



Contact

Janet Cooper
Dublin Arts Council
cooper@dublinarts.org
office 614.889.7444
cell 614.256.6831

Dublin Arts Council Announces M.L. "Red" Trabue Nature Reserve Public Artwork Finalists

DUBLIN, Ohio— (Nov. 4, 2021) Dublin Arts Council Executive Director David S. Guion announced today that three artist finalists have been chosen by the M.L. "Red" Trabue Nature Reserve Public Artwork selection committee to develop a site-specific proposal to create a public artwork to be installed in the summer of 2023 in Dublin, Ohio's M.L. "Red" Trabue Nature Reserve, a 90-acre park with entrances at 6835 Avery-Muirfield Dr. and 6455 Post Rd. The site's features include restored wetland and vernal pools, a boardwalk, biking and walking paths, stocked fishing ponds, an arboretum and the historic Fleming log cabin, which was built in 1865. The nature reserve was named after "Red" Trabue, a Dublin naturalist, journalist and television pioneer.

The artwork will be the latest large-scale permanent artwork of the Dublin Art in Public Places program, which was begun in 1988. Dublin's collection, including more than 60 large and small-scale permanent, temporary and interactive public art projects, is currently valued at \$3.8 million.

An eight-member committee selected the finalists from a national pool of 151 artist applicants representing 33 states. Applicants submitted qualifications and photos of completed public artworks, a letter of interest and a community engagement statement as part of the application process. The finalists will visit Dublin on Nov. 19 in preparation for developing a site-specific proposal for the artwork. A presentation by the finalists to the selection committee and the community is planned for January 2022.

The finalists are:

Ilan Averbuch – Averbuch is a public artist based in Long Island City, N.Y., whose artwork is featured in public spaces and collections in the United States, Canada, Israel, India and Europe. His large-scale artworks are made from materials such as stone, wood, steel, copper, lead, glass and aluminum, and often include recycled materials. Averbuch has been selected for seven major public commissions within the past five years.

Adam Kuby – Kuby is based in Portland, Ore., and embraces creative community voices in his process. His extensive background in the field of landscape architecture informs his understanding of public space and contemporary placemaking strategies. His artworks are collaborations with the built and natural world that foster a sense of connectedness in an increasingly fractured environment. Kuby has been selected for nine major public commissions within the past five years.

StudioKCA – StudioKCA of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a multidisciplinary art, architecture and design studio, led by Jason Klimoski and Lesley Chang. They use material, light and form to tell a story about the intersections of nature, conservation, science and technology; creating meaningful objects and experiences that reflect the heart of the community in public spaces within rural and urban contexts. StudioKCA has been selected for 12 major public commissions within the past five years.

“The finalists are well-respected, prestigious award-winning public artists who have successfully completed numerous national and international commissions,” said Guion. “The committee has done a remarkable job in selecting these accomplished artists to develop fully-articulated design plans for, and with, our community.”

The selection committee includes:

Kristin Helmick-Brunet, a curatorial associate in the Department of Exhibitions at the Wexner Center for the Arts;

Neha Dadich, Ph.D., a local artist with a master’s degree in visual arts and a Ph.D. in Folk Arts from Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, India;

Mary H. Gray, retired Ohio Arts Council Riffe Gallery Director;

David S. Guion, Ph.D., Dublin Arts Council Executive Director and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy at the Ohio State University;

Michael Hiatt, earned a bachelor’s degree in art and technology and Master of Landscape Architecture, serving as landscape architect with City of Dublin’s Parks Department;

Joan Langholz Krause, Ph.D., a Dublin Arts Council board member and counselor at Columbus Public Schools' Arts Impact Middle School;

Char Norman, Emeritus Dean of Faculty at Columbus College of Art & Design; a local artist specializing in fiber sculpture and papermaking;

Barbara Ray, Nature Education Coordinator for City of Dublin and founding partner of the Ohio Wildlife Cooperative.

The committee will deliberate following the finalists' presentations to select an artist for the commission. Announcement of the \$150,000 all-inclusive award will be made after approval of the jury's recommendation by Dublin City Council. The Dublin Art in Public Places program is administered by Dublin Arts Council and is funded, in part, through an endowment of Hotel/Motel Tax funds from the City of Dublin.

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About Dublin Arts Council

Dublin Arts Council (DAC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a thriving local arts agency which administers comprehensive, engaging programs including a variety of award-winning Art in Public Places projects, a yearlong Visual Arts Series, the annual DAC Sundays at Scioto concert series and classes and workshops at the Dublin Arts Center. DAC is committed to programs and events with strong emphasis on education and community-building. DAC serves as a community convener and thought leader for using art as a catalyst for social change and cultural cohesion. Dublin Arts Council engages the community, cultivates creativity and fosters life-long learning through the arts. DAC is supported in part by the City of Dublin's hotel/motel tax which was established to improve quality of life for residents, corporate citizens and visitors through community investment in projects and events that enhance visitor appeal, enrich the aesthetic of public property, provide cultural arts experiences, support business, attract positive local, regional and national attention, and encourage overnight stays in Dublin. DAC is also supported by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically. In addition, Dublin Arts Council is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, fundraising events, classes, gallery sales and in-kind contributions. Dublin Arts Council is located at 7125 Riverside Dr. in Dublin, Ohio. Gallery hours are by appointment Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the second Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 614.889.7444 or visit <https://dublinarts.org/>.