"An Educator's Dream"
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Focus, Grow, Expand, Impact – Make a Difference. Key words driving the current Michigan Legacy Art Park strategic planning process.

Our focus: a plan that builds on past successes and strengthens infrastructure. On that foundation, we’ll create a more impactful Art Park visitor experience and attract new artistic creativity.

We’ll expand our reach into area classrooms and encourage field trips to the Art Park with transportation funding. They’re an important audience – our children—and there’s more to the world than text and numbers. Through exposure to the arts and arts education, students learn to use their imaginations, exercise their motor skills, interpret, and critique visual information. Studies also show this kind of activity benefits language development, decision-making, inventiveness, cultural awareness, and even improved academic performance. Americans for the Arts reports that young people with regular exposure to the arts are “four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair, or to win an award for writing an essay or poem.”

Supported by an amazingly engaged board, dedicated staff, and your time, effort, and financial contributions, I can assure you Michigan Legacy Art Park will thrive. While keeping a focused eye on its mission, it will grow and expand and strengthen infrastructure. On that foundation, we’ll create a more impactful Art Park visitor experience and attract new artistic creativity.

YEAR IN REVIEW

By Renee Hintz, Executive Director

Over the last twelve months, Michigan Legacy Art Park has seen goals realized, projects come to fruition, and new opportunities arise. Here are some highlights:

• Hired Kaz McCue as Artistic Director to carry forward the artistic vision of our late founder, David Barr
• Built Sanctuary, a new destination within the park for rest and contemplation
• Exhibited seven artworks on loan and currently for sale by the artists
• Hosted John DeHoog and Brian Nelson as artists in residence to create Beacon Project
• Involved hundreds of students and teachers from schools in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Manistee, and Wexford counties
• Developed a new team-building program with teachers and students of The Pathfinder School
• Continued leading winter snowshoe tours with the general public and schools
• Presented our much loved “Special Places” art workshop for second graders at Frankfort Elementary School for the sixth consecutive year
• Featured Benzies Central High School Chamber Choir at our Winter Sounds holiday concert

The board and staff have developed a new strategic plan that will guide us through 2020 with a focus on impact, outreach, diversity, growth and stewardship. I’m excited by these fresh initiatives and new goals we have created in response to all of the feedback we received from you, our visitors, artists, musicians, teachers, and volunteers. I look forward to seeing you in the Art Park!

CLOCKWISE: Girl Scout troop #80040 teaches up Logging Camp. Channing & Quinn delight at Summer Sounds. Franklin students learn about clash of cultures at Shadow Stone Circle. Snapshots from the Legacy Gala: Snowshoe past Singing Tree. Pathfinder teachers learn environmental art techniques – Fall colors in the park – Sanctuary.

This past summer marked the culmination of Art Access for All—a three-year campaign that raised $380,764 for the Art Park.

With the support of many generous donors, improvements made possible by the campaign are expanding opportunities for people of all ages, needs and abilities to create, explore, learn, and reflect at Michigan Legacy Art Park.

See results of the campaign here: michlegacyartpark.org/support

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STAFF

RENEE HINTZ, Executive Director
renne@michlegacyartpark.org  
(231) 378-4963

KAZ McCUE, Artistic Director
kaz@michlegacyartpark.org

PATRICIA INNIS, Education Director
patricia@michlegacyartpark.org

TROY DUSHAND, Communications Manager

troy@michlegacyartpark.org

NORM LING, Park Maintenance

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INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

July 16 - August 7

Join environmental educator Ramona DeGeorge-Venegas this summer for all-ages interpretive programs that help develop a more personal relationship with art and nature.

PHOTO: DAVID MCGOWAN
Iron Fish is serving up their craft spirits—all to support the park.

Bring family and friends for a delightful evening of live music among the trees in the heart of the Art Park.

VOX VIDORRA
Friday, July 7
Lead by vocal phenom Molly Bouwsma Schultz, this Kalamazoo indie soul band is becoming one of the most popular acts in the state.

BLAKE ELLIOTT & THE ROBINSON AFFAIR
Friday, July 14
One of the hardest-working women in the northern Michigan music scene brings her retro bluesy rock to the amphitheater stage.

