

# NEWS

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## WALKER ART CENTER CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINNEAPOLIS SCULPTURE GARDEN

**SUMMERLONG TRIBUTE—WALKER *INSIDE OUT*: ART GOES OUTDOORS—FEATURES EXHIBITION; THE RETURN OF ARTIST-DESIGNED MINI GOLF AND ROCK THE GARDEN; DANCE AND THEATER PERFORMANCES; AND FAMILY EVENTS**



Minneapolis Sculpture Garden  
Photo courtesy Walker Art Center

Minneapolis, April 4, 2008—It's the place where John Philip Sousa conducted and where boxing matches and auto shows were held at the turn of the 20th century. Purchased by the City of Minneapolis in 1893, the grounds served as the U.S. Army Reserve drill team's practice field and home to the local Armory and annual garden displays. This historic plot of land opened as the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden in 1988, and quickly evolved as both a popular destination and a model project of civic collaboration. Expanded to encompass 11 acres in 1992, the Garden is one of the largest urban sculpture parks in the United States and one of the most beloved public spaces in the Twin Cities. With Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's iconic fountain-sculpture *Spoonbridge and Cherry* (1985–1988) at its heart, surrounded by more than 40 modern and contemporary sculptures, the Garden has drawn more than 6.5 million people since it opened and become a living stage for myriad performances and community events.

In celebration of the Garden's 20th anniversary, the Walker Art Center presents a summerlong celebration featuring the return of the highly popular Artist-Designed Mini Golf and Rock the Garden; an outdoor exhibition, *Design for the Other 90%*, offering socially conscious design solutions for the poor and marginalized around the world; the remounting of important site-specific dance works from the 1970s by the Trisha Brown Dance Company; Australia's celebrated Back to Back Theatre; the annual Summer Music and Movies series in Loring Park; film screenings; expanded Free First Saturday family days; and the inauguration of the Garden *FlatPak House* and Activity Center.

**Exhibition**

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LifeStraw®  
Designer: Torben Vestergaard Frandsen  
Manufacturer: Vestergaard Frandsen, S.A.  
China and Switzerland (current version), 2005  
High-impact polystyrene (outer shell), halogen-  
based resin, anion exchange resin and patented  
activated carbon (interior)  
Dimensions: 10" x 1" diameter  
Photo: © 2005 Vestergaard Frandsen

***Design for the Other 90%***

Tuesday–Sunday, May 24–September 7, 11 am–5 pm  
(open Mondays Memorial Day and Labor Day)  
Minneapolis Sculpture Garden  
Free

Of the world's 6.5 billion people, 90 percent have little or no access to most of the products and services many of us take for granted; in fact, nearly half do not have reliable access to food, clean water, healthcare, education, affordable transportation, or shelter. *Design for the Other 90%* features a growing movement among designers, engineers, and social entrepreneurs to create low-cost solutions for everyday problems. Through local and global partnerships, individuals and organizations are finding unique ways to address the basic challenges of survival and progress faced by the world's poor.

The exhibition showcases designs that use conventional and unorthodox methods, new and traditional materials, or ancient and innovative technologies to solve myriad problems—from cleaner-burning sugarcane charcoal to a solar-powered battery for a hearing aid, from a portable water purification straw to a \$100 laptop computer. By actively understanding the available resources, tools, desires, and immediate needs of their potential users, these designers create simple and pragmatic objects and ingenious and adaptive systems that can help transform lives and communities.

*Design for the Other 90%* is organized by the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, in New York City. The exhibition is made possible by The Lemelson Foundation. Additional funding is provided by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Esme Usdan Exhibition Endowment Fund, and the Ehrenkranz Fund.

The Minneapolis presentation is supported by UnitedHealth Group.

**Mini Golf**

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**Walker on the Green: Artist-Designed Mini Golf**

Wednesday–Sunday, May 24–September 7, 10 am–8 pm  
Greenspace adjacent to Vineland Place entrance  
\$8 adults (\$6 students/seniors/members, \$5 children 12 and under, \$4 members 12 and under)

Two seven-hole courses feature green-themed mini-golf holes designed by artists, architects, and designers. Visitors will encounter a water

hazard; a replica of the real life “island of plastic,” a heap of debris floating in the Pacific Ocean; a 12-foot-tall Paul Bunyon; a single-breaking wave covered with recycled glass; and a hole that plays like Pachinko, a Japanese version of pinball with a human-powered elevator for your golf ball.

Copresented with [martists.org](http://martists.org).

Walker on the Green: Artist-Designed Mini Golf is sponsored by United Health Group.

