

Words of Appreciation



At the end of three years of planning, grant writing/fundraising, documenting, and coordinating the project that became "Eagle's Nest", an obsession with this project is complete. The responsibility was mine, for having started the project as an outgrowth of student work in the art classroom. I had never imagined the responsibility would be mine to find the missing components and to coordinate the details of the project to completion, though I often wondered if/where the support would come. Beyond those who are recognized on the donor plaque and this website, who include a rather extraordinary group, there are a few anonymous donors who supplemented our budget with significant funds for which we can be truly grateful. That is not to diminish the appreciation for the many who made smaller donations. Together we accomplished a goal.

The summer and fall of 2012 brought retirement from the art classroom and real challenges as site preparation for installation became a full time job itself. Thankfully, our partnerships with two community men, Luke Owings (of imi) and Trevor Powell (concrete finishing) moved site development forward. It was both a tremendous experience coordinating the project with many people and also a relentless job as a volunteer. Several dedicated individuals supported the effort when there was physical work to be done, be it seeing that the Art Night work was ready for Gerry to pick up, spending each day and night at the Fall Festival booth (where we "hung out" with the Lion's Club), or looking for ways to raise funds. Together we sustained the belief that the project was still possible, despite the challenges. When the project was complete, we planted the roses. Their input helped me to organize the celebration. Lucie Tindal, retired EIS teacher; Heidi and Joe Waskow, EIS parents; and also the Masse Family (Papa Gerry & Dianne, and son Gerry), the rally masters...know what perseverance and fortitude was involved and share my joy as few can. I acknowledge their support and that of Kerry Griffith and Chris Fisher with appreciation! Thankfully, this project, which is so much larger than any of us, grew organically through shared individual networks, bringing people, skills, and materials into place...and also a spirit of camaraderie and joy. It IS about community, the meaning, and the challenges of life. "One must believe"...as Lucie would say.

Hopefully, these webpages share a greater understanding of the total process, inviting all to join in realizing the meaning of the sculpture and to celebrate in collective joy, sharing memories. We recognize this collaborative artwork, "Eagle's Nest", for the sculpture is now, truly a symbol of our school community...one in which people make all the difference!

Special Note: During the winter of 2013, after the initial installation, we waited for delayed grant funds and spring completion. That is when I developed an ebook. There were so many stories, so much STEAM problem solving. It needed to be shared as part of the history, and as the interactive learning tool we wanted the sculpture to become.

Our professional partners, collaborators, and volunteers are presented in the development of the sculpture. The ebook may be used by anyone who wants to learn more about the process of developing the public art project, "Eagle's Nest". It is hoped that teachers and students will use this tool to interactively explore the problem solving skills and considerations required in developing the sculpture and site...extending it further in personal exploration.

The ebook is a gift to the students and school community. The project was always meant to return to the students from which it developed. As an art educator I could do no less. This ebook represents the culmination of the public art project and my belief in the inclusive and essential nature of visual art to encompass diverse knowledge and skills sets; to inspire and to support individual expression; and to unite and to share the spirit of people.

Best Wishes, Always!

Brenda Wampler, coordinator/retired EIS art teacher

