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LandMarks, Fall 2008

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Governors State University

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Outside Cover Photo: Featured Sculpture – IL Landscape No. 5 –
Photo Credit: Bruce Crooks



Friend Raising Commences

Board members of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park are reaching out to friends, neighbors, and supporters of the arts to let them know what developments are occurring here and what a special place the park is becoming. They're calling them Friend Raising Events – intimate occasions where people can learn more about the park and its programs in an informal setting.

In late May, Susan and Bob Rakstang hosted a gathering in their loft space in Chicago's West Loop for **Chicago Sculpture International**, an advocacy group of sculptors, critics, and gallery owners headed by NMSP Board Member Bob Emser. The 40+ guests enjoyed a buffet assembled by Susan and listened to park director Geoffrey Bates present a brief history and his vision of the future for the organization.

In late August, Board President Susan Ormsby and her husband Pat hosted a cocktail reception in GSU's E-Lounge and Gallery space. Nearly 60 friends of the park enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and wine, viewed oversized photo images of the collection installed for the event, and heard remarks by GSU President Dr. Elaine Maimon and Geoffrey Bates.

The highlight of the afternoon was the debut of award-winning video producer Seth McClellan's introduction to the park. The 17-minute piece skillfully weaves Lewis Manilow's account of the park's beginnings with archival images, current video footage, and commentary about selected artworks by docent John Ray. The production was received by the audience with great enthusiasm and should make an important addition to both the educational and marketing outreach of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

Additional Friend Raising events will be occurring throughout the year as the board continues to raise awareness of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park's presence at Governors State University.



Top Left: Susan Rakstang (center, in white blouse) greets members of Chicago Sculpture International during a May Friend-Raising event. Photo Credit: Geoff Bates

Below: The sculpture park was brought into the gallery with oversized images of selected work for the August 23 event hosted by Susan and Pat Ormsby. Photo Credit: Lindsay Gladstone



ReMarks

Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow.

In this season of autumn, even as we witness the fruit of summer ripen to the fullness of harvest-time, it's easy to dismiss such a phrase as hackneyed and worn. But truth lies as the kernel of its durability.

The unlikely story of this sculpture park's existence was highlighted during recent interviews with Lewis Manilow about its beginnings. A Chicago gallery owner made an off-hand suggestion that Manilow visit a young artist named Mark di Suvero in Hoboken, New Jersey. From that suggestion and subsequent events, the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park grew in both size and stature to its present position as one of the nation's most important sites for experiencing outdoor sculpture.

The recent recognition of the park and its continuing renaissance is a result of the efforts of many individuals and organizations, as well as many organizational elements of its mother institution, Governors State University.

Many thanks go to Katie Cox, Bruce Crooks, Greg Kain, and GSU's entire ITS department for its enthusiastic response to our website redesign project. Now, people from around the world can access information at any time about the works present on our site.

The board of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park has continued and expanded its support of the park and its future with its embrace of our Friend Raising events. These informal gatherings are designed to offer folks who might not be acquainted with the organization an opportunity to meet some of the people involved and learn more about this singular resource for art and nature.

We acknowledge the support of **ComEd**, an Exelon Company, for programs both past and present and particularly the easy working relationship developed with Paula Conrad, Corporate Citizenship Manager. The **Illinois Arts Council**, a state agency, has provided a vote of confidence with its much appreciated grant for general operating expenses and we wish to acknowledge State Representative Lisa Dugan's support of the council and our programs.

The university administration continues to provide both moral and logistical support for our programming, events, and site maintenance. Thanks to President Elaine Maimon for her participation in many of our activities. She and her husband Mort were a welcome addition to July's Chicago Road Trip.

The positive response to our first Annual Appeal has been gratifying. We urge you to join these individuals and organizations as we continue to branch out and grow the park's programming, collection, and reputation. Visit us here in University Park or on the web. Join a committee or become a docent. Invest in our future by sowing the seed of financial independence with your tax-deductible gift. Help us carry on the work that has begun.

