

Solo Roths, 'Bridges' team working on Artpark's second painted parking lot

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

Artpark & Company drew rave reviews when, in 2017, Director of Visual Arts & Family Programs Tanis Winslow and a team of artists recreated "Niagara 1979" – the late Gene Davis' "Painted Parking Lot."

There was just one problem: The mural is located in the South Fourth Street C lot – a parking area normally reserved for sponsors and VIPs. It's not necessarily seen by the masses who frequent the state park in the late spring and throughout the summer.

"Every time I enter Artpark and I look at this vast (main) parking lot, I always think, 'Well, this has got to be the next big project for us.' It's an entryway; it's the gateway to Artpark; it's what should say to everybody 'This is Artpark. You've arrived,'" Executive Director Sonia Kozlova Clark said. "It's been my plan to definitely do an artwork here, sooner or later.

And this year was just a perfect opportunity. I realized we're gonna have so much less traffic and so much less use," as New York's efforts to combat the coronavirus have prevented the venue from holding its annual "Tuesdays in the Park" concert series.

Artpark set forth an ambitious plan.

A jury selected Rob Lynch and Matt Sagurney (aka The Solo Roths) as lead creators. The duo was tasked with collaborating with Cynthia Pegado and the "Artpark Bridges" community outreach program to "transform the largest Artpark parking lot into a large canvas of color that gives voice to the underserved members of our community and expresses shared humanity."

The Solo Roths are working with People Inc., Empower, Artisan's Edge and the Parkinson's community, among others.

That was a main reason why Artpark selected Lynch, an art

teacher at Niagara Falls High School, and Sagurney, who teaches art at Kenmore East High School.

"We were looking for a lead artist to work with others, as well, and work well with voices of others," Clark explained. "There's plenty of artists who are amazing, incredible artists, but they work internally. They work as their own voice, and that's a strong voice and it's important to them. But this project is different. We really wanted to incorporate the voices, as we said, of our community. And these guys, we actually had interviews with some of our People Inc. participants. And we watched them interact, and we watched how they took their ideas, and what they did with them – right in front of us. And that was the most exciting thing.

"It was just very obvious these are, indeed, the folks that will be able to take these voices; and celebrate them; and add their own, of

course; and bring it all together. And they're very playful, which is also very important in Artpark."

The principals discussed the mural project as work began last Friday.

Q: It sounds like a tall task. What is going to be taking place here and what is your game plan?

"We're learning as we go forward. We're learning every step of the way, too," Lynch said. "It's a little scary to say we don't have a game plan, but it's kind of the way we work is to not have a game plan, as well."

He added, "There's been ... groups of people with special needs that we've been meeting with, doing Zoom meetings with. So far, we've just had, I think, four hours with the meeting ... and basically what's been happening in those meetings is that people are kind of either showing us drawings that they're making, or through discussion Matt and I are basically taking little seeds of

those conversations that are going to hopefully develop into imagery here in the parking lot. So, it could be something as simple as one guy had a nickname called 'Bingo.' So, the word 'Bingo' might show up in here."

In the Solo Roths' murals – at Music is Art and the Niagara Falls train station – one can find "this kind of stream of consciousness, free-flowing thing, anyhow; so it's kind of perfect," Lynch said. "So far, that's what we've been up to; we've just been filling our sketchbooks with little drawings and kind of like little placeholders from the topics that have come up in discussion. I think that's the voice of the underserved. I think that's what they meant by that."

"A lot of their classes, led by Cynthia (Pegado), incorporate movement and all kinds of body movement. And so even through Zoom classes they're able to do all kinds of physical body move-
SEE ARTPARK, continued on Page 9

More than a traditional walking tour experience: 'The Art of Walking' begins at Artpark

This summer, visitors are invited to reinterpret the Artpark experience through "The Art of Walking." A new approach to a traditional walking tour, participants will explore the nature, poetry and story of Artpark in an engaging and surprising way while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

"The Art of Walking" was created by an international collaboration of New York-based theater and visual artist Carin Jean White and Catalan artists Itsaso Iribarren and German de la Riva.

Performance artists Angela Lopez, Phil Wackerfuss, Michael Wells and Alexia Buono will lead the tours at Artpark.

