



WALKING TOUR ART & GARDEN



JOHN MICHAEL **KOHLER** **ARTS CENTER**

expect the unexpected

RELAX AND ENJOY

Relax and enjoy as you stroll through the gardens at the Arts Center. Marvel at the variety of art and architecture that graces the grounds, take in the sweet scents of flowers in bloom, and experience the beauty of the many heirloom plants and trees that adorn our four-season gardens.



FOUR SEASONS

SPRING

Catch the 1,500 bluebells and daffodils blooming in the spring. Do not miss the magnolia, flowering crabapples, callery pear, redbuds, dogwoods, and the exact moment the larches' needles shoot out of their spurs.

SUMMER

Enjoy the blooms of the hollyhocks, roses, catalpa, tree peony, rose mallow, sweet peas, plume poppies, hydrangeas, St. John's wort, coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and weigelas.

FALL

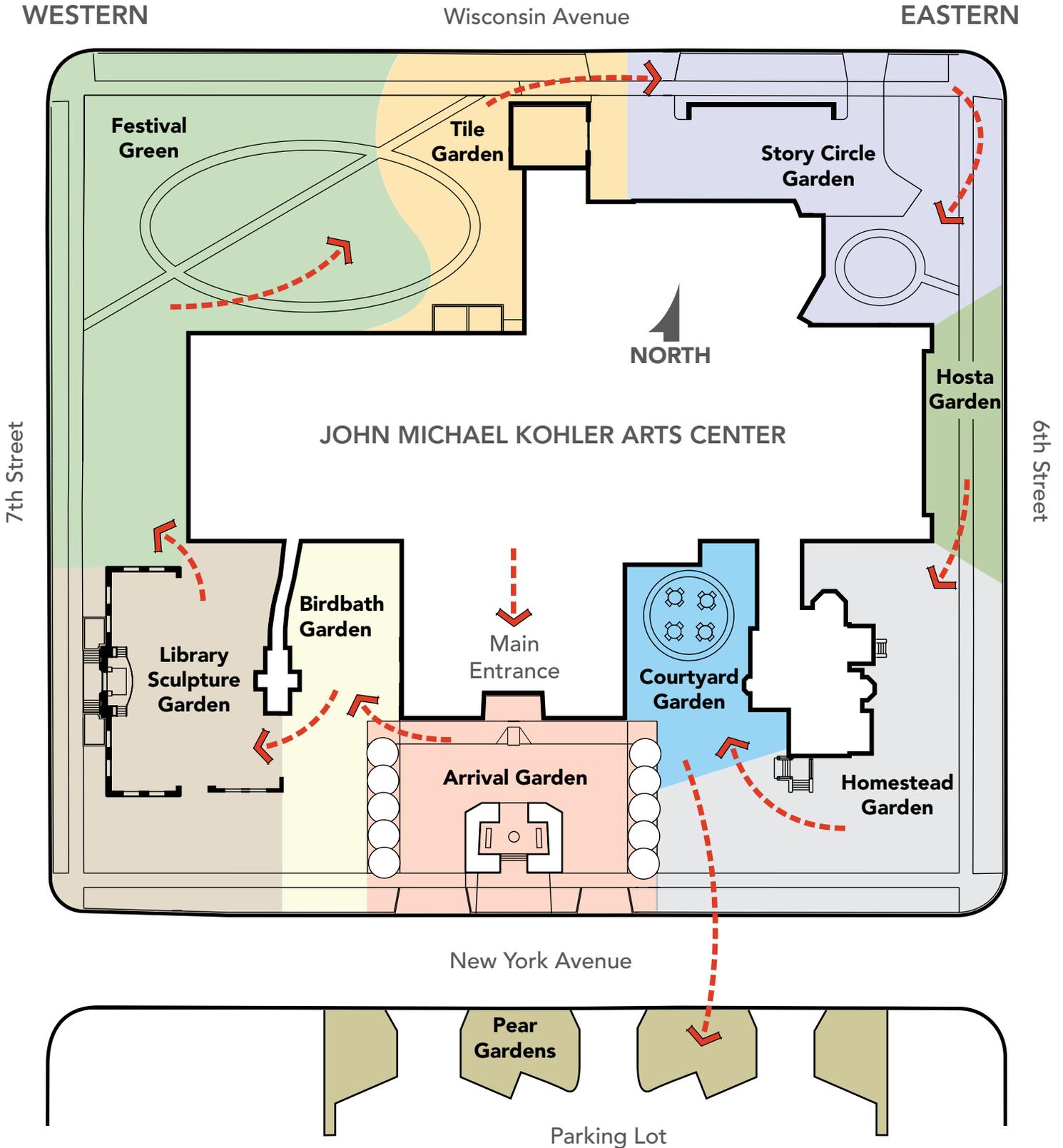
Appreciate the fall color and form of the burning bushes, Boston ivy, climbing hydrangeas, little bluestem grass, feather reed grass, and oak-leaf hydrangeas. Notice the flowers of the seven sons trees, purple beautyberry, witchhazel, and sedums.

