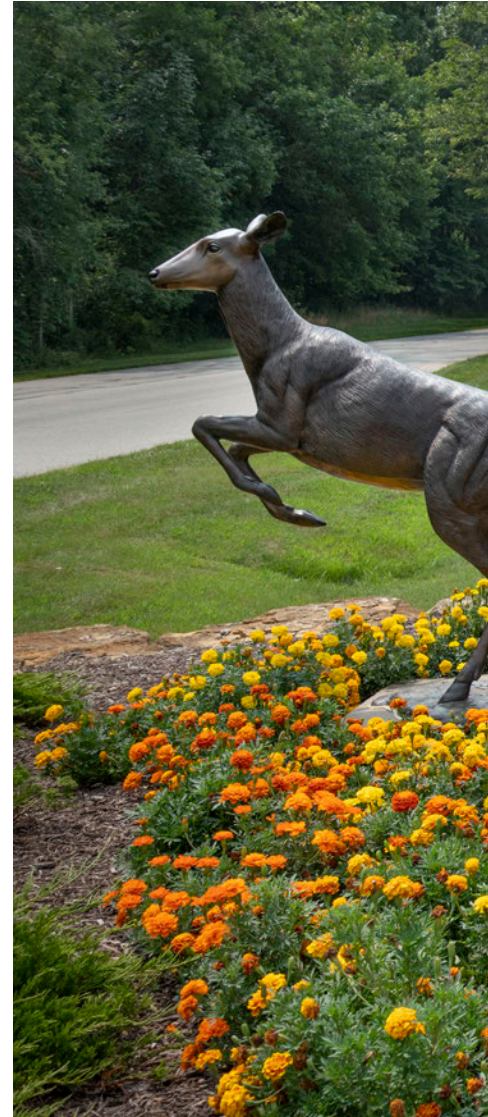
Stephen LeBlanc

Bronze

Dedicated June, 2000

A familiar sight in Kansas, *Spooked* often deceives drivers along Tomahawk Creek Parkway into thinking a herd of deer are actually crossing the road. This lifelike bronze grouping depicts three true-to-size deer, two does and one buck, leaping across the median. This piece was created by wildlife sculptor Steven LeBlanc, former resident of Overland Park, Kansas, who is recognized for his lifelike depictions of wildlife. Prior to becoming a sculptor, LeBlanc studied biology and practiced taxidermy. Today, LeBlanc keeps a studio and gallery space in Colorado.

Spooked was commissioned for the City of Leawood by Chuck Peters, President and CEO of Peters and Associates Development Company.





Introspection

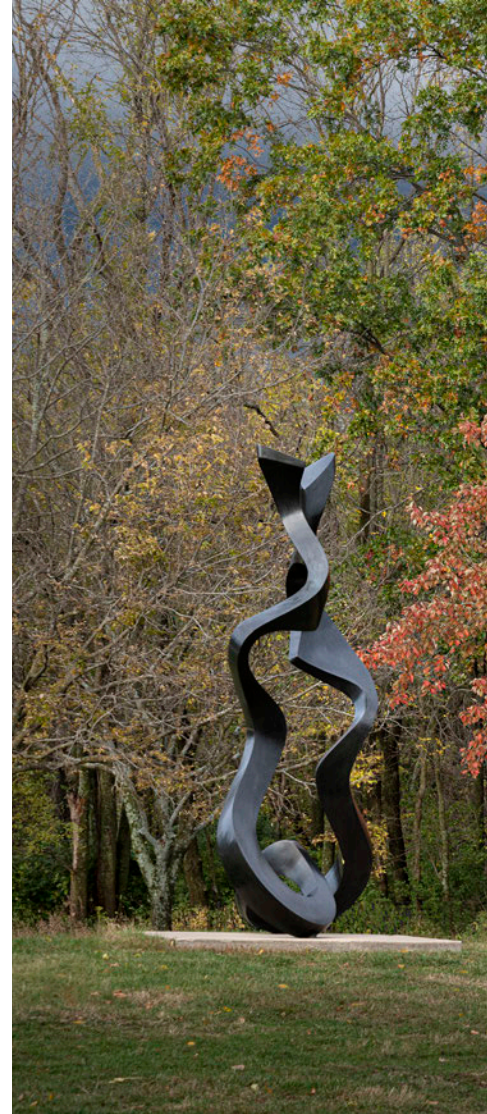
Larry Young

Bronze

Installed May, 2012

Sculptor Larry Young is recognized throughout the country for his fluid forms and innovative compositions, which expertly incorporate and sculpt negative space. *Introspection* is a monumental bronze sculpture created by the lost wax casting process. This sculpture symbolizes human contemplation, reflection, and introspection by transforming the negative space at the interior of the sculpture into a human form. As trail walkers and art viewers move around the artwork, the sculpture's interior human form shifts, dances, and transmutes.