See you in the park –

Cordially,

Geoffrey Bates
Director and Curator

Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator

Susan Ormsby	Olympia Fields, IL	President
Josephine Ferguson	Valparaiso, IN	Vice-President
Jacqueline Lewis	Olympia Fields, IL	Secretary
Arthur Bourgeois	Richton Park, IL	
William Brazley	Olympia Fields, IL	
Ruth Crnkovich	Dyer, IN	
Bob Emser	Eureka, IL	
Susan Rakstang	Chicago, IL	
Lewis Manilow, Ex-officio	Chicago, IL	
Elaine Maimon, Ex-officio	Crete, IL	
Gebeyehu Ejigu, Ex-officio	Crete, IL	
Joan Vaughan, Ex-officio	Tinley Park, IL	

Website: www.govst.edu/sculpture

General Email Address: sculpture@govst.edu

Phone: 708.534.4486 Fax: 708.534.8399

Hours: Dawn until dusk every day

Admission: Free admission to park, some activities have fees.

LandMarks is published three times a year in January, May, and September

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Please direct questions or comments to Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator

On cover: **Illinois Landscape No. 5** 1976 John Henry

Cover photo credit: Bruce Crooks

Top of Page: **Icarus** 1975 Charles Ginnever

Bottom of Page: **Passage** 1998 James Brenner

Photos of **Icarus** and **Passage**: Geoff Bates

Photo credit above right: Susan Bates

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Annual Appeal debuts, garners challenge from Lewis Manilow

The response to our first annual appeal has been enthusiastic with supporters from California to Missouri to Park Forest, IL replying with contributions. Lewis Manilow, prominent Chicago arts enthusiast and a founder of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, has issued a challenge to the supporters of the arts in the Chicagoland region. During his interview for the park's introductory video production, Manilow challenged the park to raise \$20,000 – which he will match with a personal contribution of \$10,000.

"Lewis Manilow's generous challenge signifies his belief that the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is on the right track with its programs, conservation efforts, and outreach. We're excited about the opportunity to demonstrate the level of support folks in northeastern Illinois have for our unique presentation. And they aren't letting us down – already nearly \$10,000 in tax-deductible contributions have been raised since July 1," said Geoff Bates, Park Director.

Special opportunities for recognition continue

The opportunity for listing as a Charter supporter will continue only through February 2009. Beginning at the Sculptor's Forum (\$1,000) level, your name, or the name of a loved one or someone you wish to honor, can be recorded as a Charter patron on a plaque to be placed prominently within the park. This is a wonderful way to demonstrate your visionary support of the arts that will be recognized for decades to come.

Please take this moment to support the continuing renaissance of our important cultural resource and enclose your tax-deductible donation in the attached envelope, or visit our website at www.govst.edu/sculpture, select Support the Park and click on Donate. Remember, many employers will match their employees' contributions to educational foundations – this is a great way to increase your level of giving painlessly.

Grassroots Supporter of the Park \$100+

Patrons at this level will be recognized with their name printed in LandMarks, the newsletter of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, and will receive advance notice of upcoming events sponsored by the park.

Premier Partner \$500+

In addition to the above, Premier Partners will receive personal invitations to specially scheduled events, an invitation to our annual appreciation picnic for our many supporters; a private tour for the partner and 10 of their friends led by one of our well-versed docents, and an exclusive Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park baseball cap.

Sculptor's Forum \$1000+

Through February of 2009, the Sculptor's Forum level will offer an opportunity for Charter recognition. In addition to the benefits listed above, members of the Sculptor's Forum will be honored with their name etched on a permanent plaque noting their vision and support.



Above: Lewis Manilow at home.
Photo credit: Sang Hoon Lee

Supporters of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Sculptor's Forum

Bimba Corporation
Deborah Borucki
Peggy and Bill Brazley
Josephine Ferguson
Susan and Pat Ormsby

Grassroots Supporters

Nick Battaglia
Jean and George Bernstein
John Bracha
Ruth Horwich
Inge Marra
Ann Nathan
Harry and Rose Samson Jewish
Community Center
Beve and Ed Sokol
Barbara Sturges
Lila Thorpe

Premier Partners

Susan and Bob Rakstang

Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated. Your tax deductible support helps provide for the conservation of artworks and to develop public awareness of the park, its collection, and its programming. Other sponsorships and recognition opportunities are available. Please contact Christine Radtke, GSU Director of Development, at 708.235.7494 or c-radtke@govst.edu to inquire.

