

Call for Artists



The Century Walk Corporation, founded in 1996, is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing public art to Naperville to add beauty to the town, build community and bridge generations by paying tribute to Naperville's history through a diverse collection of murals, mosaics, sculptures, and other public arts. www.CenturyWalk.org

SCULPTORS INVITED

Century Walk seeks professional sculptors whose work will be considered for a permanent installation outdoors in Central Park, downtown Naperville, Illinois.

Who: All experienced, professional sculptors are invited to submit proposals for consideration. Artists must be experienced with design, construction and installation of outdoor sculpture and must have a documented track record of this experience. Only the highest quality of work will be considered. This opportunity is open to artists within the United States of America. Illinois artists will be given preference.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN SCULPTURE

Theme: The theme is "Laughing Lincoln."

The Story: Central Park is the location of the first Public Square in DuPage County. Upon the removal of the county seat to Wheaton in 1868 the county deeded the 3.8 acres to Naperville for public purposes.

Joe Naper, founder of Naperville, and Abe Lincoln served together in Illinois state government. It is rumored (who can really ever untangle the motivations a politician has when it's time to cast their vote?) that a vote exchange occurred: Joe voting to remove the state capitol from Vandalia to Springfield, Abe voting to carve DuPage County out of Cook. Both votes did occur (each crossing party lines) and the capitol moved and the county formed.

Don Wehrli, citizen advocate, was the champion of keeping the original size of Central Park available for all citizens as a public park. Over the years Central Park was compromised with parking and a roadway. Thoughtful design and careful consideration by many people brought Central Park to life as business and government interests approved the diminution of Central Park to serve the times. Don's diligence and actions reminded all parties that the land, all of it, still belongs to the people.

What's to laugh about? - Citizens in search of conversation and fairness amidst the changing tides. It is a wise, content and understanding gesture of hard work, knowledge, irony, joy, and patience.

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Concept to Include: Positioned on an object that allows people to sit next to Lincoln. A representation of the Deed to Central Park. The sculpture encourages public interaction including photo opportunities.

The Setting: The eastern part of Central Park is the location of the Blackhawk Monument, the DuPage County Centennial Monument, and a nearby civil war cannon. It faces the Community Concert Center which hosts free summer concerts by the Naperville Municipal Band among other scheduled events. It is in the heart of vibrant downtown Naperville IL. Sculpture will face the stage.



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Selection Criteria: Sculpture will be selected based on its originality, artistic merit and ability to communicate this theme to all visitors – thereby enhancing the experience of a visit to Naperville and an appreciation of citizen advocacy.

Work Size: LIFE SIZE

Entry Requirements:

Artist Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Medium: _____

Website: _____

1. Cover letter describing sculpture proposal.

2. Three to five (3-5) digital images on CD/DVD.

Images should be presented in JPEG format with image size set to 300 dpi resolution, 4" x 6" image size, approximately.

3. Artist Resume including biography, educational background, and exhibition record.

Cost: There is no entry fee. Include amount required for sale, delivery and installation.

Entries Due: OCTOBER 1, 2015 at 5pm.

Timeline: Committee will review entries in October-November with final selection and notification to artists in February 2016. Installation in summer or fall 2016.

Reply to: Century Walk - Abe Lincoln, 34 W. Chicago Ave., Naperville IL 60540

Selection Process: Small sub-committee to make recommendation to Century Walk Board of Directors who will make final decision. The Naperville community and City Council will follow the process.

Notification to Artist: Accepted artists will be contacted by email. All other entries will be returned by mail.

Delivery: CENTRAL PARK, COURT PLACE AND VANBUREN AVENUE, NAPERVILLE IL 60540

Reception: CENTRAL PARK, NAPERVILLE IL 2016

Publicity: Century Walk will promote the piece in a media outreach campaign and the successful artist will be asked to participate in media and/or opening events during the time of installation. Century Walk will submit press releases to local newspapers – Naperville Sun, Daily Herald, Chicago Tribune – and Naperville Community Television. Annually, Naperville Trolley and Tours will include the sculpture on its seasonal, weekly Historic Tours. Future publications will include the sculpture.

Contact: Nina Vittori 630-355-5553 publicart@centurywalk.org

Additional Information: Please download the [Call for Artists](#) and [Entry Form](#) for more information. You may also check the [Century Walk](#) website for more information.