

Photo by Michaela Bowman



JSP has added immeasurable value to my life and the lives of my students...The park has expanded their experience of what art can be and opened their minds to what is possible.

Theresa Jaminet
Stewart Home & School
Art Teacher

MORE creative.....2
active.....4
connected.....5
wild.....9



JSP means *More*

2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

ROOTED IN WONDER: GROWING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ART AND NATURE

A Message from Mel

Dear friends of JSP,

This past year brought both challenge and renewal for the arts, our planet, and our community. Even in uncertainty, there was beauty: laughter from children discovering sculptures, volunteers tending the land, and visitors finding stillness beneath open skies.

The arts remind us what it means to connect and care. Here at Josephine Sculpture Park, that connection flows far beyond these 40 acres, it lives in the hearts of those who believe creativity can change the world.

Together, our roots grow deeper. With your support, we cultivate a future grounded in imagination, equity, and care for the land and each other.

We're happy to share this summary of the past year, and a glimpse of what we look forward to in 2026.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Melanie VanHouten
Founding Director
& Chief Curator



A Message from Zaq

When I first stepped into Josephine Sculpture Park, I felt the rare kind of magic that happens when art, land, and people truly meet. My work here is driven by a deep passion to lift up the incredible creativity already alive in this place, to help others see, feel, and be changed by it. Every partnership, event, and story we share is a chance to connect more hearts to the soil beneath our feet and the art that grows from it. I believe we are all guardians of this earth, and through togetherness, we can continue nurturing a space where imagination and our bond to this land flourish together.

Zaq Andel
Director of Engagement



▶ Top Left and Middle Left:
SPRAYFINGER® graffiti workshop
participants at **GRAPHOLOGYHENG**E.

More creative

Artist-in-Residence Peyton Scott Russell returned to lead his **SPRAYFINGER®** graffiti camp and community workshop on his sculpture **GRAPHOLOGYHENG**E. He also shared his work's evolution from street art to fine art at 21C Museum Hotel in Louisville.

Portals, Pathways, and the Space Between Us—a collaboration with **The Carnegie, KADIST, and Backwoods Literary Press**—featured ten artists and brought new visitors to the park through poetry, video, and live performance.

Our Eco-Art Workshops connected generations through clay, paint, and imagination. Participants created clay flower magnets with **Broadway Clay**, and painted watercolor landscapes with **Toby Penney**.



▲ Above: **Heather Hart's**
Porch Project: Take It To The Bridge during
Portals, Pathways, and the Space Between Us.

▲ Left Photo: Artist **Toby Penney** and **Eco-Art** Watercolor Landscapes participants.



More creative



SoundScape! united **12 community partners and 8 artists** in a festival bridging rural and urban cultures through music, art, and conversation. Made possible by **Expre Credit Union, South Arts, the Kentucky Arts Council**, and others, it celebrated connection across landscapes.

Studio Assistant Intern Cam Greaves helped maintain trails, install five new sculptures, and create original artwork, joining JSP's growing community of young artists.



Top Left: Waving from inside of **Vivien Collens' Blue Circuit** from the Froebel's Gifts series.

Middle Left: Fernando Moya of **Appalatin** playing the Andean flute at SoundScape!

Bottom Left: Cam Greaves, Leticia Bajuyo, Marilou Mariko Carrera and Mollie Rabiner, shown in front of **Leticia Bajuyo's Swing Set: Share a Share (Duyan: Ibahagi ang Balato)**.

97 Current Works on Exhibit at JSP and around town via our Art in Public Places program!



More active

▲ A child plays at **Lucy Azubuike's Me in Me Sanctuary**.

Creating and viewing art and spending time in nature can help lower stress and boost one's mood, promote play and creativity, foster a sense of belonging, and encourage care for nature and the community.

