



MORE	creative	3
	accessible.....	7
	connected	9
	wild	11
	meaningful	13



JSP
means

More

2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

GROWING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO ART, NATURE & CONNECTION

Cover: *Walk the Arc* by Alexander Gelderman

A Message from Mel

2026 has been a year of meaningful growth at JSP. I am especially grateful for the artists, visitors, donors, partners, volunteers, Board and staff who fill this place with creativity and connection. You all are making magic.

We have been dreaming boldly, planning thoughtfully and preparing for an exciting new chapter. This momentum is reflected in our growing team and expanded programs. We've also begun a comprehensive strategic master planning process, and we want you to be part of it! Please take a few minutes to complete our Master Plan Survey on pg. 13 and share your ideas and hopes for JSP. As always, Dream BIG!



I'm incredibly proud of all we've created together and inspired by the exciting future taking shape at JSP!

I hope to see you at the park again real soon!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Melanie VanHouten
Founding Director & Chief Curator

A Message from Jeri

After nearly 9 years on staff at JSP, it is time for me to forge a new path. When I joined the small but mighty team in 2018, I started to grow what is now the robust portfolio of programs we offer today: Wellness in the Wild, Artists-in-Residence, Eco-Art Workshops, field trips, volunteering, events like Symphonic Stroll with Lexington Philharmonic, and more. I nurtured the organization through significant transformation and

expansion. I am proud of all that I led and built with our community of partners, artists, musicians, volunteers, donors, board members, staff, and the plants, animals, and seasons that make up JSP. I will miss stewarding this land and cultivating creative experiences that help you connect with her. In my next season, I remain committed to co-creating equitable, inclusive, and resilient communities in which artists and the earth thrive. Thank you, and farewell, until our paths cross again.



Jeri Katherine Howell
Director of Programs & Partnerships

the year at a glance

5 new artworks added

1,400+ event participants

26 community partners

22 programs taught

107 new donors gave

AND we did it together!

More creative

Art can hold space for what words can't.



In 2026, JSP welcomed three artists-in-residence: **Mollie Rabiner, Ceirra Evans, and Shawn Smith**. Each brought a distinct creative practice to JSP, transforming ideas into three new works of art while engaging our community along the way. Their residencies remind us that creativity isn't confined to a studio or a finished sculpture. It can be found in a conversation, a shared meal, a story, a question, or a closer look at the natural world.

Mollie Rabiner's Sculpture social for ***Bird Calls* resonated with our community, bringing the largest crowd in JSP history for a sculpture unveiling**. Placed within the landscape at JSP, ***Bird Calls* brings together art, nature, and healing in an unexpected way.**





▶ **Reunion by Ceirra Evans,**
 ▶ Artist-in-Residence
 Sculpture Social panel
 from left to right: LaToya
 Drake, Angel Ballew,
 Ceirra Evans, Robin
 Verson and Mariel
 Gardner | *Reunion*
 was supported by
 Kentucky Foundation for
 Women and Snowy Owl
 Foundation.

At JSP, creativity is not just something we display. It is something we invite people to experience, share, and carry with them.

“**The students really connected with the piece, and said it made them feel calm and helped them process what was on their minds.**”
 - Theresa Jaminet, Stewart Home and School Art Teacher

“**It stoked the fire for a simmering project of mine, and it also inspired food-related community activism.**”
 - *Reunion*, Sculpture Social Attendee

“**The piece is called *Ommatidium*, and that has to do with the structure of the insect’s eyes...in the back when you look through, you can actually see the world through the insect’s eyes and see them as not just something that is a nuisance, but as a collaborator with us on the planet.**”
 - Shawn Smith, JSP Artist-in-Residence

◀ ***Ommatidium* by Shawn Smith, Artist-in-Residence**



▶ ***Bird Calls* by Mollie Rabiner**
 The wind phone project was funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Kentucky Arts Council with matching funds provided by Bluegrass Care Navigators.

21
musicians

SoundScape!

10
sculpture
sites

SoundScape! brought the park to life after dark.

384
attendees

SoundScape! invited our community to experience Josephine Sculpture Park in a whole new way. Live music, illuminated sculptures, interactive art, local food and drink, and an evening under the stars brought people together to celebrate creativity and connection.

16
volunteers

8
partners

11K
revenue

▲ Visitors listening to live music at SoundScape!

Musicians Ben Sollee and Jaret Ellis at SoundScape!



▲ Tie dye station at SoundScape!

