Great Lakes Park Training Institute
Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Sculpture Parks: *Planning And Management Issues*

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Superintendent of Planning and Operations,
Urbana Park District
Urbana, Illinois

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Meadowbrook Park, A Master Plan Overview

- Land Acquisition—3 Phases
- 20 plus Years of Planning with Community
- 130 Acre Regional Park—Context
- 2 Steam Corridors
- Historic Farmstead, Outbuildings, Adjacent Land Uses
- Native Illinois Tallgrass Prairie / Natural Areas
- Bicycle / Pedestrian Trails, Soft Trails
- Interpretive Information
- Series of Large / Small Scale Gardens
- "Rural Setting" Located in Urbana Illinois
- Ideal Setting for Special Events
- Opportunities for Donors, Sponsors, Partnerships
Meadowbrook Park, The Gardens At Meadowbrook Park

- Praireplay Playground and Children’s Garden
- Great Meadow
- Restored Native Illinois Tallgrass Prairie
- Freyfogle Prairie Overlook and Interpretive Center
- Timpone Family Ornamental Tree Grove
- Champaign-Urbana Herb Society Garden
- Organic Garden Plots / Program
- Sensory Garden
- Windmill Garden
- Shade Garden
- Farmstead Garden
- Hickman Wildflower Walk
- Wandell Sculpture Garden
- Habitat Gardens / Conservation Area
Wandell Sculpture Garden, “Art And Nature At Play”

Why Sculpture? A Background and History
20 plus Acres of Native Illinois Tallgrass Prairie
Interconnection of Nature and Art: Where Does Nature End and Art Begin?

Purpose:
Introduce Visitors and the Public to the Benefits of Sculpture Within a Community Park Setting
Enhance the Appreciation of Both Art and Nature
Create Opportunities for Both Formal and Informal Education

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Goals: Themes And Site Context

Interpreting the East Central Illinois Landscape
Interplay of Art and Nature
Experiences and Lasting Impressions
Seasonal Changes and Changes in the Landscape
Making Public Art “Accessible” for All
Temporary Nature of Art Program—“On Loan”
Permanent Acquisition of Art—Permanent Collection
Public Sculpture Program—Urbana Park District As Leader …
Opportunities for Giving Back—Gifts, Donations, Sponsorships …

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Wandell Sculpture Garden, Selection Of Art And Artists

How Do We Pay For It?
Where Do We Find the Artists and Sculptures?
Who Selects the Artists and Sculptures?

Key Components:
Selection of Talented Artists and Quality Sculpture
Variety of Artists:  Local, Regional, State, National, and International …

Artist Selection Criteria

Professional Artists—Most Have Other Jobs!
Experienced in Working in Public Settings, Galleries, Other Venues …
Experts in Variety of Materials, Methods, Trades
Impressive Resumes—Juried Shows, Competitions, Awards, Commissions, Educators, “Mavericks” …
Availability of Artists—Local versus Distant
References, Background Check, Word-of-Mouth … Ask Around …
Making Good Choices—Avoid “High Maintenance” Artists …
Know When to Say NO!
Sculpture Selection Criteria (Specific To Community)

Artist’s Qualifications—Juried Work, Awards, Shows, Competitions, Recommendations, Previous Installations …

Quality and Craft of Fabrication

Community Standards, Ordinances, Legal Requirements

Variety of Sculptural Media and Materials

Variety of Sculptural Types—Representational versus Non-Representational (Figurative versus Abstract)

Cost and Budget for Installation and Deinstallation Process …

Installation and Deinstallation Issues

Maintenance and Rehabilitation Issues

Controversial Sculpture, Political Statements, Nudes …

Contract Negotiations

Establish Standard Contract

Establish Stipend, Project Budget, Terms Of Payment

Define Terms Of Installation as well as Deinstallation Responsibilities

Define Length of Contract Loan

Verify Opportunities to Renew or Extend the Contract Agreement

Is There and Early Exit Clause?

Determine Maintenance Responsibilities

Obtain Written Maintenance Protocol—Planned Maintenance!

Contact Information in Case of Vandalism, Damage, or Other Disaster

Special Considerations—Spell Them Out:

Revenue Sharing if Sold While on Loan?