Larry Young is based out of Columbia, Missouri. His sculptures can be found in public art collections throughout the United States. He owns and operates a 6,000 square foot foundry where he personally creates most of his work in bronze, stainless steel, and marble. In addition to being an accomplished artist, Young is a two time Olympic medalist.





Growing

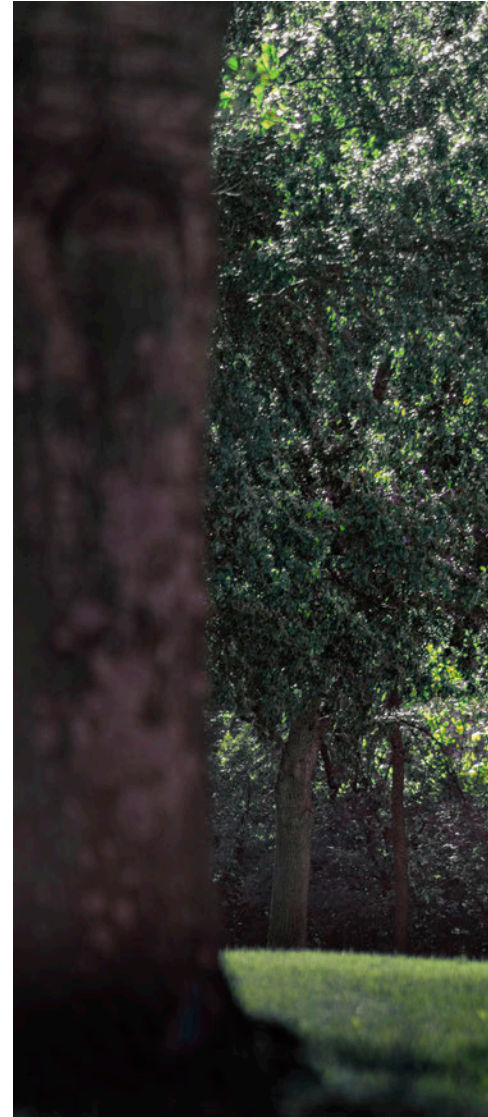
Richard Hunt

Welded Stainless Steel
Dedicated August, 1999

Growing is exemplary of Richard Hunt's signature style. He uses strong geometric forms, like triangles and cylinders, at the base of his sculptures before building upwards with flowing organic curves and natural forms. The result is a lively abstract work that combines today's tools and technology with the shapes and ideas of nature. Today, Hunt most often works with welded and cast steel, aluminum, copper, and bronze. Early in his career however, Hunt worked with whatever crumpled metal materials he could procure from junkyards. This early use of found materials can still be sensed in the sharp points, dramatic folds, and bold curves of his current work. Preferring to be called a "Midwestern sculptor" Hunt continues to live and work in his hometown of Chicago.

Hunt is the foremost African-American abstract sculptor of public art with over 150 public art placements in the U.S. alone. He is the first African-American sculptor honored with a retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, as well as to serve on the National Council of the Arts.

Richard Hunt was commissioned to create *Growing* for the City of Leawood in 1999.





Variance

Albert Paley

Stainless Steel

Dedicated June, 2015

World renowned artist Albert Paley's *Variance* was selected by the City of Leawood's Art in Public Places Initiative to be the centerpiece of the City's sculpture walk. The selection took place prior to construction and the sculpture was unveiled in New York City in June of 2013 as part of "Paley on Park Avenue: New York City" exhibition.

Paley's style integrates art and architecture. As one approaches this 17' high monumental sculpture, the complexity of *Variance* and the artist's attention to detail become apparent. First working as a jeweler, today Paley upholds one creative rule; no matter the physical scale of a work, it should be treated with the same thoughtfulness and delicacy required for his early jewelry work.

Paley is the first metal sculptor to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute of Architects, AIA's highest award to a non-architect. His works are in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and Museum of Fine Arts Houston.





Skywriting I

John King

Painted Steel

Dedicated March, 2022

Skywriting I, with its graceful movement during a gentle breeze, is the first kinetic artwork in Leawood's Public Art Collection. The piece is painted a shimmering iridescent blue—reflecting the sky as it moves with the wind. John King's inspiration for the piece came from a hang gliding experience when he was joined in the air by a hawk. *"We flew and circled together for several minutes, each eyeing the other from above or below as the air changed. This piece represents several birds seen overhead like this, circling and crossing each other's paths, and the resulting choreography of their wings against the sky."*

King lives and works in Lyons, Colorado. His large brightly colored kinetic sculptures can be found in hospitals, museums, schools, parks, and along main streets across the U.S.