MOUNT VALOR
Friday, July 21
Interlochen songwriting instructor Kyle Novy returns to the Art Park to perform original songs from his ambitious “52 Songs” writing and recording project.

NESSA
Friday, July 28
This Celtic ensemble fuses traditional ballads and dances with elements of classical, folk, jazz, rock, and world music.

SWEET WATER WARBLERS
Saturday, August 5
Michigan folk music “supergroup” featuring Summer Sounds favorites Rachael Davis, May Erlewine, and Lindsay Lou.

NASHON HOLLOWAY BAND
Saturday, August 12
Equally at home in jazz, soul, and folk music, newcomer Nashon Holloway and her band bring a heartfelt performance all can enjoy.

THE BERGAMOT
Saturday, August 19
Poignant songwriting and Americana-infused indie rock, perfectly suited for the very special forest amphitheater setting.

PHOTO CREDITS

BONUS BENEFIT CONCERT!
Saturday, July 1
FREE - 7-9pm
Kick off a summer of great music with a special concert at Iron Fish Distillery to benefit the Art Park. Benjamin James and his band will be bringing dance-worthy funk and soul, food truck fare will be available, and Iron Fish is serving up their craft spirits—all to support the park.

MEMBERS RECEPTION
All current MLAP members are invited to attend this special reception preceding the Vox Vidorra concert. Please RSVP by June 25.

MUSIC IN THE AIR

FAIRIES & FORTS
Saturday, June 17 - 2pm
Free admission day
This fun family tradition officially kicks off summer at Michigan Legacy Art Park. Enjoy art projects at Discovery Grove, storyteller Jenifer Strauss, and a family concert from Brotha James. It all leads up to the annual march to the the Fort to raise the flag.

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES
July 7 - August 19, 2017 - 7-9pm
Tickets: $10 - Kids 12-and-under Free

2017 LEGACY GALA
Friday, August 4 - 6pm
Crystal Mountain, Crystal Center
$75 per person, sponsorship opportunities available
All proceeds from this signature fundraising event will directly support opportunities for art and learning at Michigan Legacy Art Park.
The 2017 Legacy Award will be presented to Doug and Anne Stanton, in recognition of their significant contributions to Michigan including their own prolific writing, vision for building community through literature, and commitment to sharing a love for writing and reading with the next generation.

2017 LEGACY GALA SPONSORS

FAIRIES & FORTS SPONSORS

SUMMER SOUNDS IS UNDERWRITTEN IN PART BY

MICHIGAN LEGACY ART PARK
GOLF CLASSIC

2017 GOLF CLASSIC SPONSORS

EVENT TICKETS AND INFO
To sponsor an event, purchase tickets, register, or make reservations, please visit the Art Park website.
michlegacyartpark.org/events or call (231) 378-4963.

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WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THIS NEW ROLE?

Following in David Barr’s footsteps. David was an incredible visionary, and what he did with his career and the foundation of Michigan Legacy Art Park was truly unique. I knew about David long before I ever set foot in the park, and his vision is one of the reasons I have been so involved with the park. Having the opportunity to continue David’s vision and help the Art Park move forward into the future is incredibly exciting.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE ART PARK GROWING?

One of the things I’ve inherited in this position is David’s “Legacy Framework,” which was a drawing he had done defining all the areas he saw as part of the Michigan experience. One of the things that makes the Art Park unique is the strong connection between the expression of the work and the history and environment of Michigan. As the Art Park grows I see us expanding the voices and inspirations that are defined in the Legacy Framework and working towards a greater diversity in terms of style, materials, and visual forms.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL MAKES THE ART PARK SPECIAL?

First, the park occupies an amazing natural space that just screams “Michigan.” I think the environment of the park makes for an awesome natural experience and the inclusion of visual works in the space helps create a unique sense of place. It is a fantastic way to encounter and consider the expressions of the artists presented within the park. Additionally, our “gallery” is fluid, ever-changing and dynamic... Wow!

AS A TEACHER, HOW DO YOU SEE ART EXPERIENCES AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE?

