

An Enchanted Arboretum



Nebraska City, Nebraska

For Immediate Release

Arboretum of Art Graces Nebraska City

[June 17, 2013] - Nebraska City, Nebraska has yet one more reason for visitors to make the trek to Southeast Nebraska to explore Arbor Day's Hometown this summer. Unveiled late April 2013, *An Enchanted Arboretum* features seventy-one stylized tree forms designed by professional artists and Nebraska City students on display outdoors and in store fronts throughout the community.

In the fall of 2012, professional artists from around the country submitted 12-inch maquettes of suggested designs that were then juried by area arts experts for project inclusion. Of the 55 submissions, only 21 could be chosen. The artists of the winning designs received their blank sculpture along with a materials stipend in January 2013 and set to work on their creations.

Concurrently, students in Nebraska City Public Schools, Lourdes Central Catholic Schools, and the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired were busy creating their own designs under the direction of Lincoln-Nebraska teaching artist Liz Shea-McCoy. More than 1,100 students participated in the project with all the student maquettes featured at a public showcase at the Nebraska City Public High School in March 2013.

46 student designs by 1st - 8th graders, were chosen by teachers and local artists to be replicated by the student artists onto four-foot tree sculptures. Four high school art students awarded six-foot trees. The students completed their trees at their school under the supervision of staff, parents, and volunteers during before / after school and weekend painting sessions.

The sculptures are a cast fiber-reinforced urethane manufactured by Icon Poly of Gibbon, Nebraska, which specializes in creating three-dimensional forms for public art projects throughout the United States.

The 25 six-foot tree sculptures are currently placed in outdoor public spaces around Nebraska City while the 46 four-foot student trees are displayed inside various businesses throughout the community. A map of the locations can be downloaded from www.enchantedarboretum.org.

On September 28, 2013, all the sculptures will be auctioned off at a public event at Arbor Lodge State Historical Park in Nebraska City. The six-foot trees are required to stay on display in Nebraska City following the auction; plaques will note individual sponsors.

An Enchanted Arboretum is funded by grants from: The Paul, John, Anton & Doris Wirth Foundation; the Karl H. & Wealtha H. Nelson Family Foundation; the Kropp Charitable Foundation, Inc.; the City of Nebraska City (LB840 Funds); Rotary Club No. 2090; and United Way of Nebraska City. The project is a grassroots community project overseen by a volunteer committee of representative from the Arbor Day Foundation, Arts are Basic, the City of Nebraska City, the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce, and Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation.

Contact Committee Members, Tom Farrell (402-209-0500) or Jenni Brant (402-217-0015) with questions or media inquiries. Emails can be sent to info@enchantedarboretum.org. More details, photos, and news releases are available at www.enchantedarboretum.org.