Walking Woman

Michael Stutz

Silicon Bronze

Dedicated May, 2019

This figurative piece portrays a female form confidently striding across three Kansas limestone blocks. The sculpture is constructed of silicon bronze strips with a blueish-green patina, lending the artwork a distinctive layered look. *Walking Woman* celebrates the everyday connection between people and nature while encouraging healthy lifestyles in Leawood.

Originally a prop builder in the film and fashion industry, Stutz created his first public sculpture for the W Hotel in San Francisco. Since, his work has been placed in cities across the country; from Portland Oregon to Jacksonville Florida.





Weight of Your Heart, Weight of a Feather

David Dahlquist and Matt Niebuhr

Corten Steel, Limestone, Aluminum, Bronze Alloy and LED Lighting
Dedicated April, 2017

Weight of Your Heart, Weight of a Feather was commissioned as an accent to the Leawood Justice Center. Artists David Dahlquist and Matt Niebuhr included contemporary abstracted interpretations of the scales of justice, inspired by the ancient Egyptian concept of justice. Through floriography, or the symbolic language of flowers, Dahlquist and Niebuhr incorporated the relationship between the justice system and flowers in two panels with cutouts. Sweet chestnut flowers relate to the sentiment “do me justice.” Coltsfoot flowers represent innocence and the phrase “justice shall be done.” While the overall concept of justice has been traditionally associated with coneflowers for their hearty ability to thrive in difficult conditions.





WEIGHT OF YOUR HEART, WEIGHT OF A FEATHER

Women of the World

Kwan Wu

Bronze

Dedicated March 2012

Women of the World celebrates the diversity of women, throughout history, from nations and communities around the world. The piece is a globe shaped armature of the earth held by two large hands. Shapes of the continents appear on the sculpture in bronze along with profiles representing women from around the world that are affixed to the core armature.

Chinese-American artist Kwan Wu is best known for his ability to put life into clay and bronze. His work is on view in China, including at the National Arts Museum of China, and throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area, including the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Kauffman Stadium, and the Johnson County Courthouse. Wu lives in Kansas City and maintains a studio in Overland Park.

Women of the World was offered as a gift to the City from Astoria Healthcare Properties LLC.





Dancers (Tango)

Ewerdt Hilgemann

Stainless and Cor-ten Steel

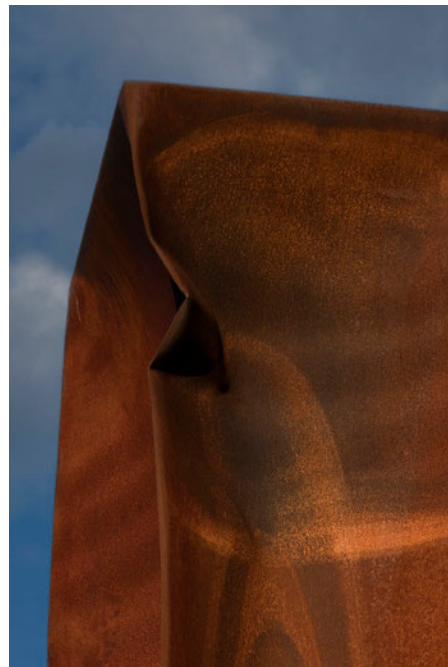
Dedicated November, 2018

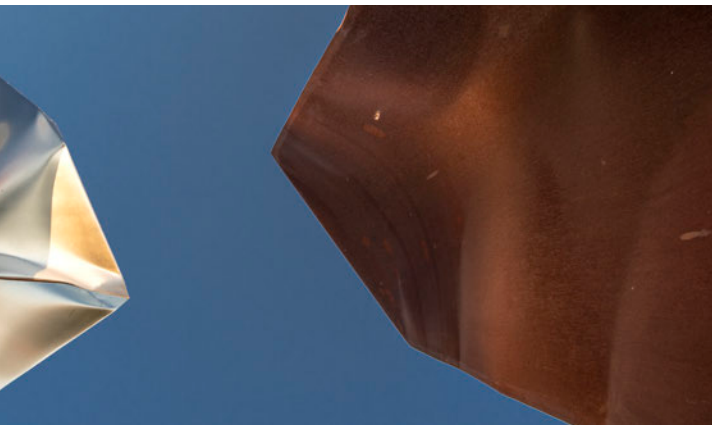
Ewerdt Hilgemann's *Dancers (Tango)* features two rectangular columns of stainless and Cor-ten steel standing opposite of each other. Originally commissioned for a temporary exhibit on Park Avenue in New York City, *Dancers* was among 7 artworks by Hilgemann created for the exhibition.

The work is a prime example of Hilgemann's signature implosion process. After meticulously sculpting, forging, smoothing, and polishing pure geometric forms, Hilgemann uses a high powered vacuum pump to pull the air out from the center of the work. As a result, the welded steel collapses and crumples like paper.