WINTER

Enjoy the fruit of the flowering crabapples, Washington hawthorn, hollies, and Kentucky coffee trees as well as fluttering ornamental grasses that provide great winter interest.

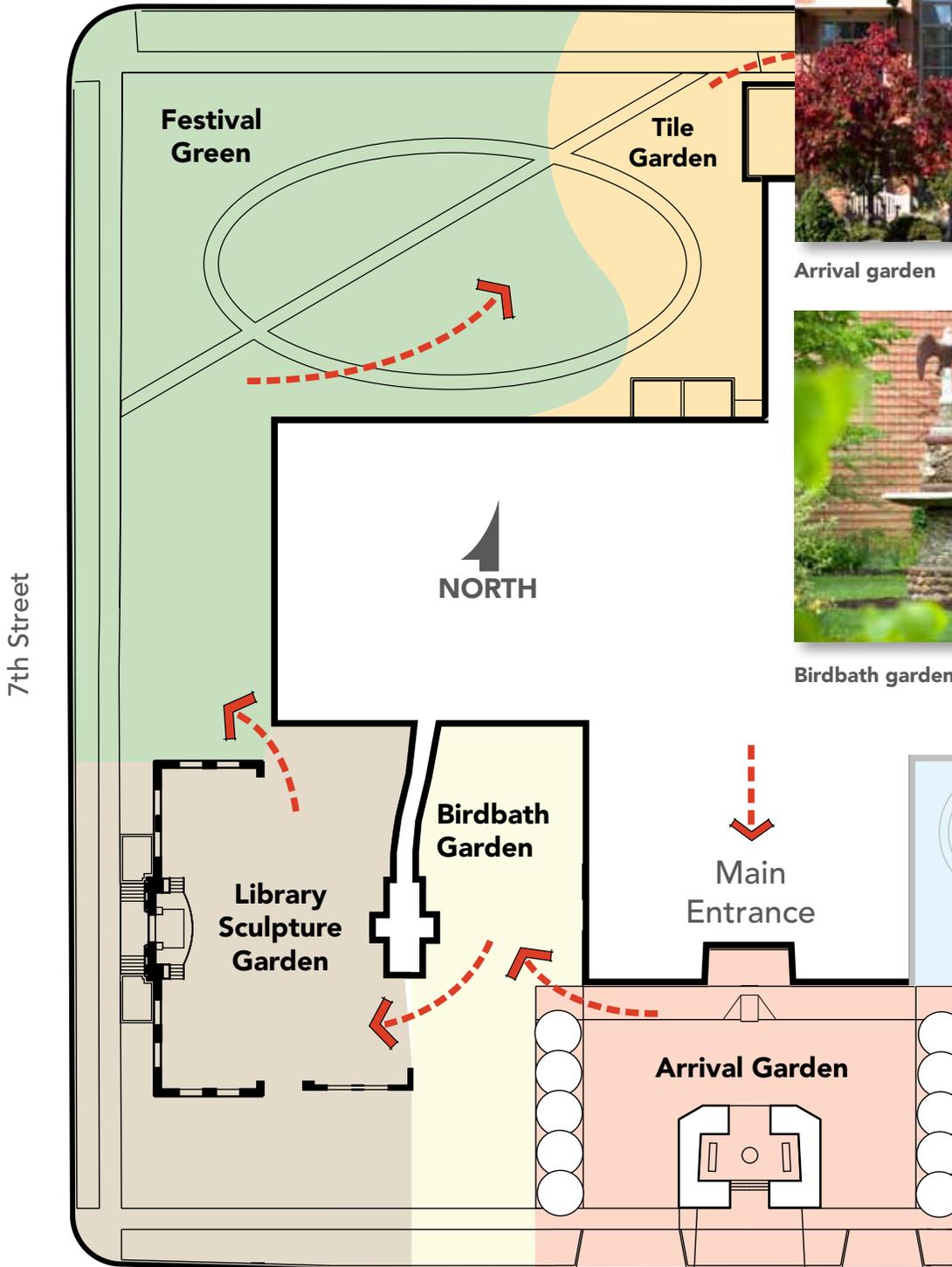
OVERVIEW

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this map of the Arts Center campus. The suggested route is indicated by the **red arrows**, and the descriptive narrative within this tour brochure follows this sequence. When you are ready, turn to the next page and we will begin with the western gardens...

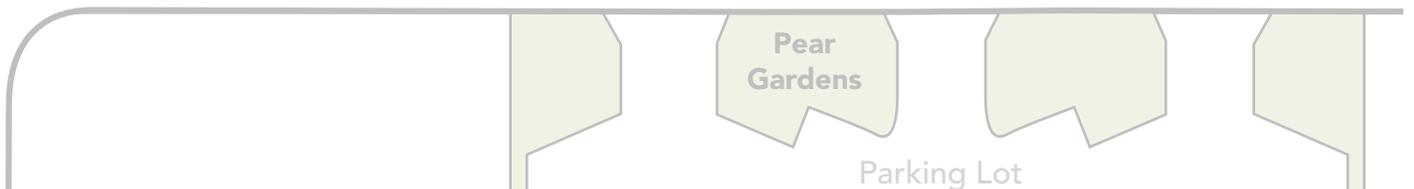


WESTERN

Wisconsin Avenue



New York Avenue



ARRIVAL GARDEN

Large ornamental pots flank the entry to the Arts Center with a tantalizing array of unusual plants. Sit on the benches and enjoy the pear trees, roses, and a collection of evergreens. Observe the two garden beds along the sidewalk with the ten flowering crabapples, catmint, anemone, and yews. Admire the brass "Birdbath" sculpture as you proceed to the sedum collection. Walk between the building and the pear trees into the...

BIRDBATH GARDEN

