

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Johnson County Park and Recreation District

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**Johnson County Park and Recreation District's Inaugural Public Art
Piece at Meadowbrook Park to Feature Local Artist**

Prairie Village, Kan. — Johnson County Park and Recreation District launched a new Public Art Program in 2019 to activate park spaces in a new way. The process for commissioning its first site-specific, permanent work of art began in April 2021 with a nation-wide call to artists, resulting in 146 submissions. Upon review by an art selection committee made up of artists and community members, the final selection of “Gateway” by Amie Jacobsen Art and Design was selected as the winning proposal. The JCPRD Board unanimously approved this proposal at the November 2021 board meeting. The permanent piece will be installed at Meadowbrook Park in spring of 2022, with an opening reception and artist meet-and-greet in early June.

The Parks and Recreation Foundation of Johnson County will play a crucial role in the fulfillment of JCPRD's Public Art Program through the procurement of grants and donations. The AT&T Foundation is one of the first in support of the program and the Meadowbrook Park project with a recent award of \$10,000. The foundation continues to seek support for future projects through corporate and private funders. Those interested in becoming involved with public art initiatives are encouraged to contact Development Director Erika Seward at 913-826-3448 or Erika.seward@jocogov.org.

Project Description

Based on the Kansas sunflower, “Gateway” is designed to be not only a striking and dynamic form, but also engaging and interactive. Standing nearly 12 feet tall, multiple brightly colored and shaped petals made of cast glass and steel will glow in the sunlight as well as with lighting at night. The center of the flower creates an archway that beckons visitors to walk under the arch. Inside the arch, illustrated panels stretch from the floor up the interior sides, creating a tapestry that represents the history of the area of Meadowbrook Park and Prairie Village as a whole. Behind and above the illustrated panels, the rest of the archway will be covered with mirror polished stainless steel that will reflect the visitors below. This represents the present and future of the community, reflecting back at the viewer.

Artist Bio

Amie J. Jacobsen is a designer, sculptor, and public artist living and working in the Kansas City area. A lifelong creator, she produced work in painting, illustration, and graphic design before transitioning to 3D design and metalworking in 2015. Amie's studio is located in Independence, where she employs three assistants. Together, they produce sculptures, artisan furniture, and public art pieces throughout the US.

Johnson County Park and Recreation District has been enhancing the lives of the citizens of Johnson County for the past 60+ years through its parks, quality of programs, professionalism, and response to developing trends. The district's contributions to the personal lives of Johnson County's citizens have earned the district local appreciation and national acclaim. Each year, the district records more than 10 million park visitors and participants across its 10,000 acres of parkland, 136 miles of trails and over 4,000 programs.

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