Taunting perfectionism with this one-time action, Hilgemann challenges his materials' limits; displaying the true strength of air and unexpected fragility of steel. The final works are a masterful play on power and delicacy, challenging the viewer to embrace change and find beauty in imperfection.

Hilgemann lives and works in Amsterdam. His works are in private and public collections around the world including; Germany, Russia, Hungary, Korea, and the United States.





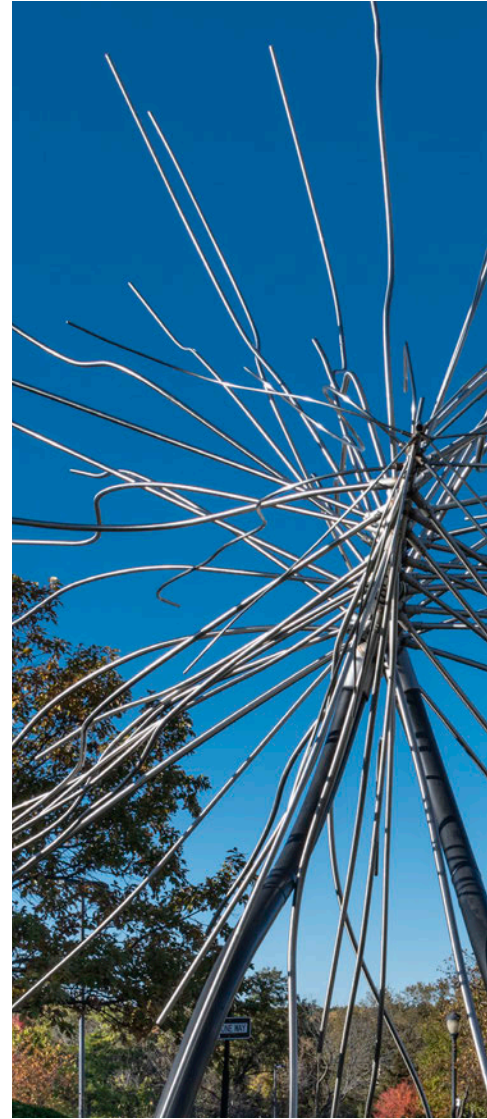
The Sentinel

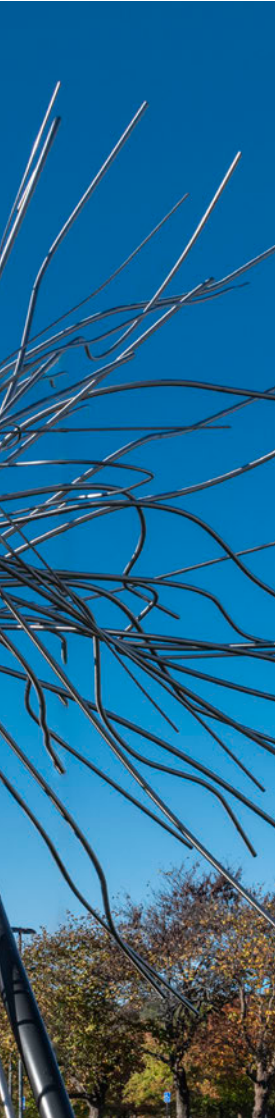
Tex Jernigan

Mild Steel, Copper and EMT Conduit Sculpture
Dedicated October, 2006

When viewed from most angles, this work appears wild and tangled. However, from one certain, optimal perspective, the artwork reveals a perfect sense of organization and alignment. *The Sentinel* is situated to offer this perfect perspective as one drives towards City Hall. Looking straight down the barrel of the piece, one no longer sees the chaotic twisting arms of the sculpture but rather, a starburst design radiating from the center point. As the title suggests, *The Sentinel*, is a guardian keeping watch. Although, as a sculpture, perhaps it is something to be watched as well.

At the time of installation the artist, Tex Jernigan, was a senior at the Kansas City Art Institute. Jernigan has gone on to work for Zahner Architects and Arko Architecture.





Cloud Gate

Jesse Small

Mild Galvanized Steel

Dedicated September, 2011

A focal point of I-Lan Park, *Cloud Gate* was developed to honor Leawood's Sister City relationship with I-Lan, Taiwan. The artwork was commissioned as the entrance to the park; inviting all visitors to take the entry pathway which leads east and west. Passing through this gateway represents the open exchange or connection between Leawood and I-Lan.

Cloud Gate is constructed of mild galvanized steel with a matte silver gray finish. The decorative top portion of the gateway is intricately cut into lace-like clouds. Each corner features groupings of cut steel representing lanterns.