This plaque will be placed prominently within the park. Additionally, they will receive personal invitations to unique VIP events such as intimate visits to private collections, an invitation to a special dinner with the Director, and the opportunity to schedule a private tour of the park led by the Director.

Collector's Circle \$5000+

Privileges for the Collector's Circle include all those listed above, plus the opportunity for a one-year renewable sponsorship of a sculpture chosen by the Director. The Collector's Circle member's name(s) will be placed on the object label for the artwork in the park and recognized in LandMarks.

Visionary \$10,000+

The Visionary supporter of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will be entitled to name an artwork of their choice for a three-year renewable sponsorship, along with the many other benefits listed above.



News from the Park

May 3 Opening Event

Docents, board members, kite flyers extraordinaire, kids, and parents turned out for the May 3 Park Opening event. After a ribbon-cutting and light breakfast snacks under a glorious sky, kids designed and built kites with expert assistance from Tom Pietruzka and Chris Rizzuto, members of the **Illinois Kite Enthusiasts** kite club. Once the kites were completed, the group made their way to the meadow where Tony Tasset's **Paul** is located, flew their colorful creations, and watched in amazement as Pietruzka and Rizzuto demonstrated their skill with stunt flying kites that could hesitate, twist, swoop and loop in the stiff breeze.



Re-Designed Website

The new website for the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park made its debut in late July and replaces an outdated presentation with images and commentary about each object currently on view in the park, information and directions for arranging visits and tours, current information on upcoming events and activities, and areas to volunteer and make a financial contribution to the park. Visit our new site at www.govst.edu/sculpture and bookmark it for future reference - the fave-icon is worth the trip!



Sunny Chicago Road Trip

Seventeen sun worshippers participated in this summer's **Road Trip** to Chicago. After arriving on a beautiful July morning at the **Millennium Park** Metra station, the group viewed the park's sculptural and architectural treasures, including five works by NMSP artist Mark di Suvero. The morning's tour continued with a visit to the **Chicago Cultural Center** and *Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe*. After a quick lunch at **Gold Coast Hot Dogs** on Wabash Avenue, the group ended the day at the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery. The very special Saturday opening of the museum was arranged with Curator Doug Stapleton who provided detailed commentary about the sculpture exhibition **L. Brent Kington: Mythic Metalsmith**.





From top left, clockwise:

Board President Susan Ormsby and Director Geoff Bates prepare to open the park for the 2008 summer season.
Photo Credit: Karen Caesar-Smith

DVD Package Design: Ann Needham

GSU President Elaine Maimon, along with Nick Battaglia and IAC representative, Carla Kunzeman, accept a check from the **Illinois Arts Council** presented by State Representative Lisa Dugan (far right) in front of Michael Dunbar's **Oscar's Inclination**.
Photo credit: Eric Matanyi

Lee Denham of ComCast cable production readies a shot in front of Bruce Nauman's **House Divided**.
Photo credit: Eric Matanyi

GSU President Elaine Maimon and her husband Mort join other travelers on Frank Gehry's BP Bridge during the July 26 Road Trip.
Photo credit: Geoff Bates

A young kite designer flies her creation in the field near Tony Tasset's **Paul**.
Photo credit: Geoff Bates

Website design: Katie Cox, Bruce Crooks, Ann Needham

Video Production Wraps Successfully

Early mornings and late afternoons in July and August were marked by a series of visits by Seth McClellan and Sang Hoon Lee as they gathered footage for a video introduction to the park. McClellan, the award-winning producer of **King in Chicago**, has recently begun work as an assistant professor at Triton College in River Grove, IL. Lee is a research professor at GSU and an expert cameraman. The two have worked together several times and found this project rewarding on numerous levels. As the son of retired GSU professor Larry McClellan, Seth McClellan grew up in the park, "This was a great chance for me to get out into a place I really love and look at it with a fresh eye – seeing it through the lens made it a whole new experience."

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park thanks **ComEd**, an Exelon Company, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, for their support of this project.

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Wins Illinois Arts Council Funding

In early October, The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park was presented with a grant for general operating support in the amount of \$2,620 from the Illinois Arts Council's FY 2009 funding pool.

