Sticks & Stones, A Blue Sky Project
By Kaz McCue

Last summer, I embarked on a collaboration with Blue Sky Project in Dayton, Ohio to bring a group of teens from the city to northern Michigan, immerse them in a new environment, provide them with new experiences and ultimately craft a collaborative, creative project. Our preparations for the project at Michigan Legacy Art Park was inspired by a migration story we had heard. We embraced the form of a ladder as a symbol of the idea of migration.

As we all stood in the Art Park, looking at the finished piece, documenting our work and discussing the creative process, we had a great sense of satisfaction. In contrast to the urban environment the students were used to, Sleeping Bear Dunes and Michigan Legacy Art Park gave them the opportunity to experience nature and art in a very unique way, and I hope it will be an experience that none of us forget.

To read Kaz McCue’s entire story, please visit www.michlegacyartpark.org/blueskyproject
Educational Adventures at the Art Park and in the Classroom

Hundreds of students from across northwest lower-Michigan explore the Art Park each year. This spring alone, field trips were planned for students from Lake City, Fife Lake, Mesick, Bear Lake, Interlochen, Lake Ann, Honor, Thompsonville, Benzonia, and Traverse City. The sculpture and poetry stones serve as starting points for further study in history, geography, science, language arts, and the environment; the exhilarating hike gets kids moving, and the hands-on art projects give children a personal and meaningful encounter with art and the environment.

Leland Public School: First Snowshoe Field Trip

Leland Public School scheduled the first-ever winter field trip to the Art Park. All seventy-five fifth and sixth graders tromped through the winter wonderland on snowshoes. Renee Hintz and volunteers Peg and Cindy Cook led the children on a tour that got them talking about art and Michigan history.

Frankfort Elberta Elementary School: Special Places

This spring, Patricia Innis worked with art teacher Kristine Harvey’s second grade students on a project that connected with the social studies curriculum. In second grade, students approach social studies through the context of their local community. With this in mind, Innis helped students create three-dimensional models of places in Frankfort or the surrounding area they thought of as special. Students first drew pictures of their special place and then used found materials such as cardboard, bottle caps, pine cones, twigs and pebbles to turn their two dimensional drawings into three dimensional reality. Every student’s vision was different and ranged from backyard spaces, to beach and picnic areas to vacation spots.

Traverse City High School Students engaging in community service at the Art Park.

This artist residency was funded by a grant from the Jewel Family Art Fund.

Elk Rapids High School: Sea Gull Mound and Flying Birds

Patricia Innis was selected to create an artwork for Walk of Art at Elk Rapids. Day Park. Like her work Robin at Michigan Legacy Art Park, Innis created Sea Gull Mound out of top soil. Sea Gull Mound has a wingspan of twelve feet, a body length of four feet, and is two feet high. Elk Rapids High School art teacher Luke Johnson took the opportunity for his honor students to work with Innis to create the mounds.

Innis continued to work with the students to create their own environmental art – birds made of branches and twigs and other things they found in nature. These birds are suspended over or near the mound creating a truly collaborative work of art. Sea Gull Mound and Innis’ work with the students was funded by a grant from Art Rapids.

Traverse City College Preparatory Academy: Community Service

On May 2, twenty students from Traverse City College Preparatory Academy and their teachers helped clear the trails at Michigan Legacy Art Park after the ravishes of winter. They spent nearly three hours working in the morning and after lunch they toured the Park. Norm Ling, Park volunteer who supervised the clean-up effort, said “The students did a wonderful job and a lot was accomplished.”

Restoring the Fort

Since Art Park founder David Barr stepped down from his position as artistic director in November 2010, keeping up with the maintenance needs of the sculpture collection has been challenging. That is until last summer, when Dewey Blocksoa offered to care for Stackate Labyrinth - the impressive fort situated at the highest point in the Park. The fort, as it is fondly called, is the destination point for most school field trips and is the highlight of the hike for visitors of all ages. David Barr is proud to have Blocksoa, a nationally-recognized artist, care for the Fort and has encouraged Blocksoa to “make it his own.” On your next hike through the Art Park, check out the Fort to see Blocksoa’s artistic restoration work for yourself.

Because of the outcome of the Fort restoration, Dewey Blocksoa now serves as sculpture conservator for the Art Park, monitoring the condition of each work of art and making repairs as needed. Of this new position, Blocksoa notes “One would think that taking a sculpture off its pedestal and moving it outdoors would be relatively simple, but with wind and snow, not to mention falling trees, nature can confound. I look forward to the challenge of extending the lives of the wonderful objects in the Park with attention to developing guidelines for future projects. The fun begins when the obvious approach fails, and you have to find a more creative solution. With input from artists and their audience I am sure we can approach these objectives in the coming year.”

