

The Community Art Legacy

Oregon, Illinois



A Decade of Sculptures, 2005 - 2015

The Community Art Legacy is a committee of the Fields Art Project, a non-profit organization in Oregon, IL, with a goal of promoting art and agriculture, two defining aspects of Oregon's heritage.

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The Community Art Legacy formed in 2004 by a group of Oregon citizens with the purpose of installing “ten sculptures in ten years” in Oregon. Its motivation was to continue Oregon's artistic heritage and add beauty and interest to the community. The Community Art Legacy held a competition each year in which sculptors submitted maquettes (models) of work to the Fields Art Project's theme: “*bringing art and agriculture together*”. The winning sculptor received an award and then enlarged the maquette to a “life-size” sculpture which was then molded and cast in bronze. This project has been funded almost entirely by annual donations from Oregon's citizens and businesses.

Extending Beyond Oregon

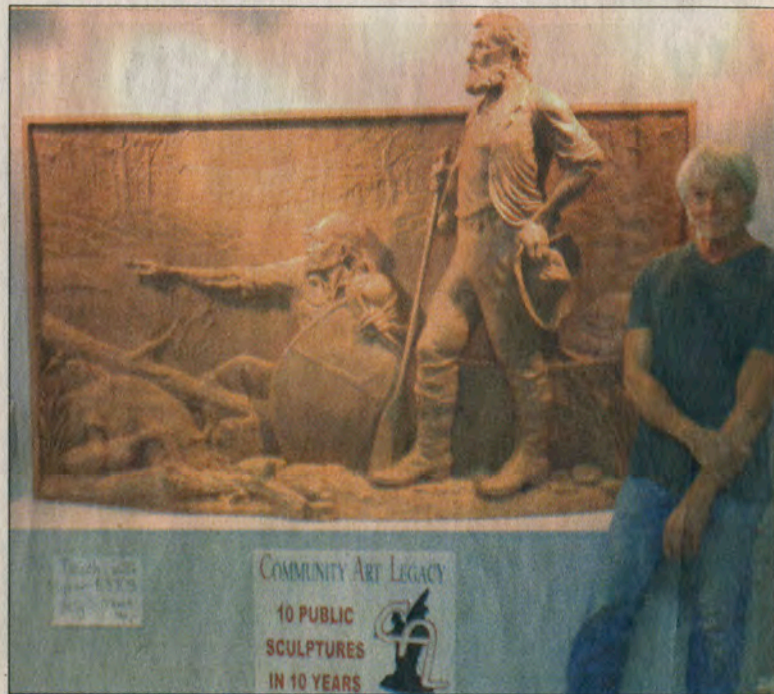
The Community Art Legacy's “10 sculptures in 10 years” project has begun to receive much public attention outside of Oregon. The project was recently a featured segment on NPR radio. The project has also been featured in a Chicago outdoor art blog. Also, several of the statues sculpted for the Community Art Legacy project have won awards at other major sculpture contests. Additionally, some have been purchased and installed in other parks and museums across the country. For example, a second edition of CAL sculpture #4, *Bountiful Bench*, won the 2012 International Sculpture Show, was displayed as part of Chicago's Artwork Along the Lake exhibit, and presently is part of Kenosha, Wisconsin's Lakefront Sculpture Walk. A second edition of CAL sculpture #5, *Solar Reef*, is displayed prominently as part of the Sioux City Art Center's permanent collection in Sioux City, South Dakota. Subsequent editions of CAL sculpture #1, *From the Waters Comes My Bounty*, have won Best of Show (out of 155 entries) in the Sioux Falls International Sculpture Walk; have been installed in Benson Park in Loveland, Colorado; and have appeared in galleries in South Dakota and Wyoming. The sculpture has been purchased by private collections in Colorado, North Carolina, Wyoming, and even by the president of Bass Pro Shops in Bronson, Missouri. It is exciting and rewarding to know that these statues would not have been created if not for the Community Art Legacy project, and that Oregon is home to award winning sculptures whose subsequent editions are being installed around the country.

The Grand Finale—Our 10th Sculpture!

For the 10th and final sculpture, the Community Art Legacy commissioned an artist with Oregon ties to create this final sculpture, called “The Expedition of the Rock River Valley.” This piece will be special for several reasons. One, it will be the largest and most elaborate of the 10 sculptures. Second, its theme is directly tied to Oregon—it depicts Oregon's founder, John Phelps, and his French guide as they first arrived by canoe at the location (across from Blackhawk Statue) where he settled and founded Oregon. The sculpture also continues the “art and agriculture” theme as John Phelps was Oregon's first farmer, developing a large farm between Oregon and Mt. Morris where he lived for decades and later died. Third, the sculpture will be installed on the grass lawn behind the Coliseum. Though this lawn now sits empty, the Community Art Legacy is developing plans to transform the empty lawn into a small park with the sculpture as the park's centerpiece. Thus, this 10th and final project is more than just a sculpture—it will include improving and transforming the entire lot into a small park celebrating Oregon's founder, history, and artistic heritage. It will also include a plaque recognizing all of the donors who have contributed to the Community Art Legacy project over the years. Thus, this 10th project will be a grand finale and will culminate the decade-long project with a great exclamation point. It truly will be a gift to Oregon and its citizens.

Donations Needed

To help us complete this 10th and final project, the Community Art Legacy needs to raise significant funds. Any amount, large or small, is critical to allow us to complete the project appropriately. To support this amazing project, please send your donation to The Fields Project, c/o Community Art Legacy, P.O. Box 444, Oregon, IL, 61061. Please include a note designating the donation to the Phelps project. Because the Fields Project is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible as a charitable donation. Thank you for your gift to the Community Art Legacy and the next 100 years of Oregon citizens!