What is Typical of Gallery Venues … Percent of Sale …
Sculpture Media, General Considerations

Materials Need to be Durable—Depending on Site Conditions and Security
Sculptural Materials need to be Installed and Deinstalled Easily
Sculptural Media is Exposed to all Elements (and People too!)
Maintenance Considerations
Site Considerations
Land Management
### Sculpture Materials For Outdoor Sculpture Gardens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metals:</th>
<th>Glass:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stainless Steel</td>
<td>Etched, Plate, Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted Steel (Color)</td>
<td>Tiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cor-Ten Steel (Rusted Look)</td>
<td>Blown Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum/Brushed</td>
<td>Rods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Infused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Many other Types, Blends, Uses …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Metal Alloys and Compositions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood / Vegetation:</th>
<th>Concrete:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid</td>
<td>Concrete / Mixed Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veneer</td>
<td>Aggregates, Blends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blend / Variety of Woods</td>
<td>Colored Concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Media—Wood with Other Material</td>
<td>Formed, Poured, Cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Natural Wood Material”—Tree Trunks, Whips, Weaves, Branches</td>
<td>Gunnite, Other Concrete Materials …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Vegetative Materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sculpture Materials For Outdoor Sculpture Gardens (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Materials:</th>
<th>Photographs, Murals And Trompe L’oeil:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>Installation / Deinstallation Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marble</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite</td>
<td>Surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartz</td>
<td>Maintenance Needs …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volcanic Rock, other Types of Rock Material</td>
<td>Vandalism / Rehabilitation / Enhancements …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Tile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick, Concrete Block</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Brick-like Material</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocks, Stones, Gravel, and Aggregates …</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric:</th>
<th>Other Media:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cloth, Milled Materials</td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flags, Runners, and fliers</td>
<td>Mobiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Fibers and Blends</td>
<td>“Earth Art”–Nature Related, Environmental Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturdy? Maintenance Needs</td>
<td>Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair / Replacement</td>
<td>Ephemeral, Other Sensory Related Installations …</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Siting Considerations

Select the Ideal Location—Safety, Security, Access, Connectivity to Adjacent Land Uses and other Site Features…

Site Specific or “Plop” Art
Scale, Proportion, Spacing
Height, Width, Depth, Weight
Positive / Negative Spaces and Voids
Color and Texture
Landscape Conditions—Views, Perspective, Backdrop, “Borrowed Landscape” …
Sun and Shade Patterns
Multiple Pieces, Arrangement, Sequence, Rhythm
Viewer Experience, Interpretation, and Understanding…

Site Preparation

Grading / Subgrade, Leveling Site
Soil Preparation, Amending Soils / Site
Proper and Adequate Drainage
Base / Plinth—Provided or Installed on Site? Existing? Who Provides?
Landscape Treatment and Maintenance
Signage, Interpretation
Recognition—Sponsors, Event Commemoration, Other Acknowledgments …
Seasonal Considerations—Winterization, Removal / Reinstallation
Access To and From Sculpture
Site Protection—Vegetation, Paths, Utilities, Structures …
Pre-Installation Considerations

Installation Process—Anticipate Disasters, Be Prepared, Create a Backup Plan or “Rain Date”
Prepare a Plan, Budget and Schedule—Consider Contingencies
Select Site—Coordinate with Artist, Contractors, Staff, Park District Board
Site Preparation—Work Ahead—No Surprises …
Bases and Other Site Features in Place and Ready
Trucking, Cranes, Equipment, Staff Assistance
Coordinate Temporary Removal / Relocation / Suspension of Utilities or Other Affected Site Features
Length / Duration of Sculpture Installation Process
Artist’s Bios, Media Packets, Marketing Opportunities …
Welcome Reception—Invite Artist / Families, Board, Friends of District, Other Artists, Potential Donors, Other Community Members Interested in the Arts … Have Some Fun!
“Tie-In” Events and Opportunities—Look For New Connections … Maintain Existing Ones …

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Post-Deinstallation Considerations

Fulfill All Contract Obligations
Coordinate Deinstallation—All Depends on Initial Contract Responsibilities, be Prepared for this Ahead of Time!
Follow-Up Payment to Artists; Pay other related Contractors and Vendors
Record All Bills, Purchase Orders, Charges …
Site Restoration—Clean Up, Regrade, Re-Seed, Vegetation …
Prepare Site for Next Sculpture
Send Out Proper Thank-Yous—Include Your Staff and Others (volunteers, sponsors, et cetera)
Post Evaluation of Process—Identify What Worked, What Didn’t, Improvements, Recommendations, Staffing Concerns, Written Report and Notes, Photos / Detail Sketches … Keep Good Records and Files!
Archive Photos of Sculpture Installation and Deinstallation for Future Use
Maintain Organized Storage of Records, Contacts, Dates, Details, and Action Plan

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