Home to many Carl Peterson sculptures depicting castles, lighthouses, ponds, and an eagle, the Birdbath Garden welcomes Arts Center visitors as well as a variety of feathered friends. See if you can locate the many plants tucked into this garden, including smoke bushes, hollies, weigelas, Japanese tree lilacs, ninebarks, and coreopsis. Continue your walk into the...

LIBRARY SCULPTURE GARDEN

This garden is within the walls of the old public library. There are more than 600 perennials, shrubs, and trees, so peek in every corner. Within the walls there are Japanese maples, a paper bark maple, a seven sons tree, weeping Nootka false cypress, and a dragon's eye pine. This garden will delight you with the variety of plants surrounding additional Peterson sculptures; the collection includes sunset glow bamboo, false indigo, daphne, St. John's wort, rose mallow, redbud, tree peony, bugbane, hollyhocks, redvein enkianthus, goat's beard, salvia, and speedwell. Two bench-like sculptures are titled *Blackbirds*, *Blue Women* and *Engulf Me*. A short walk outside the library walls is next. Notice the collection of beech trees outside the north and west walls. Outside the walls on the southwest corner, enjoying their new home, are Tom Every's metal birds, titled *Isis* and *Butterfly Jester*. Walk through the north exit and experience the sculpture *Glove Ball* nestled in the arborvitae, and proceed around the building to the...