"We are gratified that the **Illinois Arts Council** has recognized the importance and the quality of the programming we are organizing here at the park," said director and curator Geoffrey Bates. "Particularly in light of state budget cuts and the high quality of programming offered by the many other arts groups in Northeastern Illinois, it is a significant indication of the park's emergence as a contributor to the cultural life of our region."



Comcast Crew Creates Piece for Early November Broadcast

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is being highlighted during early November in a three-minute production broadcast on the Comcast cable network. Producer Lee Denham and Community Connection Coordinator Nancy Bayless spent four hours with Park Director Geoff Bates shooting a variety of different works in the park on a perfect September afternoon. The piece can be found in the On Demand section of the Comcast channel menu under the heading "Get Local." Comcast distributes its signal to 1.7 million homes in the Chicagoland region.





Calendar of Events – October 2008 through May 2009

Join us for just one or for a series of events at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park!

For Adults

Two For Tuesdays – Don't let the change in seasons keep you from enjoying art. The sculpture park comes inside with these lively, half-hour informal media presentations that compare pairs of works from the collection. Come and learn new ways to think about sculpture!

FREE

Beginning Tuesday, October 21
First and third Tuesdays of the month through, January 6, 2009
Room 1497, D-wing (2 doors from the GSU bookstore)
12:30 p.m. and again at 3:45 p.m.

October 21

Bruce Nauman's **House Divided**
Henri Etienne-Martin's **Lanleff – Demeure No. 4**

November 4

Clement Meadmore's **Spiral**
James Brenner's **Passage**

November 18

Mark di Suvero's **Yes! For Lady Day**
Edvins Strautmanis' **Phoenix**

December 2

Jerry Peart's **Falling Meteor**
Jene Highstein's **Flying Saucer**

December 16

Charles Ginnever's **Icarus**
John Payne's **Mock II – V Form**

January 6

Martin Puryear's **Bodark Arc**
Mary Miss's **Field Rotation**

January 21

A Richard Hunt Review

Large Planar Hybrid, Outgrown Pyramid II and other local works

Road Trip!

Inside/Out: Sculpture by Chakaia Booker and Bob Emser

Elmhurst Art Museum
Saturday, December 6, 2008
10 a.m. to Noon

\$4 admission

Guests provide transportation to and from the museum
(visit the NMSP website for directions from GSU)

Meet NMSP Director Geoff Bates at the Elmhurst Art Museum for a morning of challenging sculpture. **Inside/Out** features the first major Midwest opportunity to view work by Chakaia Booker, a New York-based African-American sculptor whose approach to materials and form will challenge your ideas about sculpture (chakaiabooker.com/). The exhibition will also present a chance to view internationally recognized Illinois artist Bob Emser's (bobemser.com) aeronautically-inspired work in a new context. After a tour of the exhibition, a museum docent will lead the group through the **McCormick House**, one of only three homes in the U.S. designed and built by **Ludwig mies van der Rohe**. Afterwards, consider retiring to one of the many cafes in the area for a leisurely lunch or take time to browse the shops that make up the Elmhurst downtown.

Winter Walking Tours

Got cabin fever? Participate in a guided tour of the park. The tour will be led by a pair of docents well-versed in the artwork and eager to share their knowledge with you. Our winter tour last year was highlighted on WBEZ as a Three for Free event. Participants should dress warmly and wear comfortable, waterproof shoes since our paths are uneven and extensive walking is required.

FREE

2 p.m.
Sunday, February 1, 2009
Sunday, March 1, 2009
Hall of Governors



Outgrown Pyramid II 1973 Richard Hunt

(photo: Geoff Bates)

Docent Orientation Program

Looking for more involvement with the park? Sign-up for our docent orientation program. Upon graduation, you'll be qualified to conduct tours of the park for schoolchildren and adults as well as assist with special events. Evening sessions include a break with light refreshments. Saturday morning tour includes a continental breakfast. Registration: sculpture@govst.edu or 708.534.4486

FEE: \$25 (covers materials and refreshments)

Thursday evening programs
February 26 through May 23
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Location: Room G-262 Faculty Office Center

One morning tour of the park

Saturday, May 23

Session One	February 26	Museums and Docents
Session Two	March 12	A History of GSU's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park
Session Three	March 26	Looking at art
Session Four	April 9	Paleolithic – Rome
Session Five	April 23	Early Christian – 19th Century
Session Six	May 7	Modernism & Post-Modernism
Session Seven	May 21	Artists of the park
Session Eight	May 23 8:30 a.m. to Noon	Tour of the park



Docent Group (photo: Vincent Mancuso)

For Children and Families

Full Moon Night-time Tour

Put on your winter woolies and spend an evening in our museum! Participants will begin the moonlit tour at 6:30 p.m. inside the Hall of Governors. We'll visit **Paul, Flying Saucer**, and other favorite works, ending with hot chocolate and cookies at Bruce Nauman's **House Divided**. Adventurers should bring a flashlight, dress warmly and wear comfortable, waterproof shoes since our paths are uneven and extensive walking is required.

\$5 per person

Saturday, January 10, 2009
6:30 to approximately 8 p.m.
Tour begins at **Art Ark** in the Hall of Governors



Vocal Volunteers – Jill Stanley

For years, as I've walked the campus of GSU, the sculpture that's here on campus has worked as background information – maybe a comfortable presence, but about as meaningful as a bench or a picnic table. Last winter I jumped into the docent orientation class with both feet and my world view has changed.

There's a new depth of understanding – I've seen images of the artists and I know more about how these pieces fit within the scope of contemporary sculpture. I enjoy each piece for itself and not as background music.

And my taste has shifted. Martin Puryear's **Bodark Arc** was a longtime favorite. Now di Suvero's **Yes! For Lady Day** heads the list. Seeing his work in Millennium Park and how our piece was featured prominently in the printed material there made me realize how significant it was to him personally and to his career.

Then, on my most recent trip to visit my daughter in Seattle, we visited the Seattle Art Museum's **Olympic Sculpture Park**. While not my first visit to the OSP, it was my first since the docent orientation sessions.

There are two di Suvero sculptures there – "Schubert Sonata" and "Bunyon's Chess." Both display his signature use of suspending fabricated steel that interacts with the elements as our own **Yes! For Lady Day** exhibits. Mackenzie and I talked about what I had learned about Mark Di Suvero's history - his accident and subsequent focus on arc welding during his rehabilitation. I was struck by how much more I was able to appreciate exhibited works.

Being part of the docent group has enriched my own experience of the world - plus I've been going to some great parties!

Jill Stanley in front of **Eagle**, 1971 by Alexander Calder; Olympic Sculpture Park, and the Space Needle in Seattle, WA.
Photo credit: Mackenzie Brennan



Some members of the Spring '08 Docent Class pose inside Mary Miss's Field Rotation
Photo credit: Geoff Bates



Docent Orientation program returns in February

Join a growing group of your friends and become a Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park docent. The Spring '09 orientation program begins in February and meets seven times over 12 weeks. It concludes with a Saturday morning tour, kicked off by a continental breakfast. By the end of the program, you'll feel comfortable in the park. Lively and informative, the program covers university and park history, provides an introduction to the history of sculpture, and suggestions on dealing with the public. Upon completion, participants are awarded a certificate and the official Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park docent cap.

Once you've graduated, you'll be scheduled for at least two Sunday tours during the coming season and paired up with a fellow docent – we send our docents out in pairs so you'll always have someone to work with when you're with your group. Depending on your schedule, you may be given the chance to work with other tours during the week, school groups, and our special events. Docents are in the know and get the skinny on any upcoming changes in the park, prairie, or programs!

All docents must successfully complete docent orientation in order to participate in tours or special events and should be able to walk 1 ½ miles during a 1 ½ hour period over the sometimes hilly grounds of the park. The orientation program begins Thursday, February 26 and continues on selected Thursday evenings through May 21. The program concludes Saturday morning, May 23 with a tour of the park. The evening programs are scheduled from 6:30 until 8 p.m. The cost of the docent program is \$25 per person. **For more details, see Events.** To register, send an email to sculpture@govst.edu or contact the park office at 708.534.4486.



... the nature of sculpture

Governors State University, G-372
1 University Parkway
University Park, IL 60466-0975

708.534.4486

E-mail us at sculpture@govst.edu



Open to visitors dawn until dusk every day



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