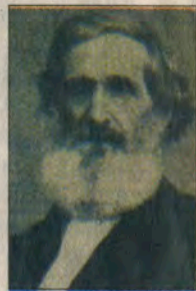
Steven Carpenter poses by the John Phelps statue he created for the Community Art Legacy. The work is the tenth statue commissioned by CAL in 10 years. Photo by Earleen Hinton

10th CAL statue honors Phelps

Visitors to the Ogle County Historical Society's Living History and Old Time Craft Faire on June 21 got a sneak preview of the final sculpture of the Community Art Legacy.

The original clay sculpture of a bas-relief image of a depiction of John Phelps' first landing on the shores of the Rock River in what would later become Ogle County,

was created by Steven Carpenter, a resident of York, Maine.



John Phelps

"The inspiration for this came last spring when I was in Oregon for a wedding,"

said Carpenter, who is the brother of Craig Carpenter, an Oregon resident. "My nephew Jake said I should try for it so I did."

Carpenter met with CAL officials who suggested Phelps be the center of the sculpture.

"I didn't want to just do a 7-foot statue of Phelps by himself so I did some sketches and came up with this composite," Carpenter said.

Carpenter began taking sculpture classes while working as a landscaper/stonescaper. Those talents helped him create this project.

"I like working in three-dimensional textures so this just started clicking," he said.

The piece depicts Phelps in 1833 when he and fellow traveler, Stephen A. St. Cyr, explored the Rock River Valley by canoe.

The inBronze Foundry in Mt. Morris, will cast the finished clay into bronze.

Betty Adams, a member of CAL, said this is the final CAL sculpture.

"This is so much different than the others we've done," she said.

"The Expedition of the Rock River Valley" will likely be located behind the Oregon Coliseum where the city's public swimming pool used to be.

CAL was formed in 2004 by a group of Oregon citizens with the purpose of installing "Ten sculptures in Ten years" as an ongoing tribute to sculptor Lorado Taft.

It was formed under the initiative of Jeff Adams, sculptor and foundry operator of inBronze Foundry.

Fundraising for this project is continuing.

Expedition of the Rock River Valley

The Community Art Legacy's 10th Sculpture in its "10 Sculptures in 10 Years" Program



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The Community Art Legacy Presents Sculpture #10 of 10

Expedition of the Rock River Valley



The Community Art Legacy is completing its "10 sculptures in 10 years" mission with a true grand finalé. Artist Steven Carpenter sculpted this piece which depicts Oregon's founder, John Phelps, and his French guide as they canoed south down the Rock River and first set foot where Oregon now sits. A soldier in the War of 1812 and the Black Hawk War of 1831, Phelps founded Oregon and claimed 40 acres between Oregon and Mt. Morris in 1834. Forty years later Phelps--a soldier, explorer, farmer, father, judge, and entrepreneur--died on his farm on April 1, 1874, at age 77. It was reported that his funeral procession to Riverview Cemetery stretched a mile long. This sculpture honors John Phelps, celebrates his founding of Oregon, and will help educate citizens about

Oregon's rich past. The large sculpture will be cast in bronze, placed on a granite foundation, and serve as the centerpiece of a new park to be designed by the Community Art Legacy. This is the capstone to the Community Art Legacy's 10 year endeavor and will be a special gift to Oregon and its citizens--past, present, and future.

Please see the back side for more photos

GOSSIP

by Jeanné McCartin



Sculptor Steven Carpenter at work on a special commission. *Courtesy photo*

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Neither long miles nor tornados could deter Steven Carpenter from getting the very fragile John Phelp from York, Maine, to Oregon, Ill. He crated up the gent and hauled him nearly halfway across the country, where he'll be cast in bronze and placed in a park created in his honor.

Carpenter's sculpture of the Oregon's founder was the 10th and final in a series of sculptures commissioned by the Community Art Legacy, which has installed 10 in 10 years by as many artists. All previous works were part of individual contests; the final a commission.

Carpenter grew up in Oregon, and heard about the contest through his brother. He returned home for his wedding in 2013 with sketches in tow, and met with the commissioning committee.

"Then two weeks later I got it," he says.

He started in February and completed the clay sculpture early last month, "and just ran it out there on the back of my truck last week," he adds.

The piece depicts the town founder and guide along a riverside in high relief. It measures approximately eight feet wide and six feet high, before being mounted on a pedestal.

Carpenter worked out of the studio of sculptors Lindley and Jeffrey Briggs in Newburyport, Mass., because his own was too small to accommodate.

"I took it out in its clay form. Believe me, it was a scary ride. ... Jeffrey helped me box it up. It was an amazing job, so it felt secure, but it was an interesting ride dodging storms and tornados," Carpenter says. "But we made it."

The town, once the site of the Eagle Nest Art Colony, still has a foundry where the piece will be cast in bronze. The town is also commissioning a designer for its final park resting place.

"I'll be bidding on that as well," says Carpenter, owner of Standing Stone, a stonescaping and garden design business.

"I was so excited to get an opportunity like this, especially in the town I started out in."

Carpenter and collaborator Christopher Gowell have worked on the Portland Fisherman Memorial commission, and are still waiting word on the next step.

Carpenter's work can be seen in the current Sanctuary Arts exhibition (Eliot, Maine).

Visit www.standingstonescapes.com.

FOR THE KIDS

There is yet another PPMtv series in the works, according to creator Miles Burns, associate artistic director and director of youth programming.

Burns wrote the first tune for "The Upside of Being Down" about eight years ago and went on to fashion it into a youth stage production. Now it's being retooled as a series for kids.

PPMtv Executive Director Bill Humphreys