Endowment

Consider making a Legacy Gift to the Michigan Legacy Art Park Endowment at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. The Community Foundation is home to the Endowment to benefit the Art Park, ensuring that its purpose and goals are met forever. The Community Foundation staff is available to offer guidance as you consider a planned gift to benefit the Michigan Legacy Art Park Endowment.

To make a Legacy Gift to the Michigan Legacy Art Park Endowment fund today visit gtrcf.org/give/our-funds/230 or call the Community Foundation at (231) 935-4066.

To learn more about planned giving please follow this link: gtrcf.org/planned

Wish List

Michigan Legacy Art Park is always in need of volunteers, building materials, and financial support. Here are some of the projects currently underway that need your help. Please contact Renee to pledge your support.

Six-passenger all-terrain vehicle = $12,000
Nestled as a priority in the master plan, this vehicle will allow for tours of the entire Park for those who are unable to hike, and will facilitate the maintenance of the art and trails.

Land survey = $2,000
A survey of the trailhead and amphitheatre areas is needed to accurately design a new barrier-free trail.

Looking to Learn = $2,000
Support the continued development of theme-based booklets that help teachers link the sculptures in the Art Park with the Core Content Curriculum.

Field trips = $550 each
Sponsor a class to explore the Art Park, create art, and deepen student understanding of Michigan history.

Volunteers = priceless
When you become a volunteer you join a great group of people who love art, nature, history, live music and children. There is always a need for more people to help with school field trips, grounds maintenance, special events, the Summer Sounds concerts and in the office. How our current volunteer opportunities online at michlegacyartpark.org/support/volunteer or call the Park office to sign-up.

Show Your Support – Become a Member Today!

Your annual membership will fund new art, support learning opportunities for children, and maintain the Art Park for future generations to learn, explore and be inspired.

Member Levels & Benefits

$50, Basic
• Complimentary year-round admission to the Art Park
• 10% discount on Art Park merchandise
• 20% discount on all workshops, tours and Summer Sounds concert admission
• Invitation to reception before the first concert of the Summer Sounds series

$100, Family
Members receive all of the above, plus:
• Complimentary admission for two adults to any one Summer Sounds concert

$250, Friend
Members receive all of the above, plus:
• 20% lodging discount at Crystal Mountain when booked within 14 days of arrival

$500, Supporting
Members receive all of the above, plus:
• Private guided tour of the Art Park for twelve

$750, Sustaining
Members receive all of the above, plus:
• Autographed copy of the book Michigan Legacy Art Park, by David Barr

$1,000, Legacy Society
Members receive all of the above, plus:
• Two complimentary VIP reservations to the Legacy Gala

Please contact me about volunteering

Method of payment:
• Check, made payable to Michigan Legacy Art Park
• Visa / Mastercard

Contact information:

Name:
Mailing Address:
Phone:
Email:

For credit card payments:

Card number:
Expiration Date:
3-Digit Security Code:
Billing Address:

Amount to be charged:
Cardholder signature:

Please detach this form, enclose your payment, and mail it to:
Michigan Legacy Art Park
12500 Crystal Mountain Drive
Thompsonville, MI 49683
Or process your membership online – it’s easy and secure:
michlegacyartpark.org/support/
**Michigan Legacy Art Park**

**David Barr**

Michigan Legacy Art Park by David Barr is available for purchase on Amazon.com, in the Park Store at Crystal Mountain, Horizon Books in Traverse City, or the Dennos Museum Center in Traverse City.

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**Michigan Legacy Art Park Inspires Public Art in Elk Rapids**

Walk of Art is a new outdoor, sculpture gallery scheduled to open in May 2013. Located in Elk Rapids, Walk of Art on the shore of Lake Michigan’s Grand Traverse Bay, Walk of Art is being developed by Art Rapids, a non-profit arts organization.

Sheri DeCamp, a member of Art Rapids says, "Atop the list of attributes that make Northern Michigan such a special place for me are the sublime beauty of the natural world around us and the region’s lively embrace of the arts. From its very inception, Michigan Legacy Art Park struck me as an imaginative way to blend these attributes for the benefit of artists, art lovers and the naturalist in all of us and at the same time to introduce “art ideas” to young minds in a playful way they understand. Art and nature are like lovers, each wrapped inseparably in the other, dancing their own steps to the same music. The Park understands this, and adheres to high standards. I have experienced it in all seasons; I have seen it ignite the imaginations of children of all ages. When Antrim County made the Elk Rapids Day Park available to us, it was Michigan Legacy Art Park that modeled the way for us.”

DeCamp says she read David Barr’s book, Michigan Legacy Art Park, for guidance when planning Walk of Art. Unlike Michigan Legacy Art Park, whose collection is mainly permanent, Walk of Art will be a gallery where the artwork is for sale. The Park will open with work by five artists, including Patricia Ianni, Art Park education director, and Bob Purvis, Art Park board member.

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**Letter to the President**

With your help, the Michigan Legacy Art Park has become a large outdoor public art museum, a learning laboratory about the history of our great state through the visual arts. Your support matters deeply—it nourishes the mission of the Art Park and helps us meet the organization’s strategic goals. The generosity of many donors has been pivotal for nearly seven hundred students from thirteen schools to explore the Art Park on field trips last year and strengthened the capacity and sustainability of the organization.

Many visitors to the Art Park let us know how delighted they are when they come upon a new work of art, study, snowshoe or ski the Park. Thus a goal of the Board of Directors is to install a new sculpture in the Park every year. We are grateful to our supporters who make it possible to commission projects like the Great Lakes Project by Brian Ferry. A year ago we dedicated Ferry’s Michigan in honor of Gov. and Mrs. William Milliken.

With a generous grant from Rotary Charities, the Board and individuals in the local community recently completed a master plan for the Art Park. The plan articulates strategies and design solutions that will make the Art Park and its programs accessible for every visitor and create a larger area dedicated to art education and exploration.

I invite you to be a supporter of the Art Park and help us tell the story of Michigan’s history through nature and art. Please be a part of the dream and become a member today.

—Maryl J. Whitman, President

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**Grants were received from these foundations:**

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs
For general operations

Rotary Charities
To develop a master plan for future development and accessibility

Roger and Joanna Cassens Fund
To undersign the Legacy Galls and the Summer Sounds concert series

Alms Underhill Oram Foundation
For general operations

Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
To develop a master plan that addresses accessibility issues

NorthShore Nonprofit Network / Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Mini Grant
For professional development for staff and Summer Sounds 2012 concert series

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**Letter from the President**

Dear Sponsors, Board Members, and Friends,

Your generosity and commitment to this project have helped make Michigan Legacy Art Park a reality. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Maryl J. Whitman, President

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**Michigan Legacy Art Park**

**Letter to the Director**

Dear Director,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the work you have done in the past year. Your leadership and dedication have made a significant impact on the organization.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the mission of the Michigan Legacy Art Park.

Sincerely,

Maryl J. Whitman, President

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**Michigan Legacy Art Park**

**Letter to the Board**

Dear Board Members,

I would like to express my appreciation for your hard work and dedication to the Michigan Legacy Art Park.

Thank you for your commitment to the mission of the organization.

Sincerely,

Maryl J. Whitman, President

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**Michigan Legacy Art Park**

**Letter to the Community**

Dear Community Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to thank you for your support of the Michigan Legacy Art Park.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to this project.

Sincerely,

Maryl J. Whitman, President
Summer Sounds 2013 Concert Series
Entertain your family and friends at a concert at the Art Park this summer.
The relaxed atmosphere and great music are a perfect way to enjoy a midsummer evening.

Fridays at 7 p.m.
SuMMER SOUNDS 2013 CONCERT SERIES

July 5: Heidi Hepler & Michèle Ramo Group
Defying categorization, this group features the vocal stylings of Heidi Hepler and Italian-born guitarist Michèle Ramo performing Latin Jazz and World music.

July 12: Miriam Picó & David Chown
Performing original songs and jazz standards this nationally recognized vocal / piano duo hails from Traverse City, Michigan.

July 26: Fauxgrass Quartet
Recently formed but now a mainstay in the Michigan folk music scene, this duo has been touching hearts for years.

NEW Summer Kick-Off 2013: Fairies and Forts Saturday, June 22, 2013 | 2 – 5 p.m.
What better way to usher in the celebration of long summer days than using your imagination in a natural setting. Children of all ages are invited to create their own fort or fairy house, flower tiaras, fairies, flags, and drums from found objects. Materials and light refreshments will be provided. Participants will march to the Fort to participate in the annual raising of the flag, listen to fairy tales, and have their face painted.

Free with general Art Park admission: $5 per adult, children free
Story time is presented by the Betsie Valley District Library.

Featured Programs

July 19: Ruth & Max Bloomquist
Recently formed but now a mainstay in the Michigan folk music scene, this duo has been touching hearts for years.

July 29: Heidi Hepler & Michèle Ramo Group
Performing original songs and jazz standards this nationally recognized vocal / piano duo hails from Traverse City, Michigan.

August 2: Tumbao Bravo
This critically acclaimed horn driven Cuban Jazz combo presents a way to enjoy a midsummer evening.

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
A portion of the fee benefits Michigan Legacy Art Park.

To register, email spa@crystalmountain.com or call 800.968.7686, ext. 7200. There are 3 sessions guests may sign up for. Guests are welcome to attend single or multiple sessions. Prices are based on individual sessions.

About the instructor: Leslie Hamp, creative catalyst, shows busy women and entrepreneurs how to focus their efforts, eliminate barriers, and unleash momentum and success. She is the author of Create the Life You Crave and its companion Beautiful Journal.

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Journaling for Health and Vitality with Leslie Hamp Thursday, June 13, 2013 | 9 a.m.
Saturday, June 15, 2013 | 9 a.m.
Tuesday, June 18, 2013 | 10 a.m.
It's no secret that many of us are caught up in the busy-ness of life — and experiencing stress because of the hectic pace. In this workshop you'll discover simple journaling techniques to reduce stress and burnout, and enhance self-care and resilience.

$79 per adult, includes 90 minute session with Leslie Hamp, a journal, day access to the Crystal Spa, lunch at the Thistle Pub & Grille, and a guided hike through Michigan Legacy Art Park. A portion of the fee benefits Michigan Legacy Art Park.

To register, email spa@crystalmountain.com or call 800.968.7686, ext. 7200. There are 3 sessions guests may sign up for. Guests are welcome to attend single or multiple sessions. Prices are based on individual sessions.

About the instructor: Leslie Hamp, creative catalyst, shows busy women and entrepreneurs how to focus their efforts, eliminate barriers, and unleash momentum and success. She is the author of Create the Life You Crave and its companion Beautiful Journal.

Creating Art Inspired Poems with Fleda Brown Monday, July 1, 2013 | 3:30-5:30

To register, visit michlegacyartpark.org and click on “Tours and Workshops” or call the Art Park office at (231) 378-4963. Registration is required by 4 p.m. on Friday, July 5.

Fleda Brown is Professor Emerita, University of Delaware, a faculty member of the Rainer Writing Workshop, and 2001-2007 Poet Laureate of the State of Delaware.

Family Day Sunday, October 6, 2013 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Bring the entire family to explore the Art Park this color season. Hands-on art projects, live music and scavenger hunts will keep everyone having fun. This event is free with general Art Park admission: $5 per adult, children free.

Legacy Gala 2013
Saturday, June 15, 2013 | 6 p.m.
Hosted by the City of Novi at the Novi Civic Center
Join us in honoring David Barr and Beth Dwain-Barr, the 2013 Legacy Award recipients of the Legacy Award. Explore the creation for the award, David Barr has been a sculptor for 50 years and is the founder of Michigan Legacy Art Park. David’s studio was in Detroit for fifteen years until he realized he needed nature as a source of inspiration. In 1977, he bought 4 acres of land in rural Oakland County (now Novi) and in 1979 built his home, a contemporary structure that has become the centerpiece of his own art park. David’s career as an artist, instructor and author and thinker has crossed borders around the world, bringing people and ideas together. The love of his life, Beth, has been David’s companion and inspiration throughout his career. As a professional dancer, choreographer and instructor Beth has touched the lives of many through her art.

The culminating act of appreciation for David’s artistic contributions and the inspiring home environment David and Beth have created, happened on August 20, 2012. The Novi City Council, looking forward to the nature and diverse future of Novi, voted unanimously to purchase David and Beth’s property and home with the intent of it becoming the city’s cultural center in several years. In the meantime, David and Beth will continue to live in and enjoy their home.

The Legacy Gala is a celebration of the life work of David and Beth and the stunning fundraising events for Michigan Legacy Art Park.

To make your reservations or to become a sponsor, send a check to: Michigan Legacy Art Park, 3250 Legacy Way, Novi, MI 48375, or visit our secure website: michlegacyartpark.org/events and click on “Legacy Gala.”

The Legacy Gala is sponsored in part by:
- The Roger and Joanna Garrett Fund
- David Mix and Mary Ann Cheney
- Bill Inman, Inc.
- Laurence and Patricia Booth
- Crystal Mountain
- D&W Mechanical
- Kroshus and Madeley
- Bob and Jane Holdeman
- D&W Mechanical
- Don & Melissa O’Clock
- Maurice and Linda White
- Judd’s Flowers
- L. Mawby Vineyards
- Special thanks to Fifth Third Bank and Shaw PPC. Design for head table support, all sponsors and donors, and the many volunteers who serve on the steering committee.