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FESTIVAL GREEN

The fall colors of the Boston ivy and climbing hydrangea are a great way to showcase the espaliered flowering crabapples. Revel in the textures of the eastern white pines, arborvitae, hemlock, Washington hawthorn and little-leaf lindens. A digital recording studio and performance stage, M.I.K.E., is located near the honeylocust trees. Continue on to the...

TILE GARDEN

These unique tiles are a perfect backdrop for the blackberry lilies, grasses, and sedums. Note the arborvitae 'Smaragd' sitting among the gro-low sumac. The tiles were created by donors in 1999 as part of the capital/endowment campaign. Keep walking to the end of the block until you have arrived at the beautiful...

EASTERN



Homestead gazebo



Homestead garden



Courtyard garden





STORY CIRCLE GARDEN

As you walk around the northeast corner of the grounds, notice the vines that have meandered upon the building walls, with spectacular foliage in the summer, a brilliant array of colors in the fall, and in the winter an amazing display of snow clinging to their tendrils. The tree on the corner is one of the largest flowering crabapples that you may ever see. As you walk south, you will see the garden's namesake, where children from Preschool are read to on pleasant days. There are seven wayfaring tree virburnums (Mochican) that flower profusely in May. The Siberian bugloss with its brilliant silver leaves and contrasting green veins are eye-catching in the shady garden. Catalpa trees, curly willows, red leaf plums, and white snakeroot are sure to grab your attention. On to the hostas...

HOSTA GARDEN

Be amazed by the plentiful hostas on the east side of the building. The different textures, colors, and sizes of the leaves will amaze you! Continue your walk to the...

HOMESTEAD GARDEN

These gardens surround the 1882 Italianate homestead of John Michael Kohler. The vines hug the ornamental iron gazebo, original to the home, and eastern hemlocks front the glass breezeway. Variegated dogwood, panicle hydrangea, Persian ironwood, and star mangolia add more interest to this captivating nook. Immense burning bushes embrace the homestead. Hydrangeas line the brick pathway, inviting you to the remainder of the garden. Here you will notice, in season, an original fountain depicting three children with a dolphin. Umbrella art adds interest and color to the southwest corner with witchhazel, peonies, roses, and purple beautyberry. The magnificent oaks and maples have been here for more than 100 years. Next the...



COURTYARD GARDEN

This garden's backdrop is the original twentieth-century carriage house. Here you can pause to savor lunch in the ARTcafe Terrace while enjoying the gardens. Take in the soft texture of the larches, goatsbeard, and the fringe tree. Enjoy the flowers of the hydrangeas, pink turtleheads, rhododendrons, magnolia, and flowering crabapples. This shaded area is also home to hostas, maidenhair ferns, bugbane, and ligularia. Note the variety of culinary enhancements in the herb garden. The figure-shaped sculpture is *Higher Alternatives*, and the box-like shape is *Tank IV*. Find the coralbells hiding under the bronze bed created by Lia Zulalian called "Flower Bed" in the northeast corner. As you are following the path, also notice the tree-shaped sculpture surrounded by lady's mantle. For your last stop, cross New York Avenue to the...

PEAR GARDENS

The Kentucky coffee trees anchor these gardens with their unusual form and winter interest of large pods. Early settlers used the seeds as a coffee substitute. Another interesting plant is the bergenia, pictured here. The pink flowers bloom most of the summer. The pear sculpture is the home of a fleece vine which flowers in late summer. See if you can find the dwarf Siberian pine and the bristlecone pine. Our little bluestem grass has beautiful fall color that brightens up gloomy days.



We hope you enjoyed your walking tour of our art and gardens, and we invite you to come back often and delight in each season's changes.



JOHN MICHAEL **KOHLER ARTS CENTER**

608 New York Ave
Sheboygan, WI
53081-4507

P 920 458 6144
F 920 458 4473
www.jmkac.org