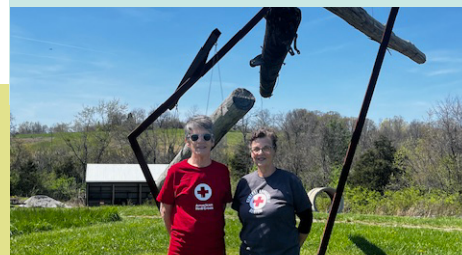
“The children had a wonderful time, it was the perfect sensory goodness they crave and enjoy. I'm so grateful for this treasure of a park.

—Mindy McGirt,
Second Street School Teacher

Thank you to all the disaster relief responders supporting our community, like Jan and Liz from the **West Virginia Red Cross** who delivered meals to Frankfort flood victims. They enjoyed a well-deserved break at JSP, seen below at **Fixation** by Riley Fichter.



▲ Above (Top): JSP celebrates International Sculpture Day at **Yes Arts' Art of Healing** event.
Above (Bottom): Kids playing on **Clarity Vehicle** by **Mollie Rabiner** at sculpture camp!



FREE Field Trips for 860+ Students!

More connected

Thank you to our program partners!

Backwoods Literary Press
Broadway Clay
Capital City Museum
The Carnegie
The City of Frankfort
Completely Kentucky
Distilled in Kentucky
Expree Credit Union
Frankfort Audubon Society
Frankfort/Franklin County
Tourist Commission
Frankfort Parks, Recreation &
Historic Sites
Franklin County Health
Department: Just Say Yes
Franklin County Solid Waste
Franklin County Fiscal Court
Friends of the Paul Sawyer
Public Library
International Sculpture Center
Kentucky Herbalism Alliance
Kentucky Historical Society
Kentucky State University
Lakeview Park
Lazy Dog Honey
Lexington Philharmonic
Louisville Photo Biennial
Red Oaks Forest School
StewARTS
West Sixth Brewing
Wild Birds Unlimited: Frankfort
Yes Arts



▲ **Stewart Home & School** artists create barn quilt magnets with the **Kentucky Historical Society** at JSP's SoundScape! event.



▲ **Red Oaks Forest School Art Club** meets at JSP the second Saturday of each month!



▲ Frankfort artist, **Leah Childs**, led community mural painting at **Symphonic Stroll** with **Lexington Philharmonic**.
Photo by Michaela Bowman.



Kentucky Poet Laureate, Silas House, visits JSP to film *Distilled in Kentucky*.

▲ Community members paint clay flowers with JSP and **Broadway Clay** to celebrate planting native trees, thanks to **City of Frankfort Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites' Reforest Frankfort** event. This community art project was inspired by **Xavier Cortada's** mural, *Floral River* in downtown Frankfort.

“Visiting this sculpture park was an unforgettable experience. The grounds are beautifully maintained, offering the perfect blend of art and nature. Each piece is thoughtfully placed, creating moments of surprise and wonder as you walk along the paths.”
—Tpigeon5, Google Review

**7 Corporate Partners, 9 Civic Partners,
12 Community Partners**

13
musicians

8
sculpture
sites

702
attendees

37
volunteers

31
Kentucky
counties

Collaboration fuels everything we do. From local artists to international nonprofits, every partnership helps our creative communities thrive now and for generations to come.



Visitors sit on **GRAPHOLOGYHENG** during Symphonic Stroll.

Brittany J. Green, Lexington Philharmonic's Composer-in-Residence, at Symphonic Stroll.



Attendees at the opening of *Linda Bruckheimer: Lost and Found Farmscapes*.

JSP welcomed photographer Linda Bruckheimer for ***Lost and Found Farmscapes***, ten large-scale photographs displayed on the restored tobacco barn, our **first open-air photography exhibition**. Her work honors Kentucky's vanishing rural landscapes and the people who shape them.



“We love seeing families explore the park while discovering performances in unexpected spaces. We're thrilled to celebrate our fifth year partnering with JSP.