One of the evening's most memorable experiences unfolded along the sculpture trail, where Lilianna Fischer's live music filled the landscape as visitors explored with silent-disco headphones. Moving through the glowing sculptures while listening to Lilianna's music created an immersive, almost otherworldly experience—turning a familiar landscape into something unexpected and new.



▲ *The Conversationalist* by Chakaia Booker, illuminated at SoundScape!

▼ *Cultured Stone* by Antoinette Schultze, illuminated at SoundScape!

The post event survey responses made one thing clear: SoundScape! has cemented itself as a signature JSP event, creating a foundation for even more innovative ways to experience art, music, and the park in the years ahead.

“The event was fun, uplifting, and so well thought out. We loved strolling among the interesting sculptures and experiencing the harp & whistle players and the drum circle...”



“[I enjoyed] the natural setting and diversity of the crowd. It was nice to see all ages attending an event.”

“All the positive energy [stands out in my memory]! So many friendly, happy people, and of course, Ben Sollee.”

SoundScape! was sponsored by: Harrod Concrete & Stone, Ale-8-One, Castle & Key, and Will & Anne Taylor Renshaw



More accessible

Access means removing the barriers that keep people from experiencing creativity—and making sure there is a place for everyone at JSP.



Because **JSP is free and open 365 days a year**, anyone can walk the trails, encounter contemporary sculpture, and find their own way into the creative experience. **Through free and low-cost programs, youth education, field trips, community partnerships, and accessible outdoor experiences, we continue working to make art a part of everyday life**—not something people have to travel far or pay more to find.



This year, our programs created opportunities for thousands of people to experience art and nature firsthand, while participants told us that the **financial accessibility of our programming made a meaningful difference.**

- ◀ Top Left: Attendee at Eco-Art Workshop Toad Abode with **Broadway Clay**
- Middle Left: **Yapa!** at Barn Raisin'
- Bottom Left: Illuminated **Raffael** by Boaz Vaadia at SoundScape!

“This is a financially trying time for our family and I appreciate this class being financially accessible.”

– Red Oaks Forest School Art Club Attendee



▲ **Shawn Smith** Eco-Art workshop in conjunction with Blackacre Conservancy, Above The Dirt, and sponsored by Don Wenzel and Ron Darnell

47 free programs this year + free park access every day



60% visitors spend 1-2 hours when visiting JSP



100% feel more connected to nature as a result of their visit



60% feel more connected to their community as a result of their visit



100% feel their overall wellbeing improved as a result of their visit

▲ Above (Top): Attendees at Eco-Art Workshop: Making Music with Nature with **Rhythm Science Sound**
Above (Bottom): **Felix Culpa** by Nicole Bovasso

“The interactive sculptures that students were able to climb on and step into [stand out in my memory]. These seem to have the biggest impact on kids.”

- Field Trip Chaperone

More connected

▼ Red Oaks Forest School Art Club



Our impact grows when we grow together.

In 2026, JSP's partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, artists, educators, and community organizations helped us create more opportunities for our community to gather, learn, create, and connect.

Our program and event sponsors do more than provide financial support—they help turn ideas into experiences. Their investment



makes it possible to bring artists to the park, offer meaningful programs, welcome new audiences, and create moments of connection that extend far beyond a single event.

Because when our community invests in JSP, JSP can invest more deeply in our community.

◀ Sculpture Trail Club with **Walk Bike Frankfort**



▲ Partners from **Kentucky Center for Grieving Children & Families and Bluegrass Care Navigators** with artist **Mollie Rabiner**

▲ **Ale-8-One** ScoundScape! sponsor

◀ Yoga in the Barn with **The Ashventure**

Our *Wellness in the Wild* program strengthens community health through outdoor movement, the arts, and connection.

When we asked participants about their experiences, they described impacts that reached far beyond the program itself: greater mindfulness, improved wellbeing, more time spent outdoors, freedom to play, connection with friends and family, a greater sense of inclusion, and improved physical health.

200 participants



More wild

A park alive with possibility.

Across JSP's 40 acres, the landscape is becoming increasingly alive with signs of a healthy, thriving ecosystem—from fawns and rabbits moving through the property to wild blackberries and persimmons ripening in the landscape. This year, we even celebrated our **first pawpaw harvest**.

But nurturing a healthy landscape also means making room for it to thrive. Our stewardship team continues the ongoing work of **removing invasive species, including bush honeysuckle and Callery pear trees, giving native plants and wildlife more room to flourish.**

Even our newest artwork is contributing to this effort. **Artist-in-Residence Shawn Smith's new sculpture is designed as a habitat for beneficial insects.** Transforming an artistic form into a functional refuge that plays an essential role in our JSP ecosystem.

