DAVID BARR
1939-2015
REMEMBERING MLAP FOUNDER

JOSHUA DAVIS RETURNS
+ THE GO ROUNDS + TERRY BARBER
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE BLEND
ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE
FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was over 20 years ago that I hopped on one of four golf carts that precariously carried Michigan Legacy Art Park’s founder David Barr and several other founding board members over the cross country trails and pathways at Crystal Mountain. They were envisioning the ‘what could be’ if the Park were to find a home at Crystal.

I was just an observer then. But even now, as a member of the Board of Directors, the astounding growth, impact and potential of the Park continues to amaze me! From David’s early Sawpath Series, the Park now features 49 sculptures by artists from across Michigan. The Summer Sounds concert series at the improved amphitheater draws hundreds to the Park each summer. Thousands of area school children have experienced a treasure trove of learning opportunities at the Mo & Linda White Discovery Grove and throughout the Park.

As we’ve grown however, we’ve not lost sight of David’s vision to make art in all its many forms available and accessible to everyone. So we raised the funds to expand our Looking to Learn education programs to more effectively engage new generations; we added a pathway to the amphitheater that is more friendly to visitors with disabilities; we added a pathway to the amphitheater that is more friendly to visitors with all terrain vehicle—all steps toward making the Park as accessible as David had hoped it would be.

Our Art Access for All campaign helped fund all of this fabulous growth and change, and it’s drawing to a close. Your financial support is needed now to move us that much closer to reaching the ‘what could be’ vision of 20 years ago. Consider helping us help others travel the many paths we’ve carved out for them. In the meantime, I’ll see you in the Park.

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A NEW DEMOCRATIC CONCEPTION OF ART: SOME THOUGHTS ON DAVID BARR

by Kenneth Stevens

Next time you visit Michigan Legacy Art Park spend a moment with David Barr’s sculpture Solar Month and follow his suggestion to “Consider that if you were to travel the 45th parallel from this point you would pass through Bordeaux, France; Turin, Italy; Belgrade, Serbia; Bucharest, Romania; Bole, China and Heronoble, Japan.” As you mentally make that journey you are experiencing the artistry, insight and vision of the Art Park’s founder.

David envisioned a world where everything was “knotted into elegant sometimes invisible nets.” In his book Crossing Lines he described an “…inclusive tapestry of global cultures, distinctive characters….” Whether an idea arose from inventions like latitude and longitude, human and natural boundaries, the probing of science, evolving nature or countless other inspirations, David Barr created art that expressed the relationships in new visual translations. “I do not want to illustrate or compete with reality, rather to… create an experience that can deepen our sensitivity to the original and interwoven dependencies of life. David did not want to paint or model a bird; he “did want to create an innovative sculptural experience of soaring.”

It has been 50 years since David Barr began that journey you are experiencing the artistry, insight and vision of the Art Park’s founder.

David Barr’s sculpture Solar Month and his idea of the 45th parallel is an innovative sculptural experience of soaring. His sculptures span the Bering Straits, comment on national boundaries and commemorative industry and labor. Here in the Art Park David realized a dream to create a place that “harmoniously integrates nature, education, art and history” and strives to fulfill his desire for a new democratic conception of art as a “legacy to future citizens, not an asset in some billionaire’s vault.” Here too is where he found his “deepest sense of peaceful fulfillment... I love to integrate an intimate creation into a natural setting. This somehow connects me to this transitory planet with its fragile film of atmosphere and our ephemeral coexistence.”

Michigan Legacy Art Park is a place where we can all share with David Barr “The surprise submerged in the idea.”

David Barr, who brought his expansive artistic vision to Michigan and the world, died peacefully August 28, 2015 at the age of 75.

Ken Stevens is Professor Emeritus at Eastern Michigan University. He is a former MLAP board president, long-time friend and volunteer at the Art Park.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS
July 16 - August 7 Saturday and Sunday mornings, drop in between 9am and Noon

Children and adults are invited to explore the Art Park this summer with artist-in-residence Nancy McKay. Nancy will be stationed at the Mo & Linda White Discovery Grove to greet visitors and lead interpretive programs including journaling and observation.

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MICHLEGACYARTPARK.ORG • SPRING 2016
SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

July 1 - August 13, 7-9 pm
Tickets: $10 • Kids 12-and-under Free
Unless marked otherwise
Tickets are available online: michlegacyartpark.org/events
or call (231) 378-4963.

Bring family and friends for a night of entertainment at an Art Park concert this summer.

For twenty years, concert-goers have enjoyed the fresh air, relaxed atmosphere and great music of Summer Sounds, a perfect way to spend a midsummer evening. This year, thanks to some generous sponsors, we are excited to expand our series to seven weeks!

THE CRANE WIVES
Friday, July 1
Female-fronted harmony-driven folk-rock/pop band has become a big favorite around Michigan.

MEMBERS RECEPTION
All current MLAP members are invited to attend this special reception preceding The Crane Wives concert.
Please RSVP by June 25: renee@michlegacyartpark.org or (231) 378-4963

CHANNING & QUINN
Friday, July 8
Quirky indie folk duo blends theatrics with sincerity.