Artist Jesse Small is a graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute where he majored in sculpture and ceramics. After obtaining an MFA from Alfred University, Small studied and completed two extended artist residencies in Jingdeshen and Shenzen, China. He has public commissions in numerous U.S. cities including Des Moines, IA; Los Angeles, CA; and Monmouth, OR. Small has also exhibited throughout China including in Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong. The artist notes, being in China, learning a new language and a new set of cultural norms has been a massive inspiration on his work and life.





Pastoral Dreamer

David Phelps

Bronze

Dedicated October, 2005

Pastoral Dreamer depicts a man relaxing, partially sunken in the ground, at a length of 17 feet. This three times life-size bronze sculpture challenges the viewer to imagine the unseen submerged aspects of the figure. The imagery of Phelps' figurative bronze sculpture is rooted in his early years growing up on his family's farm in California.

Phelps lives and works in Oklahoma City. His work can be seen in public collections across the country including in; Napa Valley, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Las Vegas.





Avanim Vetseiadim (Stones and Steps)

Ilan Averbuch

Granite and Steel reflected in Water

Dedicated October, 2009

Avanim Vetseiadim is the focal point of Gezer Park, which celebrates Leawood's Sister City relationship with the Gezer Region of Israel. Born in Tel Aviv, internationally renowned artist Ilan Averbuch was commissioned to create this piece because of his intimate knowledge of the Gezer Region, as well as his Israeli heritage.

The 22' ladder of steel and recycled granite rises from a small reflecting lake. Averbuch states, *"The ladder grows out of its reflection created in the water. Stone and water are opposites and are the materials from which I carve this image. They form a dialogue with surprises and questions."* The symbolism of a ladder, along with that of water, allows the viewer to consider the connections between the physical and the metaphysical.

Today, Averbuch lives and works in New York. His sculptures are featured in major public institutions such as the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Israel Museum, Tel Aviv Museum, Tefen Museum and Tel Hai Art Center.





AVANIM VETSEIADIM (STONES AND STEPS)

Gezer Park - 133rd Street & Mission Road

The Harvest Tablet

Gadi Fraiman

Limestone and Concrete

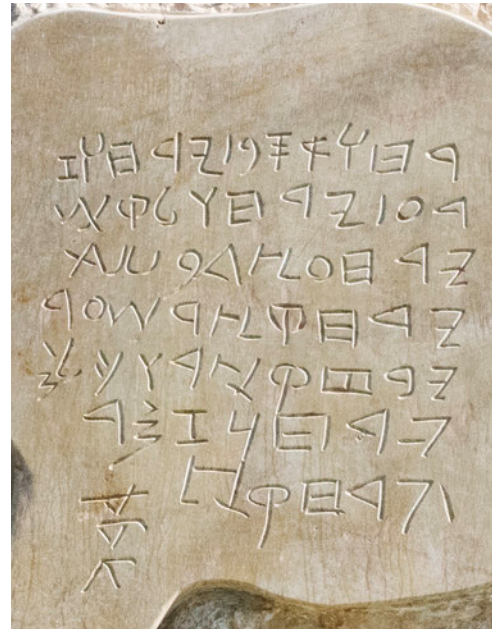
Dedicated 2009

Polish-born to Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Israel, artist Gadi Fraiman was commissioned by Leawood's Sister-City Gezer Regional Council to create *Harvest Tablet*. The tablet is a replica of an ancient Gezer calendar retrieved from the Tel Gezer archaeological dig site in Israel. The original is one of the oldest known examples of Hebrew writing, estimated to date back to the 10th century B.C.E.

Fraiman's *Harvest Tablet* is made from limestone sitting atop a concrete base. The tablet is displayed at the entrance of Gezer Park, also home to a Havdalah garden filled with fragrant herbs used in the ritual of Shabbat, as well as, a small grape vineyard. Together the park gardens and artwork remind visitors of the shared agricultural roots of Leawood and its Sister-City, the Gezer Region of Israel.

The City of Leawood features two of Fraiman's works in its collection.

The tablet is translated from Hebrew, at right, describing a calendar for planting and harvesting.