Our Bluebird Trail volunteers monitored nesting boxes, documented scientific data, identified eggs and birds, and celebrated **43 tree swallows, 25 eastern bluebirds, and 5 chickadees fledged at JSP.**



123
bird species
observed

73
fledglings

179
volunteer
hours

40
acres

◀ Top Left: *Fly Away* by Céline Browning

Top Right: Ellie Bullen with None Such Gardens & *Metamorpho-nest* by ▼
Andrea Wilson Mueller

Bottom Right: Mel with our 1st ever pawpaw harvest ▼

With support from new funding partners, JSP has accomplished even more this year in habitat management and environmental education, including producing a new series of **interpretive signage that will soon be installed along our trails**. Special thanks to: Athletic Brewing, American Water Charitable Foundation, Kentucky American Water, Columbia Gas of Kentucky and NiSource Charitable Foundation.

“We are proud to present the **Conservation and Environment Award to Josephine Sculpture Park, where wild grasses, native blooms, and open sky become part of the artwork itself. Their conservation work restores the land’s original voice, with milkweed returning for monarchs, prairie plants rising again in the sunlight, and pathways that invite visitors to wander with curiosity. Through education, stewardship, and creative vision, they have transformed open land into a living classroom that inspires both environmental responsibility and artistic wonder. Our community is richer because of their care.**”

- The Garden Club of Frankfort



At Barn Raisin' we named Fox Meadow in honor of Mrs. Milly Ann Stewart, ensuring that her legacy remains woven into the landscape of the park for generations to come.



More meaningful

We're committed to growth!

With grant support from the James Graham Brown Foundation, JSP is planning for the next 15 years. Partnering with Human Nature, we're developing an updated Site Master Plan and Strategic Plan to guide our organization, our site, and our impact into a new chapter. Your perspective is part of that process. We invite you to share your observations, ideas, and aspirations for JSP's future through our community survey. Every response helps shape where we go next.

**Scan the QR code below to
access the survey!**



◀ Left: *Shapeshifter* by Chakaia Booker

Our Board of Directors

Karine Maynard

Chair

Doug Schatz

Secretary

Krystal Conway-Cunningham

Treasurer

Robin Antenucci

Clay Groce

Joanne Price

Julien Robson

JW Blackburn

Franklin Co. Fiscal Court

Ex-Officio



Our Staff

Melanie VanHouten

Founding Director &
Chief Curator

Megan Sauter

Director of Operations

Catherine Causey

Creative Marketing
Manager

Danielle Creamer

Program & Events Manager

Josie Kirker

Grants Manager &
Public Art Administrator

Amanda Perry

Finance & Administration
Manager

Matthew Trimble

Park Manager

Ariana Berman

Park Steward



Be part of the magic!

Your time makes a difference.

Become a JSP volunteer and help care for the land, support our programs, and connect our community with art and nature.

Thank you 2026 Supporters!*

Donor recognition reflects gifts of \$500 or more. We are grateful to every donor who supported JSP in 2026 and every gift makes an impact!

PLATINUM



Betty Barr and Don Kleier

Milly Ann and John Stewart Charitable Fund

GOLD

Anonymous
Athletic Brewing Company
Bill and Marie Cull
Carlos Gamez de Francisco
Christine and Mike Huskisson
Don Wenzel and Ron Darnell
Dr. John Stewart and Dr.
Magdalene Karon
Great Meadows Foundation
Harrod Concrete and Stone
Kentucky Foundation for
Women
Anna Marie and Richard Rosen
The Stewart Home and School
True North Catering
Vivian Ruth Sawyer

Mary Anne and Gene Burch
Glenda Abrams
Teresa and Harry Suter
Honorable Order of the
Kentucky Colonels
Jennifer Durr and William Young
JSP Community Donation Boxes
Karine and Matthew Maynard
Kim Perry Studio
Natalie and Layne Wilkerson
Linda and Jerry Bruckheimer
Mary Katherine Daugherty
Melanie VanHouten and BJ
Duvall
Nancy Rose Osborne
Nash Cox
Patricia and Dennis Monohan
Rachel "Cody" Johnson
Revolution Home Builders
Sarah J. Pavlik
Mary Pat and Scott Hankla
Snowy Owl Foundation
The Paddocks
YAPA!

