

Michigan *Legacy* Art Park

Mission

Enriching lives through experiences that connect art, nature, and Michigan's history.

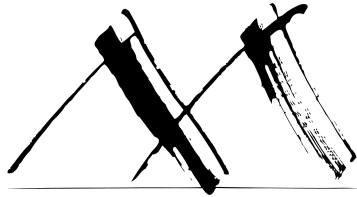
The Organization

Michigan Legacy Art Park is a sculpture park dedicated to sharing the stories of the people, events and natural resources that continue to shape the legacy of Michigan. With fifty impressive works of art, a summer concert series, children's programs and hiking trails, the Art Park provides a rich cultural and educational experience for thousands of people annually. Michigan Legacy Art Park adds to the quality of life for northern Michigan residents and feeds the local economy as it attracts tourists to the area.

Founded by the late internationally acclaimed artist David Barr in 1995, the Art Park is a natural extension and reflection of his work and global influence. Barr was awarded the Governor's Michigan Artist Award in 1988. In his acceptance speech, he told the audience of his desire to create a Michigan Art Park – a place where artists could tell the story of our state through the fundamental materials of nature. At the time, Barr felt that there was something missing in Michigan – a place that expressed Michigan's history through the arts. Illustrations or artifacts of that history already existed, but he wanted contemporary artists to bring that history to fresh and vivid life. David died in August, 2015.

Michigan Legacy Art Park is located on a 30-acre preserve of wooded hills in Benzie County. For the past twenty years, Crystal Mountain has leased this land to the Art Park. With a lease renewed in 2015 at the same generous rate of \$1 per year, the Art Park looks forward to another thirty years at Crystal Mountain. The partnership between Crystal Mountain and Michigan Legacy Art Park has been from its inception one of a shared vision. This relationship is based on a unique model of appropriately shared land, facilities and staff support. Because of this sustainable model, the Art Park uses its resources efficiently and garners the support of individuals, foundations and corporations to provide the following mission-driven activities:

- Exhibits major works of art in an outdoor setting
- Gives docent-led tours for groups
- Features interpretive signs at every work of art for meaningful self-guided tours
- Offers field trips, on-site projects, and student exhibitions in Discovery Grove
- Provides in-school workshops and artist residencies
- Publishes materials for educators, including links to curriculum, lesson plans and activities



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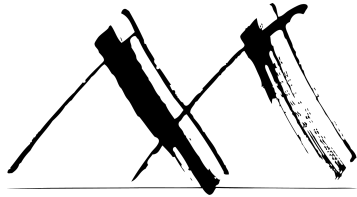
- Presents Summer Sounds, a series of performances at the newly rebuilt amphitheater
- Honors an individual, group or organization that has influenced Michigan's arts, history or culture in a positive way with the Legacy Award at the annual Legacy Gala
- Encourages a healthy lifestyle through hiking, exposure to art and nature, and a place for deep reflection and serenity
- Offers vehicle tours for those with limited mobility
- Maintains the artwork to ensure artistic integrity of the collection
- Maintains the grounds for aesthetics and visitor safety

The Art Access for All campaign launched in January 2014 with a goal of raising \$500,000 to accomplish the necessary capital improvements and strategic goals of the organization. The most significant MLAP campaign to date, it started with significant support from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Rotary Charities and a major gift from Maurice and Linda White. The campaign has reached 74% of its goal. Major projects supported and completed by this campaign include:

- Increased capacity of the organization by hiring an Education Director
- Built an ADA compliant arrival area and 1/4-mile trail from the parking lot to the amphitheater
- Rebuilt the amphitheater featuring a new deck and outdoor furniture
- Expanded and named the Mo and Linda White Discovery Grove—the art education, exploration, and exhibition area for children
- Installed Communications Vine, a new sculpture by Eric Troffkin
- Commissioned and installed six new artist-designed benches
- Purchased a six-passenger all-terrain golf cart to provide tours for people who are unable to hike the hilly terrain
- Built a garage to store for the golf cart, outdoor furniture and other important Art Park tools
- To better share with the public the vision, artistry and scope of MLAP, an overview video was created in 2015

Collection

Michigan Legacy Art Park boasts a collection of fifty major works of art and thirty-one poetry stones. Each sculpture and each poem help express the Michigan experience, giving visitors a more personal connection to the people, events and natural resources that continue to shape our great state. <http://www.michlegacyartpark.org/sculptures/>



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Education

Every school year since 1996, MLAP has offered field trips to northwest Michigan schools. Students discover sculptures and poetry stones tucked in nature that inspire discussions in history, geography, science, language arts and the environment. Through abstract thought processes, textbooks spring to life as the students discover the sculptures in the woods. Field trips are designed to help teachers reach their curricular goals, connect children with nature through a hands-on environmental art project, and get children moving their bodies as they hike a two-mile trail through the woods along hilly terrain.

