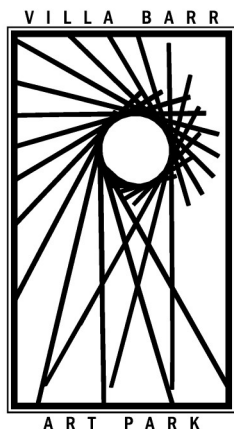


Villa Barr Strategic Plan Progress Report August 2023



Since the last progress report in summer 2022, additional action steps included in the 2021 strategic plan have been addressed by City staff, contractors and volunteers. These include:

Educational Resources

Sarah Kowalski, an EMU graduate student has completed inventorying the boxes of books and other items that have been in storage since 2018, as well as the red studio. We plan to re-populate the house with his book collection and digitize some key records. These items are in addition to those selected for donation to the Walter Reuther Library (WRL) at Wayne State University. To date, items at the WRL have not been archived by their staff.

In June, a monthlong Villa Barr/David Barr display was hosted at the library. It was curated by volunteers Sarah Kowalski and Ken Stevens. Ken also led educational sessions for residents of Fox Run and the Northville Women's Club. Estimated attendance at the programs is 285.

Means of Connecting

In fall 2022, we hosted Kuma Hula Kau'I Dalire who lead residents in a lei making workshop and a Hula Altar dedication at Villa Barr Art Park. The altar remains at the park near the red studio. The local Polynesian dance group is tasked with maintaining it.

In June, we welcomed back Abby Marchesseault to perform Heartstring Lullaby, in memory of Beth Barr. Friends and family of the Barrs were in attendance. Attendees were encouraged to donate to the Novi Parks Foundation to support the artist-in-residence program.

Kevin Brophy was at Villa Barr late June through Mid July. In addition to hosting a Twine computer programming session at the Novi Public Library, she installed an "absence monument" sculpture that lays flat in the grass between Sunswirl and Gate. She also cleaned and re-organized the red studio.

Community Convener and Preserving the Legacy

The two decks on the house were replaced with composite boards, as was the small deck attached to the red studio. A ramp was also included for easier access to the studio for future guests and for moving items in and out.

Artist John Sauve power washed all the sculptures and sandblasted and repainted the small Equinossos, Structurist #10, and Kaz McCue's piece, Ag Dul Abhaile.

The ornamental garden was restored last summer using mostly low-maintenance native plants and following a plan put forth by the city's landscape architect. Planting and maintaining the garden continues and it is currently being maintained by a contractor.

Native trees and bushes have been planted at the park, following the expertise of the City's landscape architect.

Sustainable Funding Sources

The Novi Parks Foundation raised \$2,000 through a generous donor for the support of the residency program and is currently following up with attendees of the Heartstring Lullaby performance.

Through the Keep Michigan Beautiful grant program, \$750 was put to use to enhance and maintain the gardens at the park.

The staff continues to seek grant opportunities to support enhancements to the park.




Heartstring Lullaby
An evening-long dance tribute to Beth Dwaihy Barr

Performed throughout the grounds of Villa Barr Art Park
Created and performed by resident artist Abby Marchesseault

Beth Dwaihy and David Barr were co-creators in life and in art...she the muse to her Sculptor, he the muse to his Dancer. *Heartstring Lullaby* – an original composition by choreographer and dancer Abby Marchesseault, creates a conversation between Beth's sculptor and David's dancer, as she weaves throughout the sculpture displayed on the beautiful grounds of Villa Barr. *Heartstring Lullaby* is a story of transience and permanence, motion and stillness – a story of Beth and David's love of life and of one another.

This is a free, but ticketed event.
Please RSVP to noviparks@cityofnovi.org or call 248.347.0400 by June 6th. Instructions for arrival and parking will follow. Light refreshments will be served.

**Friday
June 9
7:30pm**
Villa Barr Art Park





For more information and to support Villa Barr Art Park, visit cityofnovi.org/villabarr.
Financial support for the resident artist program is provided through donations to the Novi Parks Foundation.



Clockwise from top:
 Heartstring Lullaby Invitation
 New Composite Decking - Studio and House
 Kevin Brophy Art Installation
 David Barr Display at Novi Public Library
 Lei Making with Kua'i Dalire
 Red Studio Cleanout