Kittie Baird
Lisa Beran
Meg and J.D. Quarles
Molly and Justin Yandell
Nana Lampton
Penny Peavler and Charlie Grass
Ann and Robert Faesy
Sandra Frazier
Kimberly and Scott Alvey
Seth Murphy
The Light Clinic
Victoria Meyer
William Graham

*Gift dates 9/30/2025 to 8/31/2026

SILVER

Ale-8-One Company
American Water Charitable
Foundation
Anne Taylor and William
Renshaw
Anonymous
Beverly and Art VanHouten
Beckham Bird Club
Billie Faye and Rick Duvall
Bluegrass Care Navigators
Bourbon on the Banks
Festival Inc.
Castle & Key Distillery
Chenault and Hoge
Cindy and Scott Hampton
Columbia Gas of KY and
NiSource Charitable
Foundation
Completely Kentucky
Deborah Goldeen and Erik
Gutfeldt
Don Rodgers
Doug Schatz

BRONZE

Andrea and Michael Mueller
Ashley Rountree and Associates
Patricia and Ben Griffith
Benjamin's Flowers & Gifts
Brenda Buchwald
Carol and John Baughman
Chris Schimmoeller and Joel
Dufour
Crit and Lynn Luallen
Delwin Jacoby
Gina Greathouse in Memory of
Tom Hampton
Jennifer and Jack O'Nan
Jeanne Clark
Jen Oberlin
John Antenucci
Jonathan Shirley

The Psychiatrist is In by Jennifer Meyer is one of many artworks JSP has placed throughout the Frankfort community, part of our effort to exhibit art directly where people live, work, and play. Special thanks to our partners, the City of Frankfort and the Frankfort Tourist & Convention Commission, for their commitment to making Frankfort an artful community. ▼



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.

Mark your calendars!

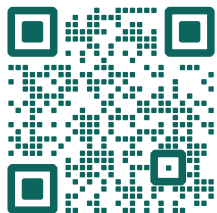
You don't want to miss JSP's 1st Annual Winter Market! Shop local and shop handmade with 20 Kentucky artisans offering unique gifts and one-of-a-kind finds. Plus, enjoy Rebecca Ruth Chocolate s'mores while you explore the market and take in the beauty of JSP as we welcome winter.

WINTER MARKET



NOVEMBER 21 * 1-5PM
AT JOSEPHINE SCULPTURE PARK
ART * HOT CHOCOLATE
LIVE WOOD CARVING & MUSIC
S'MORES * MORE! SPECIAL THANKS: 

7 days OF giving



Make a gift anytime in 2026 to help us reach our \$100,000 Annual Fund Goal and secure the match. Funds go to support art & nature programs in 2027.

Mark your calendar for JSP's annual 7 Days of Giving on **December 1-7**. Your gift helps JSP make life **more creative, accessible, connected, wild, and meaningful**, offering more ways to explore art and nature for free, everyday, for all people. You can get a jump start on your annual giving by making your donation now! Thanks to an anonymous matching gift, all donations will be matched **dollar for dollar up to \$40,000!**

explore



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, June 6

Celebrating Guests of Honor
Art and Beverly VanHouten

More in 2027

Artist-in-Residence 2027

We're excited to welcome three Artists-in-Residence next year, including Mary Carothers, Leticia Bajuyo, and an emerging artist thanks to our new residency partnership with the Kentucky Foundation for Women. We will also announce our open call for the 2027-2028 Immersion Residency.

Preserving Art for Generations to Come

With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, JSP has begun a multi-year effort to restore large-scale, site-specific sculptures created at the park over the past eight years, including works by Peyton Scott Russell, Heather Hart, Alex Gelderman, and Bridget Beck. Each piece reflects contemporary art at its boldest, pushing boundaries through innovative materials and ideas.

Some restoration work is already underway, and there is more to come. Throughout 2027, our team will continue overseeing treatments that honor each artist's original intent while addressing the unique needs of these works and the landscape they inhabit.

Coming Spring 2027

Join us for our first event of the season, **Joy Full**, as we celebrate art, nature, and community and kick off a wildly wonderful year ahead!

▶ *From a Tiny Seed* by Matthew & Karine Maynard
Linda Bruckheimer: *Lost and Found Farmscapes*

▶ Peyton Scott Russell's *GRAPHOLOGYHENCE* received restoration work in 2026





josephine
sculpture park

3355 Lawrenceburg Rd
Frankfort, KY 40601

art & nature at JSP