Two months harvest

Two months planting

Two months late planting

One month hoeing flax

One month barley harvest

One month harvest and feasting

Two months vine pruning

One month summer fruit



THE HARVEST TABLET

Point Defiance

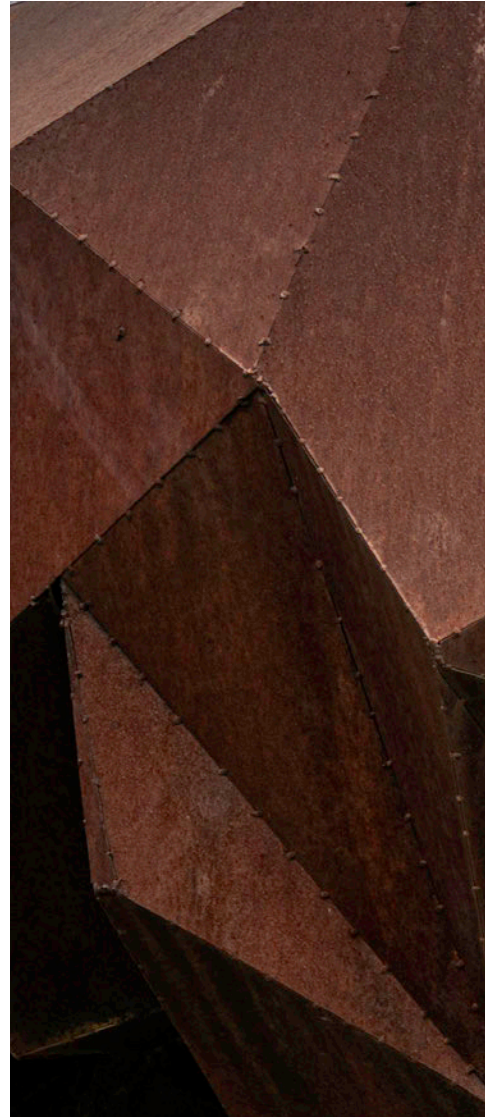
Beth Nybeck

Mild and Stainless Steel

Installed October 2014

This abstract animal form greets visitors at the entrance of Ironwood Park. Its boulder-like body sits balanced atop a point with Kansas limestone at its base. *Point Defiance*, created in 2009, has previously been exhibited in Iowa, Indiana, Florida, and Colorado.

A Kansas City artist, Beth Nybeck was the first female sculptor represented in Leawood's public art collection. She is gaining national attention for her large-scale metal sculptures, which she fabricates herself. Her works are installed throughout Johnson County and the Kansas City metropolitan area. She is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts.





Prairie Lessons

Dennis Smith

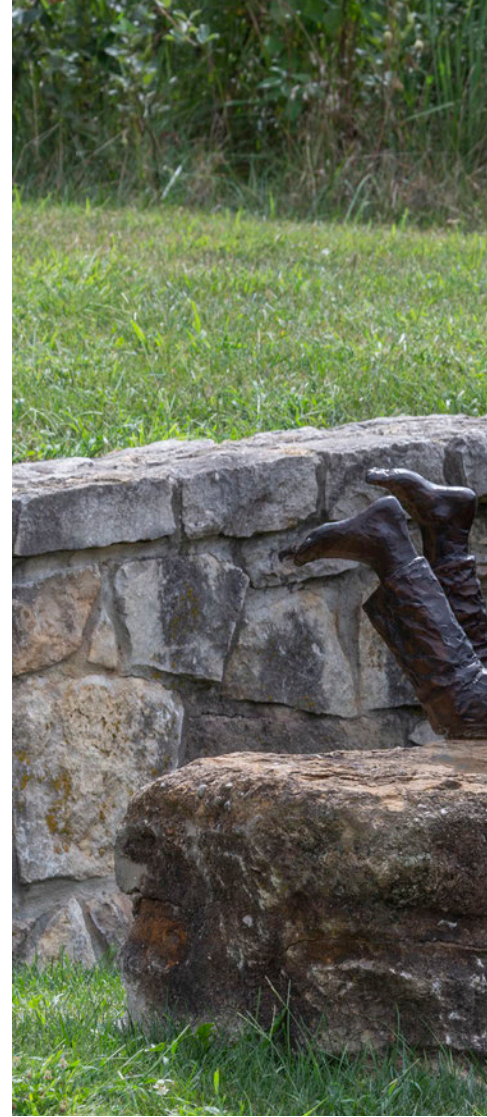
Bronze

Dedicated April 2007

A companion to the Historic Oxford Schoolhouse in Ironwoods Park, this life-size bronze is a tribute to teachers; from the formative contributions of one-room school teachers, to the present-day educators of Kansas. Internationally-acclaimed figurative sculptor David Smith happily accepted this commission based on personal childhood experiences attending a school much like the Oxford School.

Smith's works can be found across the country from Seattle, Washington to New Orleans, Louisiana. His work is also internationally exhibited in the American Embassies of Prague, London, and Moscow, as well as, in national parks in Denmark and Japan.

This work of art represents a unique collaboration led by the Leawood Foundation in cooperation with the Leawood Historic Commission and the Art in Public Places Initiative of the Leawood Arts Council.





Praise

Bruce A. Niemi

Iron

Dedicated 2022

The artist, Bruce A. Niemi, is a second-generation sculptor who studied under his father, Frank J. Niemi, an ornamental iron artist and self-taught sculptor.