RACHAEL & DOMINIC DAVIS
Friday, July 15
Michigan couple return from Nashville to captivate with magical voices, songwriting and musicianship.

THE GO ROUNDS
Friday, July 22
Genre-blending Kalamazoo band building a big buzz up north this year, thanks to their collaborative spirit and energetic live act.

DREW HALE
Friday, July 29
National champion at the 34th Annual Country Showdown, Drew Hale was named “Best New Act In Country Music.”

JOSHUA DAVIS
Friday, August 5
Tickets: $25, Kids: $10
Northern Michigan hero returns to the MLAP amphitheater stage to bring his uncanny gift for connecting with audiences across generations through his music.

TERRY BARBER
Saturday, August 13
Tickets: $15, Kids: $5
Back by popular demand, internationally-acclaimed countertenor Terry Barber will perform “Around the World in 80 Minutes.”

FAIRIES & FORTS
Saturday, June 18
55 Park Admission, Kids Free
This fun family tradition officially kicks off summer at Michigan Legacy Art Park. Local musician Patrick Niemisto is well-known and loved by kids, youth, and adults alike for his engaging, humorous and thoughtful performances. Flex your creative muscles with a craft at Discovery Grove and join the parade to the Fort for the annual flag-raising.

FORE THE FUTURE: GOLF CLASSIC FUNDRAISER
Tuesday, June 7
Noon Registration - 1pm Shotgun Start
Crystal Mountain, Mountain Ridge Course
$85 per person, sponsorship opportunities available
Register your team online: michlegacyartpark.org/golf
or call (231) 378-4963.

The Michigan Legacy Art Park Golf Classic is a team scramble at Crystal Mountain with games, prizes, and a BBQ dinner.

Proceeds from the Golf Classic will benefit hundreds of area students through our Liking to Learn education programs. This event promises to not only be a fun day on the links with friends and colleagues but will help make sure the Art Park continues to inspire well into the future.

2016 GOLF CLASSIC SPONSORS

2016 LEGACY GALA
Friday, August 19 - 6pm
Crystal Mountain, Crystal Center
$75 per person, sponsorship opportunities available
Sponsor, make your reservation, and view auction items: michlegacyartpark.org/events
or call (231) 378-4963.

This signature fundraising event for the park features fabulous auctions, a sparkling wine reception, a locally-sourced dinner and live music. The 2016 Legacy Award will be presented to Gene Jenneman and the Dennos Museum Center in recognition of 25 years of arts inspiration, collaboration, accessibility and leadership in northern Michigan. Jenneman was hired in 1988 by Northwestern Michigan College to supervise the planning, construction and direction of the Dennos Museum in Traverse City. The museum opened in 1991, and Jenneman continues to serve as its founding Executive Director. While overseeing the building of the Dennos Museum, Jenneman also became a founding board member of Michigan Legacy Art Park.
NEW TROUT
Sculptor, angler, and long-time friend of David Barr, Gary Kulak was commissioned by the Art Park to create a new trout for Barr’s installation, Big Two Hearted. With this restoration, visitors can once again fully appreciate the Hemingway tribute. 
“As David Barr might say, ‘Literature and Art support each other in Big Two Hearted.’ While working on the Trout I immersed myself with the being of a trout, allowing that energy to flow through me and into the work.”
—Gary Kulak

ARTIST BENCHES INSTALLED
As part of the Art Access for All campaign, six new artist-designed benches have been installed in the park to provide a place for visitors to rest and take in their surroundings.

Bench Artists Include: Tim Burke of Harper Woods; Bart Ingraham of Suttons Bay; Joe Krajkiewcz of Grandville; Sam Soet of Farwell; Thomas Zaroff of Saint Joseph; Cozette Phillips of Monmouth, IL (by way of Mt. Pleasant).

NEW ENTRY GALLERY EXHIBIT
Visitors to the Art Park are now greeted by new artwork. Seven pieces were selected by a jury from proposals submitted by artists over the winter. The two-year exhibit features five works in the entry gallery and two along the new ADA-compliant trail—one of which is an outdoor photography collection by Kaz McCue.

Works included in this exhibit are: Proud Flesh by Andrew Kline, Monument by Cozette Phillips, Lake Cloud Sky by Kathy Rose Pizzo, King Stanley by David Petrakovitz, Sister by Maureen Gray, Hardwoods by Sam Soet, and Freaks of Nature by Kaz McCue.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
July 14: public open studio at the Parsons Center
July 18 and 19: artists will be working in the Art Park
July 19: public presentation at the Art Park

Eastern Michigan University professors of art, John DeHoog and Brian Nelson, will be artists in residence this summer. During the course of their residency at the Art Park, they will develop an installation in the art studio at the Parsons Center in nearby Lake Ann, involve EMU students, and engage the public through open studio time. The final installation will include student pieces surrounding their larger artwork along the accessible trail at the Art Park. While the actual form, dimensions, and details will be developed during the residency, the work will be based on the idea of “Sculp-itecture”, with architectural and sculptural qualities. The piece will pay respect simultaneously to our state’s history of experimental modern architecture and the resourcefulness of life “up north.”

NEW TROUT FOR BIG TWO HEARTED IN PROGRESS

NEW LIFE FOR WHEELS OF PROGRESS
Dewey Blocksma has recreated Wheels of Progress, which had been damaged beyond repair by a falling tree. Overall, the new kinetic work is lighter, stronger, more colorful, and more responsive to lighter winds—creating an even more amusing discovery for visitors.

Simple machines can capture the natural power of the wind blowing across the Great Lakes. While the weather vane indicates the wind’s direction, the windmill harnessed its power for the purposes of human industry. The artist uses both natural and synthetic materials to suggest the tension between the natural and fabricated worlds. The playfulness of the form suggests how people in a consumer society understand progress.


—Dewey Blocksma, Artist
Football Players Give Back
Coach Jason Katt brought his Benzie Central varsity and junior varsity football teams to the Art Park for a day of volunteer service on May 14. These hard-working teens dug spillways around the amphitheater for erosion control, removed stick piles, and assisted artist Patricia Innis with spreading new mulch on her environmental installation Serpent Mound.

Stewardship Day
Some devoted volunteers came out for the annual Stewardship Day this April and worked hard to clean up trails and get the park looking fabulous for summer.

Advanced Tree Removal
Last November, Rob Mummey from Advanced Tree Removal volunteered his services to remove a large beech which had snapped off at 20 feet up and landed on the trail. He also took down a tree with potential to fall and damage John Richardson’s Ontonagon sculpture.

New Teacher Advisory Council
A teacher advisory council has been created to work with education director Patricia Innis. The council is developing field trip themes to provide more engaging Art Park experiences for students and resources to support area teachers. Interested in serving on the council? Contact: patricia@michlegacyartpark.org

Little Free Library
Michigan Legacy Art Park is now home to a Little Free Library. Special thanks to Amy Schaezy for underwriting this new addition to the park in honor of her parents, George and Barb Carroll. Little Free Library is an organization that promotes literacy around the world with over 32,000 free book exchanges. On your next visit to the Art Park, find a new favorite book!

Frankfort Students “Special Place”
Patricia Innis spent four days this spring working with Frankfort Elementary School art teacher Kristine Harvey’s 2nd grade students. Students created 3-D models of their special place out of recycled materials and things found in nature. Harvey said “These miniature dioramas are powerful messages that show adults something we’ve been wanting to do for a long time” says MLAP Executive Director, David McPhail. Some grants and generous donors have partially underwritten field trip transportation, allowing more children and new schools greater access to the park.

Family Craft Day
Michigan Legacy Art Park collaborated with the Betise Valley District Library and Benzie Recycling to bring a winter craft day to the families of Thompsonville. Over two dozen children and adults participated, experiencing the joy of creating art together. Families were given complimentary Art Park admission passes to encourage them to take advantage of this great resource right in their backyard.

A Day in the Park for Students with Disabilities
Traverse City organization Arts for All in partnership with TBASD and TCAPS brought over 80 students with disabilities to the Art Park for guided tours and art projects this spring. “This is something we’ve been wanting to do for a long time” says MLAP Education Director, Patricia Innis. “Our new accessible trail and working with Arts for All Director, Dayna Ryan, have finally made it possible.” Photo Credit: John Bullington

Looking to Learn
Hundreds of students—from pre-school through high school—visited the park this past year for field trips, including four schools making their very first trip to Michigan Legacy Art Park.

Teachers love coming to the art park because their students get to make connections for themselves between the sculpture and subjects they study in school. It broadens their perspective and leads to “aha” moments. Students love getting outdoors, walking the trails, and discovering art in a new way.

The students create environmental art projects using objects found outdoors, giving them a chance to connect directly with nature, learn to collaborate, and experience for themselves a growing genre in the art world.

Some grants and generous donors have partially underwritten field trip transportation, allowing more children and new schools greater access to the park.

Thank You Volunteers!
Committees are planning projects, guides are leading tours and field trips, postcards are mailed, trails are maintained and the vision of this park is directed every single day by the hard work of our passionate volunteers. From the cleanup crew to Board of Directors, the priceless passion of Art Park volunteers continues to make inspiration possible at Michigan Legacy Art Park.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? From event staff, maintenance assistance, planning committees, and education support, there are plenty of unique opportunities to use your skills to inspire others through the park. Visit michlegacyartpark.org/volunteer or call (231) 378-4963.
The Art Access for All Campaign is an opportunity for everyone. Give today and make the Art Park’s journey to a new future possible. Be a part of the legacy of Michigan Art and culture.

TO MAKE A DONATION
Visit michigang8power.org or call (231) 378-4963.
Michigan Legacy Art Park
12500 Crystal Mountain Drive
Thompsonville, MI 49683

ART, NATURE & HISTORY MEET WITH ART PARK FIELD TRIPS

STUDENTS SEEK HIDDEN IMAGES IN MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER BY DAVID PETRAKOVTZ