

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



New Public Art Sculptures Added in Rockford's Downtown and Surrounding Area

Sculptures to be on display through 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2018

Rockford, IL – The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) is pleased to announce a new Forest City Beautiful effort unveiling **thirteen new sculptures** to be on display in the Rockford region until the **summer of 2020**. Eleven of the thirteen new sculptures will be installed throughout the Rockford region today, **Monday, June 25** as part of a project entitled, **“Sculpture Walk Biennial.”** The remaining two sculptures will arrive in the middle of July. The sculptures can be viewed at various locations in Downtown Rockford, Main/Auburn Roundabout and West State Street.

Out of thirty-five submissions, **nine different artists** from the Midwest were carefully chosen by a selection committee for the opportunity to feature their work at various locations in the Rockford region. The artists are Ruth Aizuss Migdal, Teresa Lind, Christopher Newman, Ben Pierce, Bruce Niemi, Paul Bobrowitz Jr., Bill McGrath, Andrew Arvanetes and Gary Kulak.

The artists and their sculptures will be welcomed to the Rockford area with a reception on **Monday evening, June 25** at Woodfire Brick Oven Pizza located at 408 E. State Street, Rockford, IL.

“We are extremely grateful to all of the artists for generously loaning their works of art to this latest public art installation and to Bruce Niemi who helped reach out to them initially. It’s quite an honor to work alongside individuals who have a desire to see the Rockford region flourish and to work with folks who are willing to do whatever it takes to bring monumental sculptures to our community,” said Tana Vettore, RACVB director of destination development. “This is truly an effort that was produced from the goodness of many people reaching out asking how they could go the extra mile to help. Our community is a great example of how collaboration results in ongoing success.”

RACVB would like to recognize the following donors for their support and contributions that brought this art to the Rockford Region: Jake Brubaker, Tom & Darlene Furst, Lisa & Mark Lindman, Joe & Sharyn Castrogiovanni, Marge & Kyle Bevers, Jennifer Furst/FurstStaffing, Anonymous in honor of Joy Meyers, SupplyCore, Pat & Erin Tulley, Mary Ann Smith, Marcia Mueller & Chuck Prorok, B & B Properties, 23-WIFR, Al & Abbe Castrogiovanni/Alchemy, Bobbie Holzwarth & Norm Lindstedt and Chad Anderson.

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Since 2015, **Forest City Beautiful** has been working to revitalize Rockford's downtown areas to improve the quality within the city center. Forest City Beautiful has enhanced downtown streetscapes, way-findings, walkways, and other public areas. The addition of these sculptures will provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to enjoy sculptures created by artists in the Midwest region.

RACVB hopes to continue raising funds through its RACVB Foundation, a 501(c) 3 non-profit, to be able to purchase one or more of the pieces for permanent display. Details and more information about the 2018-2020 Sculpture Walk Biennial and a map can be found at www.gorockford.com/publicart.

The mission of the RACVB is to drive quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development. www.gorockford.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Andrea Cook, RACVB associate director of marketing & communications: 815.489.1664 or acook@gorockford.com