Niemi begins his sculptures by cutting out multiple bold shapes, curving and then polishing them. As each shape takes its own unique form, he begins to build relationships between each; combining them into new combinations. He takes inspiration from the beauty of nature; exploring shapes that are as simple as a blade of grass or as powerful as waves crashing along the seashore. Despite working with bulky heavy metals, his work evokes a positive and uplifting quality that draws you inward and upward.

Niemi has 54 permanent public sculptures across the United States and Europe.

Originally located at Phelps Tool and Die and then later, at a private residence in Leawood, *Praise* was gifted to the City by Christopher and Bridget Lee in 2021.



The Bull

Gadi Fraiman

Jerusalem Stone

Installed October, 2010

This sculpture was donated to the City of Leawood by Polish-Israeli artist Gadi Fraiman in celebration of Leawood's Sister City relationship with the Gezer Region of Israel.

Sculpted from Jerusalem Stone, the warm orange hues of the natural stone contrast with the cool, smooth surface. The curved planes reveal layers of stone, sweeping into the points of the bull's horns. The horns appear on opposite sides of the sculpture, as well as, pointing in opposing directions; creating multiple facets of one bull or perhaps a representation of many bulls.

From Celtic mythology, to the Taurus zodiac, to the many references throughout the Torah, as a symbol, the bull has come to represent the dualities between stubbornness and brutality, abundance and strength.

Gadi Fraiman is a sculptor, painter, and teacher living and working in Israel. His public works can be found throughout Israel. Fraiman has exhibited internationally including in France, the United States, and Belgium.



X

John Northington

Glass and Steel Sculpture
Installed February, 2009

John Northington sculpts using commonplace materials such as concrete, steel, and glass. By molding, forming, and then partially destroying these materials, he gives his sculptures an eclectic and industrial look. His work evokes elements of nature and archaeology, using recycled materials to create what he feels are *"fossils of used cities."* X is constructed of crisscrossing cast glass, with a torch cut steel base. It stands gracefully on a wedge-shaped pedestal.

Northington, originally from California, lives and works in Kansas City. He is a graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute and many of his works can be found throughout the metro area.





Anagennisi apo Koinonia

Reilly Hoffman

Flame Cut Steel

Dedicated October, 2006

The title of this 1,300 pound sculpture derives from the Greek words *anagennisi*, meaning renaissance or rebirth, and *koinonia*, meaning fellowship or communion with one another.

The steel feathers, cut by flames, are reminiscent of *anagennisi* or rebirth, like that of the phoenix—a bird that casts itself into flames to be reborn from its own ashes. During the work's inception, Hoffman cut 150 feathers but used only 110 in the fabrication. The remaining feathers were given away in an act of communion or *koinonia*, to people in the Kansas City community with whom he felt an important connection.

Reilly Hoffman is a local Kansas City based artist and was a senior at the Kansas City Art Institute at the time of the work's commission. Since, Hoffman has worked on numerous public sculpture projects including the Veterans War Memorial for the Osage Nation in Pawhuska, Oklahoma and the 9/11 Weeping Wall in Overland Park, Kansas.



Woods

Babe Atha

Acrylic on Canvas

Installed 2000

Babe Atha lived in Kansas City all of her adult life. She was educated at the University of Kansas, University of Arizona and the Kansas City Art Institute. Her works are on display in residences and corporations all over the United States and Canada.

This 54" x 54" acrylic painting represents a grove of trees. Her impressionistic style and informal spontaneity result in a strong sense of life and movement. Atha's treatment of color ranges from deep rich tones of the southwest to fresh floral hues. Her works express clarity and dignity in the beauty of simplicity.



Tel Gezer Landscape

Enon De Groot

Acrylic on Canvas

Installed October 8, 2010

This donated work of art is a two dimensional painting by Enon De Groot from Kibbutz Gezer, Israel. Enon is a young artist who often works in various styles and media. He began as a painter and has been exhibiting his works since 2007.

The painting is the fifth in a series that Enon calls *Nature by Nature*. The sky is the only portion of the artwork created by paint brush. All other features of the landscape have been created with the items that they represent; such as grass painted with grass and leaves with leaves. The result is an expressive painting with a unique footprint.

The large 4.5' x 4' landscape depicts a rural scene in Israel. The peaceful terrain features the sweeping curve of a subtle pathway vanishing into the horizon. A Kansas viewer might be reminded of wagon tracks in the Flint Hills.

This painting was donated to the City of Leawood by Enon De Groot in celebration of Leawood's Sister-City relationship with the Gezer Region of Israel.



Various Watercolors

Jim "JR" Hamil

Watercolor

A prolific watercolorist, Jim (JR) Hamil was a local artist who spent much of his career painting natural landscapes and landmarks across Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado. He is well known in the Kansas City area for his prairie landscapes and Country Club Plaza watercolors.