## Theater

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Back to Back Theatre, *Small Metal Objects*  
Photo: Jeff Busby

### **Back to Back Theatre**

#### ***Small Metal Objects***

Thursday–Friday, June 5–6, 7 pm

Saturday, June 7, 1 and 7 pm

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden

\$22 (\$18 Walker members)

*“Small Metal Objects turns the notion of theatre and the everyday inside out. It is a pure, open-hearted, complex and breathtaking production . . . a unique meditation on human worth.”* —*Sydney Morning Herald*

In their own words, the directors of Australia’s Back to Back Theatre create “locally devised, globally relevant and significant theater.” This ambition plays out in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden in a show where two men who normally escape notice—mentally disabled and possibly homeless—play inadvertent but pivotal roles in the lives of two abled ambitious executives. The drama unfolds before an audience wired with headphones.

Back to Back Theatre, an ensemble of actors with mental disabilities, strives to nudge and subvert audiences into seeing beauty that is otherwise hidden. Here, the company explores how respect is withheld from the disabled, unemployed, and others society deems unproductive. Set against the backdrop of the Garden, *Small Metal Objects* expands the theatrical frame with the unpredictability of public space while bringing stark relief to the notion that everything has its price.

## Music

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Andrew Bird  
Photo: Cameron Wittig

### Rock the Garden

**Andrew Bird, The New Pornographers, Cloud Cult, Bon Iver**

Saturday, June 21, 4–11 pm

Vineland Place

\$35 (\$30 Walker/Minnesota Public Radio members) in advance

\$40 (\$35) at the door

The Walker Art Center and 89.3 The Current present the music event of the season with this all-ages, rain-or-shine street party featuring both established and emerging acts. Rock the Garden includes live broadcasts from DJs of 89.3 The Current and an array of food vendors.

The Walker Art Center and 89.3 The Current™ present Rock the Garden 2008.

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**vitamn**



The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden 20th-Anniversary Celebration is sponsored by

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**Let's thrive.**

Major support is generously provided by Judy Dayton and Martha and Bruce Atwater. Additional support is provided by the Edward R. Bazinet Foundation, Marilyn and Glen Nelson, and Harriet and Edson Spencer.

The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is a project of the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

## Film Screenings

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Still from *Big Ideas for a Small Planet*, 2008  
Photo courtesy Sundance Channel

### Big Ideas For a Small Planet

June–August

Screenings every half hour starting at 12 noon during gallery hours

Lecture Room

Free

This series of half-hour documentaries, created by the Sundance Channel, focuses on individuals at the forefront of innovative ideas and processes for transforming the planet's future, offering creative green solutions for some of the world's looming challenges. 2008, video, 30 minutes.

## Free First Saturdays are for Families!

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### Birthday Bash

Saturday, June 7, 10 am–3 pm, Free

Savor an array of live music, dance, and art-making activities in this special birthday launch event, part of Minneapolis MOSAIC 2008, a citywide festival celebrating the breadth and diversity of the local arts and cultural scene.



Larry Yazzie  
Photo courtesy the artist

Dance Performance: Larry Yazzie  
11 am

Discover Native American traditions with Larry Yazzie, a Meskwaki/Diné and national champion Fancy dancer. Fancy dance is a popular contemporary dance style known for its creativity, flamboyance, and colorful costumes. After the show learn some moves in a workshop led by the artist.

Art-Making for the Entire Family: Catch a Cherry  
10 am–3 pm

Design a toy inspired by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's *Spoonbridge and Cherry* fountain-sculpture.

Best Buy Digital Imaging Booth: A Minneapolis Portrait  
10 am–3 pm

Smile, it's the 150th birthday of Minneapolis and the state of Minnesota! Get your snapshot taken and see it projected at the State Theater later that evening during the kick-off party of MOSAIC 2008.

### A Moving Spectacle

**Performance: Trisha Brown: *Early Works***

Saturday, July 5, 10 am–3pm, Free



Trisha Brown, *Spanish Dance (Line Up)*, 1979  
video (color, sound), 14 min.  
Walker Art Center Archives

Highlighting July's Free First Saturday event and part of Year of Trisha festivities, Trisha Brown Dance Company members re-mount four important site-based dance works from the 1970s. In their exploration of space and gravity, these early movement experiments are now viewed as both highly influential and remarkably inventive. For the first time in the U.S. since its original performance in SoHo in 1970, the spectacular *Man Walking Down the Side of a Building* will be staged on the facade of the Walker's seven-story Barnes building. Company members will also restage *Spiral* (1974) on trees in Loring Park and *Group Primary Accumulation on Rafts* on Loring Park Pond, the location of the original premiere during a Walker-sponsored Trisha Brown residency in 1974. Finally, five of the company's leading female dancers will perform one of Brown's most popular early works, the witty and sensual *Spanish Dance (Line Up)*, 1979) in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Free First Saturday is sponsored by

Sponsor



Program support



Media partner



As part of the Walker Art Center's Raising Creative Kids Initiative, additional support is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Year of Trisha, which includes the reconstruction of several early works, was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpiece: Dance Initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts. Copresented with Northrop Dance at the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Dance Program.