-BROOKE RABY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEXINGTON PHILHARMONIC SYMPHONIC STROLL 2025



The annual **Barn Raisin': Conservation, Culture & Cuisine**, sponsored by Expre Credit Union, united friends and supporters to raise funds for land preservation with music from **CornMaiz String Band** and Guests of Honor Mike, Christine, and Will Huskisson.

▲ Brittany J. Green, Lexington Philharmonic 2025-2026 Saykaly Garbulinska **Composer-in-Residence**, created a sound piece that visitors played at Symphonic Stroll. Photo by Michaela Bowman.

5 New Sculptures, 10 New Photos, 2 Community Artworks



More wild

Nature is our oldest partner.

Across 40 acres, JSP nurtures biodiversity through careful stewardship.

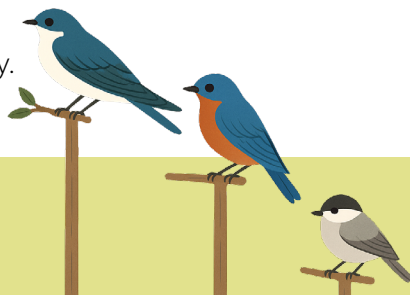
100 native plants added to pollinator habitats in *Metamorpho-Nest* by **Andrea Wilson Mueller**, thanks to support from Inside Out Landscape Design.

61 young birds fledged from the JSP and **Wild Birds Unlimited** Bluebird Trail.

130 volunteer hours supported species like tree swallows and eastern bluebirds.

JSP reforestation efforts hit a milestone in 2025! Thanks to our partnership with **KSU Forestry & Natural Resources program**, the native tree saplings planted across JSP in 2018 through **Reforest Frankfort** are mature and healthy enough to survive on their own.

Together, these efforts ensure the park remains a living landscape of art and ecology.



“

What we sustain sustains us, and art is one means to unite the natural and human worlds. Humans create many things, but art transcends the ordinary and commonplace.

JSP is a place where a person's weary spirit can become energized.

Here in Kentucky, any land that is open to the public, 365 days a year – AND with an art setting in the natural world- is a sacred place.

Space – public space - is so precious and rare – it deserves to exist and grow!

Don Kleier
Former JSP Board Member & Supporter

▲ Photo Above: Visitor observes Riley Fichter's *Fixation*.

Thank you to the dedicated individuals who continue to provide leadership to the Park.

Our Board of Directors

Joanne Price Chair
Carol Baughman Secretary
Krystal Conway-Cunningham Treasurer
Clay Groce
Karine Maynard
Doug Schatz

Our Staff

Melanie VanHouten
Founding Director & Chief Curator
Zaq Anandel
Director of Engagement
Jeri Katherine Howell
Director of Programs & Partnerships
Casey Sterr
Director of Finance & Administration
Josie Kirker
Grants Manager & Public Art Administrator
Karen Lanier
Administrative Manager
Mollie Rabiner
Park Manager
Cam Greaves
Studio Assistant Intern

In 16 Years: **1,000+** multidisciplinary artists, **187** artworks, **16** countries, **35** states, **44** artist-in-residence, **11** artist interns

Thank you 2025 Donors!*

PLATINUM



Anonymous

Betty Barr and Don Kleier

Ann Mullins

GOLD

Anonymous
Marie and Bill Cull
Franklin County Fiscal Court
Marian and Tee Hayden
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
The Husk Fund
Matthias Neumann
Michael O'Khaen
The Paddocks of Frankfort LLC
Richard and Anna Marie Rosen
Servpro Team Phillips and Smith
Charles Stewart
Dr. John Stewart and Dr. Magdalene Karon
Milly Ann and John Stewart Charitable Fund
The Stewart Home and School
True North Catering
Art and Beverly VanHouten