In 1954 Jim graduated from Shawnee Mission (now North) High School and went on to receive a BFA from the University of Kansas. In 1958 he embarked on a 15 year career at Hallmark Cards, where he once had the opportunity to provide a watercolor lesson to former president Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In 1972, Jim established a studio space on 45th and Stateline and began painting full-time for galleries such as American Legacy Gallery, in KCMO and Colony Bistro in Overland Park, Kansas. Over the years he collaborated on several books with his father, Harold Hamil. Jim passed away at 84 in 2022.

The City of Leawood is fortunate to hang several of his original watercolors throughout City Hall. Paintings include Leawood in *Springtime*, *Old City Hall*, *City Hall in 1988*, *Majors House*, *I-Lan Park*, *The Historic Oxford Schoolhouse*, *Leawood South* and a collection of *Untitled* landscapes.





Inspiration

Rita Blitt

Ink on Paper

Before Rita Blitt's cheerful yellow sculpture, *Inspiration*, came to Tomahawk Creek Parkway, a sketch was created. Blitt writes, "*I can remember quite well making that drawing and feeling immediately that it had to become a sculpture. That's very unusual and quite significant to me.*"

The gestural black and white sketch, with its joyful free brushstrokes, emulates the shapes and forms mirrored by the larger 3-dimensional *Inspiration*. Explaining the process for her sketches, Blitt explains, "*My sculptures come from drawings that have been made previously just for the love of creating. I let drawing flow from within me, from the bottom of my heart. Then, when I go to make a sculpture, I look to my drawings to see which one feels more appropriate for that particular spot.*"

The original sketch was inspired by the Oslo Accords, a pair of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1993, which aimed to facilitate peace making negotiation processes. Blitt describes it a "*reaching out, to bring together.*"



Untitled (Beetle)

Jill Oliver

Oil on Canvas

Jill Oliver is a lifelong resident of the Kansas City area. After studying Art Education at Kansas State University, she returned to the Kansas City to begin her teaching career at Shawnee Mission East High School. After teaching art for 15 years, she left her job to stay home with her kids and to focus on painting.

Offering a wide range of subject matter, ranging from portraits to landscapes, Jill enjoys working on large canvasses because of the impact a large painting can make. Compositions with strong, dramatic light and shadows and interesting textures are a reoccurring theme in Jill's work.

The work was originally the first two-dimensional piece to participate in the Leawood Art on Loan program, before the City purchased the work for permanent installation the Prairie Oak Nature Center in Ironwoods Park.



How is public art funded in Leawood?

PUBLIC FUNDING

The funding sources for each project will be identified by the Art in Public Places Initiative subcommittee as part of the project definition or scope. The Capital Art Funds shall come from one of two funding sources for all LAC projects and programs, as recommended to the Governing Body by the LAC and the Parks, Recreation and Arts Director. Monies from these funds shall be allocated for the incorporation of art into municipal construction or other public spaces and shall be used for the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of public art. Sources are as follows:

City Public Capital Art Fund

The Capital Art Fund shall be included in the City's annual budget and pay for LAC projects and programs. The fund is based on city population and budgeted at \$7.00 per year, per resident.

Public Art Impact Fee

The Impact Fee for Public Art is assessed on non-residential private development, renovation or redevelopment projects at the rate of \$0.15 per square foot of such projects. The obligation may be satisfied through an art project, which is privately funded and is equal to, or greater than, the dollar value of the obligation, which is placed in accordance with the APPI Policy, the City's Planning codes and restrictions, and is deeded over to the City.

Who is responsible for selecting the artworks?

Artist Selection Committees are appointed by the Art in Public Places Initiative on a project-by-project basis. The APPI subcommittee maintains a list of interested individuals and anyone who wishes to be added to the list need only make his/her desires known to the Committee Chair.

PRIVATE FUNDING

Grants from Arts Agencies

Application for public arts funding may be made to private agencies such as the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation's Community Arts Fund and other private foundations which fund the arts.

Private Donations of Art

All private donations of art are subject to approval by the selection committee process. All gifts of art must be accompanied by a Deed of Gift.

Private Donations

Private donations will be sought through various fundraising activities and channels.

Public-Private Funding

Public-Private monies may be raised through partnerships, collaborations, or matching grants.

The make-up of a Selection Committee may be arranged to meet the needs of specific projects. Committees are generally composed of three to seven members including: one artist or arts professional with knowledge of public art issues, and one LAC member. If an architect/designer for the project is selected by the City, that person shall serve in an advisory capacity on the Selection Committee. Additional Selection Committee members can include those who will be in regular contact with the artwork selected, such as neighborhood representatives and city staff. One Selection Committee member can be a non-resident.



ART IN PUBLIC PLACES INITIATIVE
LEAWOOD ARTS COUNCIL

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