"The Art of Walking" guides Phil Wackerfuss and Angela Lopez (Photo by Jordan Oscar/Artpark)

Beginning Saturday, June 27, groups of up to 25 participants will be led by two performance artists, weaving a moving meditation combining walking, stillness, listening and cheerful interaction.

Participants will wear provided headphones to listen to guides, ambient sounds and music of the park. Headphones and other provided materials will be sanitized prior to each tour and headphones will also be equipped with one-use earpiece covers.

In addition to sanitation measures, all participants will be re-



quired to wear masks and socially distance at check-in and for the duration of the tour. Participants are encouraged to bring their own mask, though masks will be pro-

vided for those who do not bring one. Restrooms will be available for use and to wash hands. Visit www.artpark.net to read more on the safety protocols in place for

"The Art of Walking" tours.

Upcoming tours are scheduled as follows:

- ✓ June 27-28, 4 and 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ July 1, 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ July 3, 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ No tours on July 4
- ✓ July 5, 4 and 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Remaining July weekends: Saturdays at 4 and 6:30 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m.
- ✓ August: Saturdays at 4 and 6:30 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$25. Advance sale is strongly encouraged, as capacity is limited and tours will fill up quickly. An option for a picnic basket meal will be offered for purchase upon preregistration. Tickets are on sale at www.artpark.net. Private tours can be arranged for groups of 25. If interested, email artofwalking@artpark.net or call 754-4375.

Artpark loses 'Saints and Sinners,' but gains 'Blues Brothers'

Artpark & Company announced a "The Saints and Sinners Tour 2020" date is canceled. The show was to feature Big Wreck, Headstones, Moist and The Tea Party; it was originally scheduled for July 16. Ticketholders have been emailed instructions.

The venue announced a new drive-in film: "The Blues Brothers" will be shown at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 30. Tickets are advance sale only, and available at artpark.net.

John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd star in the iconic 1980 film about Jake and Elwood "on a mission from God" and "putting the band back together."

The film will be shown on multiple screens at the foot of the main parking lot at 450 S. Fourth St., Lewiston.

More Movies Announced
Computer-animated superhero comedy "The LEGO Batman Movie" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 2.

The director's cut of the Acade-

my Award-winning documentary "Woodstock: 3 Days of Peace and Music" will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 7.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" will be the feature film on July 9, screening at 7:30 p.m.

Two LED screens are positioned in parking lot D, the large lot nearest the Fourth Street entrance. One screen is set in the "Painted Parking Lot" for VIP and walk-in patrons (walk-in tickets do not include a parking space).

Tickets are \$25 per vehicle (up to four people per vehicle or walk-in group), and that includes \$8 admission and a \$17 concession credit. Call 754-4375 to purchase.

Safety protocols can be found at www.artpark.net.

Porter Empty Return Center



Bring in Those Cans & Bottles & Receive an Extra

15%

Now thru June 30

Bring In Your Wine Bottles too! (6¢ each up to 20 per visit!)

3628 Ransomville Road (Next to Rite Aid), Ransomville • 791-1113
HOURS: MONDAY & SATURDAY 9AM TO 3:30PM / TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY 10AM TO 6PM

Adams Vol. Fire Company

\$100 Donation. Need Not Be Present To Win.

\$\$ 100,000 Cash Bash \$\$

7113 Nash Rd.

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

1:30PM to 4:30PM

APPLICATION FORM

**SATURDAY
JULY 11TH
2020**

**TICKET
PRICE
\$100**

Payments:

Make \$100 check payable to
Adams Fire Company

Mail to:

\$\$ 100 Grand Cash Bash \$\$
P.O. Box 684
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Ticket Number (if available) _____

Attending Event _____

Person In Charge Of Ticket

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone _____

Winners will be posted on AFC website. Visit www.adamsfireco.com For Full Details



535 Division St. Twin City Highway
North Tonawanda • 693-2802

OPEN DAILY! MON - SAT: 6AM - 10PM
SUN 6AM - 9PM

**VISIT US ON THE WEB FOR
OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS
themarketinthesquare.com**

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED