

October 31, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

'Sculpture Walk' program to debut at Jubilee Park Friday

The Springfield Art Museum, in partnership with the Springfield Regional Arts Council, Urban Districts Alliance and Springfield Public Works, invites First Friday ArtWalk patrons to Jubilee Park Nov. 1 to view the first pieces of art in Springfield's new Sculpture Walk program.

"Springfieldians have demonstrated a lot of interest in public art," says City of Springfield Assistant Director of Public Works Jonathan Gano. "We had around 50 to 75 citizens attend a public forum at the art museum in January to plan the Sculpture Walk."

- Jacob Burmood of Springfield is displaying fiberglass sculpture "Laminations I."
- Eli Gold, of Lawrence, Kan., is displaying "Dovetails & void," which was created from a salvaged cedar beam.
- Will Vannerson of Kansas City is displaying metal sculpture "Emmett."
- Cathy Russell of Nixa is displaying "The family that drinks together stays together," which was sculpted out of aluminum cans.

Sculpture walks promote public art, enhance pedestrian experiences and link major activity centers. Gano said First Friday ArtWalk is ideal for debuting Springfield's new Sculpture Walk program to the community.

Jubilee Park, located at the intersection of North Jefferson and St. Louis, will eventually feature eight sculptures. Gano said the program plans to solicit more sculptures for display along Park Central East and Park Central West over the winter.

The park commemorates the former site of the Jewell Theatre, from which the "Ozark Jubilee" was broadcast in the 1950s. Gano said the park's walking path was reworked to form a loop around the art pieces, and the bridge that once stood over a pond that had been drained years ago was torn down in preparation for the Sculpture Walk installations.

Artists whose work is featured as part of Springfield's Sculpture Walk are paid a stipend of \$300 to display their sculptures for a minimum of one year. Gano added that all works are for sale through the Springfield Regional Arts Council and that the average price of three of the four pieces currently on display (those by Burmood, Gold and Vannerson) is about \$2,000. Russell's piece was contributed to Sculpture Walk by IdeaXfactory.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Gano at 864-1961 or jgano@springfieldmo.gov.