Elizabeth Rex

Educators from John Michael Kohler Arts Center designed an art curriculum that draws upon the unique experiences and expressions of art-environment builders. Goals from this project were to highlight and advocate nationally for the Arts Center’s permanent collection of art-environment builders and develop innovative art curricula that is relevant to learners and accessible to educators. Special consideration was given to designing curricula using enduring concepts that emerge through these works that provide personal, community, and world connections for K-12 students and beyond.

Marylin Rolfsmeyer

Rural nonprofit offers a variety of programs, as there are simply fewer organizations for all the ideas a community has. And so it is for Grandview, outside a village of 290; its educational program has evolved within the context of a historic art environment created by a dairy farmer and nestled on a hill in Wisconsin’s Driftless Area. Over twenty years, there’s been theater, visual arts, after-school, teacher academies, and even an exhibit in the archives of the Library of Congress. Hear the story of how a milkman’s masterpieces have spawned all sorts of programs and given rural schoolkids a taste of creativity that won’t wash out.

Jarrod Roll

In 1929, a retired farm couple named Paul and Matilda Wegner began creating fanciful works of art on their farm in rural southwestern Wisconsin. The Wegners were not professionally trained artists. Yet they were inspired to build unique and ornate concrete and glass sculptures on their property. That art environment is known today as the Wegner Grotto County Park. For over eighty years, the Wegner Grotto remains a source of beauty and inspiration. Jarrod Roll, public programming coordinator for the Wegner Grotto, will share the challenges and rewards of offering art programming for all ages and skill levels at this unique grassroots art site.
Jen Balge

Educators from John Michael Kohler Arts Center designed an art curriculum that draws upon the unique experiences and expressions of art-environment builders. Goals from this project were to highlight and advocate nationally for the Arts Center’s permanent collection of art-environment builders and develop innovative art curricula that is relevant to learners and accessible to educators. Special consideration was given to designing curricula using enduring concepts that emerge through these works that provide personal, community, and world connections for K-12 students and beyond. These concepts were put into play with educators and the community at the James Tellen Woodland Sculpture Garden in Sheboygan, WI, through workshops and events. Learn how programming increases buy-in for art sites, as well as informs the public about little-known local history through creative engagement.