A Teacher Advisory Council was created in 2016 to support the education director. The council includes five teachers from different schools working together to develop field trip themes to provide more engaging experiences for students and online resources to support area teachers.

Amphitheater

The Jessie Frohlich Amphitheater was built in 1995. An acoustic engineer helped choose the acoustically ideal location, and Michigan architect Bob Holdeman designed the venue. Summer Sounds concert series have been presented in this amphitheater every summer since 1996. Its terraced seating accommodates about 150 people, with additional space for another 50 people to bring lawn chairs and picnic blankets. The amphitheater was rebuilt and expanded in 2015.

Discovery Grove

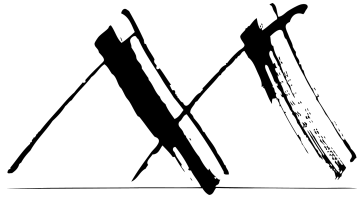
Discovery Grove is an elongated deck lined by a partial wall on one side, where guests can view student artwork and creative writing posted on the wall. It was expanded in 2015.

Sanctuary

This structure was designed by Art Park volunteer and former board member, David Williams, and was built in 2016. It is a new destination along the ridge and inspires visitors to rest and contemplate their surroundings. A sculpture by Les Scruggs will be installed within Sanctuary in summer 2017.

Entry Gallery

Sculptures in the guest parking area are displayed for up to two years, and are for sale. This exhibit area is not limited to artists who already have a work in the permanent collection of the Art Park. The works do not need to tell a story of Michigan's history; rather, they must uphold high artistic standards to express the current culture of Michigan.



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Gatehouse

The welcome center was built in 2003. The building is used by volunteers who greet visitors throughout the summer and on concert evenings to sell admission to the concerts, give information about the Park, and sell Art Park related merchandise.

Artist / Educator building

This structure was constructed at the same time as the trailhead building, and was also designed by Bob Holdeman. It is mainly used for storage of materials and tools for artists.

Interpretive and Wayfinding Signs

New signs have been installed throughout Crystal Mountain to guide visitors to the Art Park entrance. To enhance a visitor's experience within the Park, interpretive and wayfinding signs that were funded by individuals and foundations have been installed throughout the park.

Trails

Trails throughout the Art Park are unpaved and hilly. The Art Park owns an all-terrain golf cart to transport patrons to all programs at the amphitheater, and is also used on tours. Tours are offered every Wednesday and Saturday throughout the summer months at 10 a.m. Reservations are required. This facilitates park access for those not able to walk the trails.

Staffing

Michigan Legacy Art Park was an all volunteer-driven organization until 2003 when the first part-time park manager was hired. Today, the Art Park is led by Renee Hintz, Executive Director, along with three part-time staff: Kaz McCue, Artistic Director; Patricia Innis, Education Director; and Troy DeShano, Communications Manager.

Awards

Over the years, the Art Park, its programs and collaborations have earned these awards:

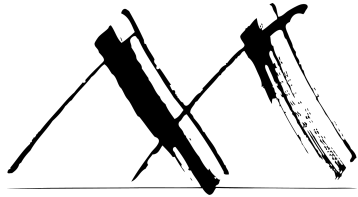
1998: Governor's Arts Award, given to Crystal Mountain supporting the Art Park

2004: Great Lakes Community Arts Award, Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies

2004: Community Service Award, Traverse Area Arts Council, given to Crystal Mountain for supporting the Art Park

2005: E. Ray Scott Award, ArtServe Michigan, given to former Art Park board president Kenneth Stevens for his work in education at Eastern Michigan University and the Art Park.

2009: Governor's Award for Innovative Tourism Collaboration, Michigan Travel Commission



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2014: President's Plaque, Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.