SILVER

Anonymous
John and Carol H. Baughman
Linda and Jerry Bruckheimer
Rex and Teri Carter
Chenault and Hoge
Nash Cox
Rick and Billie Faye Duvall
Great Meadows Foundation
Inside Out Landscape Design
Kentucky Monthly
Andrew Marsh
Penny Peavler
Harry and Teresa Suter
Don Wenzel and Ron Darnell
Marilyn Werst
Natalie and Layne Wilkerson Family Fund
Ann Wingrove and Kenneth J. Bates
Max Weber

BRONZE

Beckham Bird Club
Debbie Berry
Chakaia Booker
Frankfort Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites
Frankfort Regional Medical Center
Frankfort Tourist & Convention Commission
Jeff Franklin
Gina Greathouse in Memory of Tom Hampton
Jeff Gregory
Ed Hamilton
Cindy and Scott Hampton
Investors Heritage
JPW Creative Designs
Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance
Jeffrey M Laird
Lakeview Park
Macauley and Carol Lord
Crit and Lynn Luallen
Maker's Mark
Matt and Karine Maynard
Maynard Studios
Michael and Andrea Mueller
Nancy Osborne
Meg Quarles
Will and Anne Taylor Renshaw
Jill Robinson
Arturo Sandoval
John Shanchuk
Arthur Shechet
Vaadia Family Fund
Melanie VanHouten and BJ Duvall
VanHouten Builders
Lee Waterfield
Eileen Yanoviak

IRON

Andy and Robin Rabiner
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Leigh Brown
Jane Bryan
Brenda Buchwald
Andrew Cammack
Jeanne Clark
Vivien Collens
Jennifer Durr and Bill Young
Linda English
Fago Legacy Fund
Capital Area Master Gardeners
Gene and Mary Ann Burch
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Jessie's Art Gallery & Custom Framing
Cody Johnson
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Kay and Bill Scott
Completely Kentucky
Laura Koehl
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Jody McKee
Victoria Meyer
John Mueller
Patsy and Dennis Monohan
Joanne Price
Murphy Music Production
F. Douglass Schatz
Stahlhut Giving Fund
Jeffrey Sullivan
Wade Hatchell Heating & Cooling, Inc.

Special thanks to the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, for their support of Soundscape! and the Linda Bruckheimer exhibition with state tax dollars from the Kentucky General Assembly and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit history.ky.gov.



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, provides operating support to JSP with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Making art at Joy Full



GRATITUDE GATHERING

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14
5-8PM • FREE

Joy Full Celebration

Join us beneath the stars for Joy Full, a night of art, music, and community. Enjoy activities from **Yes Arts**, live music, dancing, hot chocolate, and local flavors from **Castle & Key** and **The Ashbrook Hotel** as we celebrate **YOU** and the joy your support makes possible.

More information at josephinesculpturepark.org

Season of Giving

Help us close the gap on our **\$95,000 goal**. Your gift sparks creativity, nurtures stewardship, and keeps the park free and open to all.

Scan to Donate



explore

More in 2026



Artist-In-Residence, Shawn Smith

During his residency, artist Shawn Smith will build a sculpture inviting visitors to see nature through the eyes of beneficial insects! Programs will include insect hotel workshops and discussions with local ecologists and farmers.

Smith holds a BFA from Washington University and MFA from California College of the Arts. His public artworks appear in San Francisco, New York, Austin, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.



Photo by Michael Quevedo Photography. ▲



Tree swallows fly around their nest box. Photo by John Shanchuk.



SAVE THE DATE
Barn Raisin'
Sunday, June 7

featuring Guest of Honor
Mrs. Milly Ann Stewart

Be pART of the ART in 2026!

Join us year-round for artmaking, wildly creative events, and inspiring time in nature.

Become a member to help keep the park accessible, vibrant and to enjoy the perks.
Scan to join or renew today!



As a Just Say
Yes partner,
**JSP accepts
the Yes Card!**

Explore nearly 80 artworks at JSP ▲
and 30 more across Frankfort, like
Floral River by Xavier Cortada.