## Music and Movies

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### Summer Music and Movies: Elected!

Mondays, July 14–August 18, 7 pm

Loring Park, Free

The Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's popular annual series of free concerts and film screenings in Loring Park returns with Elected! to mark the year of intense interest in political campaigns. For six nights enjoy bands under the summer sun, then watch classic films about Hollywood's take on Washington's internal and external affairs.

## FlatPak House and Activity Center

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In 2005, the Walker Art Center exhibition *Some Assembly Required: Contemporary Prefabricated Houses* featured *FlatPak*, one of today's most innovative made-to-order homes. Created by Minneapolis-based Lazor Office, the *FlatPak* is a "kit of parts" that can be configured in a variety of ways to create a home.

The Walker acquired this full-scale exhibition model of *FlatPak*, which will be installed in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden as part of the 20th-anniversary celebration. The *FlatPak's* glass walls and airy space, along with a new deck, will provide an inviting atmosphere for welcoming Garden visitors. A special "open house" will be hosted during the July Free First Saturday.

The *FlatPak* will be open to the public seasonally April through mid-October. Visitors will be able to pick up sculpture garden maps, check-out Garden WACPAKs (kid-sized backpacks filled with creative ideas for family activities), and learn more about the artworks in the Garden. The *FlatPak* will also host hands-on art-making activities during Target Free Thursday Nights, Free First Saturdays, Summer's Cool classes, artist-in-

residence workshops, teen classes, and Arty Pants: Your Tuesday Playdate—a program for toddlers and caregivers.

The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden 20th-Anniversary Celebration is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

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Walker Art Center programming is made possible by its Premier Partners: Best Buy, General Mills, Piper Jaffray, Target, Star Tribune, and WCCO-TV.

## About the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden

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Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, *Spoonbridge and Cherry*, 1985-1988  
aluminum, stainless steel, paint, 354 x 618 x 162 in.  
Collection Walker Art Center  
Gift of Frederick R. Weisman in honor of his parents,  
William and Mary Weisman, 1988  
Photo courtesy Walker Art Center

The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, a project of the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, is an ideal setting for sculptures of various sizes, from human-scale bronzes to towering constructions in steel. Expanded in 1992, the 11-acre Garden offers visitors from around the world an unusual opportunity to view important 20th-century art out-of-doors.

The original 7.5-acre Garden, made up of four 100-foot-square tree-lined plazas inspired by Renaissance and 18th-century Italian garden models, was designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes, architect of the Walker's 1971 building, in association with landscape architect Peter Rothschild, of Quennell Rothschild Associates, New York. The 1992 expansion, adding 3.7 acres less formally structured than the original acreage, was designed by the landscape architecture firm Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The sculptures on view along the Garden's walkways and in its plazas date from the early 20th century to the present. Styles range from the archetypal organic abstraction of Henry Moore's *Reclining Mother and Child* (1960–1961) to the social realism of George Segal's *Walking Man* (1988).

A spectacular focal point in the Garden is the 29-foot-high *Spoonbridge and Cherry* (1987–1988) fountain-sculpture designed by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen. Spanning a free-form pond in the Garden's middle sector is a gigantic gray spoon with a Bing-red cherry in its bowl. Visible from all points of the Garden, it has become a symbol for Minneapolis.

Amidst vine-covered arches and changing horticultural displays in the three-part Cowles Conservatory is Frank Gehry's sculpture *Standing Glass Fish* (1986). Attracting visitors' attention, the 25-foot-tall see-through leviathan rises from a lily pond surrounded by palm trees.



Siah Armajani, *Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge*, 1988  
Photo courtesy Walker Art Center

The Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge (1988) reflects the vision of the Minneapolis-based artist Siah Armajani. This double-arched footbridge connects the Garden to Loring Park, representing a major link to the downtown area and, subsequently, to the central Minneapolis riverfront. "As far as public art is concerned, that is the best piece I have ever done," says Armajani. "It doesn't leave anything unfinished or unresolved. It doesn't mean it's the most beautiful thing in the world, but it is unified, it is complete and, for me, that is a gift from God."

The section added in 1992 contrasts the geometric formality of the original Garden area. The 3.7-acre section features groves of deciduous trees, a rectangular, granite-paved sculpture plaza for rotating exhibitions, a 300-foot-long vine-covered arbor, and a perennial garden. Permanently sited in this area of the Garden are Scott Burton's *Seat-Leg Table* (1986/refabricated 1991), Mark di Suvero's *Molecule* (1977–1983), and Judith Shea's *Without Words* (1988).

**The Walker Art Center is located at 1750 Hennepin Avenue—where Hennepin meets Lyndale—one block off Highways I-94 and I-394, in Minneapolis.**

**For public information, call 612.375.7600, or visit [walkerart.org](http://walkerart.org).**