

## **The Report**

With this grant for Art in Space, I was able to transport four classes (in three trips) of Urbana 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to the Wandell Sculpture Garden in Meadowbrook Park. The grant money went toward the transportation costs for the three separate trips.

Without the grant, finding the funding for the busses would have been difficult, and I would not have been able to take my classes to view the sculptures. My students usually only see art (by artists other than themselves) in reproduced images. Sculptures do not always translate well into 2-dimensional images. By visiting the Wandell Sculpture Garden, the students were able to view the art from multiple angles as well as gain a sense of scale. Many of the students had not taken the time to view the sculptures before our visit; our tour of the sculptures gave them the tools to not only view these particular sculptures again, but other sculptures (and other forms of art), as well. The impact of the trip will have repercussions far into the future.

Between the four classes, we spent close to six hours in the Wandell Sculpture Garden. Prior to each trip, I consulted with the classroom teachers on the best dates and then filled out the paperwork which took a minimal amount of time (an hour or so for all three trips). A total of twenty hours was spent of class time on various aspects of 3-dimensional forms and sculptures (each class period was 30 minutes).

Ninety-three people participated in the trip, including eighty-two 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Thomas Paine and Yankee Ridge Elementary Schools. The rest of the participants were adults including classroom teachers, student teachers, teaching assistants, parents, and me.

The Wandell Sculpture Garden is a fantastic resource in the city of Urbana. This grant allowed me to take the students to experience the garden with the hope that they will return. We didn't just look at the sculptures, but discussed them, as well. The students looked for various 3-dimensional forms, negative space, and surface quality (patina) in the art. They also interpreted the sculptures, looking for meaning beyond the obvious forms. The students were also able to see the relationship between 3-dimensional forms (cylinders, spheres, cubes, etc.) with the art in their environment, and were able to construct or use these forms in the creation of their own sculptures. Fortunately, the weather was cooperative for each trip.

## Student Responses to the Field Trip to the Wandell Sculpture Garden

“We went to Meadowbrook Park and went to the sculpture garden. My favorite sculpture was the one called *Diamonds are Forever*. I like it because it is big and I like diamonds because that is my birthstone. My second favorite is the barn. It was cool because it is like a stage. And that's our field trip.” - Matthew

“I liked the barn and learning about negative space and techniques to make sculptures. I like the barn because it reminds me of my parents because they work at the vet school.” - Bronwyn

“My favorite sculpture was *Here and There*. I liked the field trip because we were outside. I like *Here and There* because it reminded me about the time I was in a barn. The field trip was fun!” - Grace

“My favorite part of the art field trip was the farm house. I liked that you could climb on it (but we didn't). The farm house looked like it could have been many other things like a factory. To me, I thought it was very unique and that was my favorite part of the art field trip. It was awesome!” - Sam

“My favorite sculpture is all of them. I especially liked one that looked like the solar system. With the circles on it, they look like the planets. The 'rings' look like the atmosphere. It was so pretty! It also looked like a target and the thing in the middle looked like an arrow. It was in a good place, too. The grass is everywhere. I do like all of them. This is one of my favorites.” - Kaia

“I liked the sculpture named *Molecular Reflection* by Christiane T. Martens made out of stainless steel. I liked it since it was amazing to see it glitter, light up, and well....reflect. The garden was also a good chance to get away from school, have a nice walk. I also liked getting to see lots of sculptures.” -Doren

“I liked Tango – the way it was shaped, how it was designed, and how shiny it was. It was clearly cast. And the negative space it had! AMAZING! I will never look at tango the same way again. It was a great trip.” - Madeline

“I like all the sculptures. The best was the one with the circles that looked like Cheerios. I liked walking through it. That was the best field trip.” - Tony

“I like all the sculptures and I liked the *Fathers and Sons* the best because it reminds me of my family.” - Katy

“I liked the *Diamonds are Forever* sculpture because it looked like a man with diamonds in his pockets. It looked like they were falling out of his pockets so there were things around the sculpture. It was brown and grey.” - Abbie

“I liked the one with the boys and dads. I like the colors. I liked it because of the medal. It was the only medal one that was painted.” - Jayden

“My favorite sculpture was the *Balencia*. I like it because it looks like a bowling trophy next to two rectangular prisms shaped like a tee for trophy. I also like the forms in the sculpture, too, like the sphere and the three kinds of uneven rectangular prisms. I can not wait to go back!: - Jackson