Our culture is so driven by technology and our connectivity has altered the way we move through our daily lives, communicate with each other, and the way we experience the world around us. We’re overwhelmed with images and information, and it all comes at us so very, very fast. Art, and particularly art as it is presented in the park, can force us to slow down, consider ideas more deeply, and interact more directly and more comprehensively. It is about experience, but it is also about real-world experience, not a second-hand iteration of an experience. For young people, these experiences can expand their understanding of the world they live in, enhance their own processes, and help them to explore their own imaginations.

BEACON PROJECT

This past summer, artists in residence John DeHoog and Brian Nelson created Beacon Project, based on the idea they call “sculp-itecture.” The form makes reference to lighthouses, water buoys, and smoke stacks (elements from both rural and urban Michigan landscapes). Architectural processes, materials, and principles were used, but for a sculptural end. The Eastern Michigan University instructors collaborated on the piece at the nearby Jean Noble Parsons Center, while involving their students in the experience.

“The piece pays respects simultaneously to our state’s history of experimental modern architecture and the resourcefulness of life up north.”

ON DIVERSITY

David Barr’s Diversity sits both literally and figuratively in the heart of Michigan Legacy Art Park. The integrity and messages wrapped up in both the form and expression continue as a standard by which this organization sets its bearings. It is at once a temple, a testament to the interconnectedness that sustains all things, yet in its brokenness, a cautionary tale of the fragility of those symbiotic relationships.

Moving into the future, the Art Park is committed to seek out and provide a platform for those stories from beyond the dominant narrative—beyond the margins—and present a place where anyone from any generation or gender or race or place can discover how “every thread is crucial.”

EACH HUMAN IS THE RESULT OF TWO, THOSE TWO OF FOUR, THOSE FOUR OF EIGHT AND SO ON UNTIL AFTER THIRTY GENERATIONS WE MATHEMATICALLY REALIZE THAT WE ALL MUST BE RELATED. OUR DIVERSITY IS OUR HUMAN TAPESTRY.

— David Barr, excerpt from the book Michigan Legacy Art Park

MEET KAZ MCCUE

Long-time Art Park friend and contributing artist Kaz McCue recently joined the organization as Artistic Director and Curator. In this role, he will guide the direction of the collection and carry forward the vision of the park’s late founder, David Barr. Along with his extensive experience, Kaz brings enthusiasm, dedication, and belief in the power of the arts to his new role.

MEET KAZ MCCUE

Kaz gives his Leelanau School students a ride to the park

SPRING 2016 • MICHLEGACYARTPARK.ORG 7
MICHIGAN IN MOTION

This year, students visiting the Art Park on school field trips will discover the important role forces such as wind and water have played in Michigan’s cultural and natural history.

The Michigan in Motion theme was developed in collaboration with the park’s Teacher Advisory Council, a group of educators from schools in Grand Traverse, Benzie and Leelanau Counties. Michigan in Motion is intended to provide teachers even more opportunities to connect their students’ Art Park experience to classroom learning, particularly in science and social studies. By engaging with the art in the park, students are able to gain fresh perspective on curriculum content, opening channels for new classroom discoveries.

Want to know more about field trips?

STUDENTS PITCH IN

Students from the Leelanau School and Interlochen Arts Academy came out on April 19 armed with buckets, scrub brushes, and rags to clean several sculptures. What an incredible difference it made with so many young people working together.

TRANSPORTATION Grant

A generous donor has made grants available for up to $500 to help with the transportation costs that often prohibit schools from taking field trips. Teachers can find grant applications on the MLAP website. michilegacyartpark.org/education

BEYOND THE BENEFITS By Mark Wierscinski

Education is a process. It is a process that establishes relationships, transcends curriculum, and provides a framework to attach experience. Engaging in the educational process is meant to be done as a participant and not as a spectator. As educational leadership mandates more and more focus on data and results, places like Michigan Legacy Art Park become integral in the education of a child.

As an elementary teacher in Thompsonville, I first looked into the Art Park as a field trip destination to simply get out and hike in an interesting location nearby. Upon first arrival with a group of fifth graders, I realized that this was going to end up being much more valuable than originally intended.

The obvious benefits of moving to an alternate venue for instruction and the incorporation of exercise were easily attained. How- ever, the additional and unforeseen bonus was the conversation. Students were able to take in what they are experiencing without rushing. Whether we embark on a guided tour or simply wander as a group, the students will ask me if I still take kids to the Art Park. Many northern Michigan students obtain exposure to art primarily at school. With art education being one of the first subjects to be cut due to district financial concerns, the importance of finding alternatives becomes essential.

Hiking throughout the park provides an opportunity to establish a pace for the kids to take in what they are experiencing without rushing. Whether we embark on a guided tour or simply wander as a group, the students always want to express their opinions of the sculptures and make connections to their own prior knowledge. This process is especially evident when we make return trips to the park and view the sculptures in a different season. Students find it very entertaining to compare and contrast the park first when flush with fallen leaves then blanketed in snow. Providing an interactive experience in which to view, discuss, and ultimately create art upon returning to school is integral for the development of a complete learner.

Beyond the benefits that I take from a field trip to the Michigan Legacy Art Park as an educator, probably the most important element associated with the park is fun. Students come to my class asking when we will “head to the park” as a result of a sibling’s story. Likewise, former students that I see will ask me if I still take kids to the Art Park. The common characteristic in all of these discussions is the smile. Kids love Michigan Legacy Art Park for what it provides on the whole. Eating lunch at the amphitheater, snowball fights around “The Maze,” art projects using natural materials, stories, jokes, and nonsense all elicit a smile from a positive experience. It is telling that the kids first mention the fun of the park when asked about their experience. However, with continued questioning, you begin to hear about their thoughts, reflections, and analysis of their adventure. Snaking a higher level learning experience based on art and history to a group of eleven year olds is not an easy task—the driving force of a fun experience makes this possible.

STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO OPEN THEMSELVES UP TO GREAT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, HISTORICAL REFERENCES, AND OPINIONS OF THE ART.

I ENTHUSIASTICALLY HAIL THIS PARK AS AN EDUCATOR’S DREAM.

— Jonathan Rineck, Sculpture.org
YOU MAKE THE INSPIRATION POSSIBLE

From sculpture installation and maintenance to concerts and youth education programs, your gifts directly benefit mission-driven activities.

THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE OF THESE DONORS FROM THE PAST YEAR

From May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017 these generous donors supported the park through various opportunities: membership, Golf Classic participation, Legacy Gala sponsorship, year-end appeal, Summer Sounds sponsorship, general donations, education program underwriting, and the Art Access for All campaign.

IN THE DETAILS: There is much inspiration to be found and stories to discover when you take your time and experience the smaller things in the park.

HELP CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY

You can make an impact at Michigan Legacy Art Park now and in the future.

Each year, over two-thirds of our annual operating budget is supported by gifts from people like you. We rely on donations from individuals, corporate sponsors, and foundation grants to implement the mission-driven activities happening now. Thank you!

Future gifts allow us to have predictable cash flows so that we can focus on our mission by reducing the amount of resources we put into annual fundraising activities. You can help by adding Michigan Legacy Art Park as a beneficiary of your will, trust, or life insurance policy; or by making a gift to the Michigan Legacy Art Park Endowment Fund at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

Consider a planned gift if you are at a transition in your life. If you have charitable giving in your estate plans, make sure to consult with your estate planning attorney and personal financial advisor. To learn more, please visit michlegacyartpark.org/donate and talk with your estate planning attorney and personal financial advisor.

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TO MAKE A DONATION
Visit michlegacyartpark.org/donate or call (231) 378-4963.

IN INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE DAY

Visitors enjoyed free admission and some fabulous spring sunshine on April 22 for International Sculpture Day. The day also included an Artist After Hours event in collaboration with Croochatch and Blackbird Arts that brought several first-time visitors to the Art Park.

$2,500 - 4,999
Dr. Richard and Susan Brightman Chemical Bank Dr. Thomas and Julie Davidson Roger Garrett Mary Beth Hendrix Bob and Jane Holcomb Richard and Dina Musick MB Products, Inc. Jim and MaryAnn Muthke Rich and Sue Smith Missouri and Linda White

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