

ART IN THE PARK

Mayor McLaughlin recently announced the creation of a cultural arts program called Art in the Park that will serve to enhance the Village's parks and open spaces with sculpture and art displays.



To coincide with the Village's 115th Anniversary and the dedication of the Illinois State historical Society Historical marker to the Humphrey House, the first sculpture for the Art in the Park program will be of Orland Park's first mayor, John Humphrey. The bronze sculpture will depict John Humphrey as he would have waited for a train, with briefcase, period clothing, and top hat. He will be glancing at a pocket watch reflective of the style that he would have carried. The proposed location for the sculpture is on the platform of the new 143rd Street Metra Station.

Taylor Studios of Rantoul, Illinois is creating the sculpture of Senator Humphrey from historical photos. Since the Senator lived mostly during the 19th Century there are not many photos available, adding to the challenge of creating a life-like sculpture of him. Luckily, the reference photos that have been collected are from different angles and perspectives, providing a more complete picture of what the Senator may have looked like.

Taylor Studios – Steps in Creating the John Humphrey Sculpture

- 1) First a body form is created from foam to closely match that of the subject. Then the head is sculpted out of clay. A foam plug is inserted inside the sculpted head so that can easily be added to the rest of the body.



- 2) Once the figure is put together, it is dressed in clothing that is representative of the style of clothing worn by the subject. At this point the appearance is reviewed – including stance, positioning, facial features, clothing, and other attributes. Assuring everything is correct at this stage is crucial because the pose or the style of the clothes cannot be changed after this point without a large amount of work.



- 3) The figure then coated in an epoxy, which gives it a gray appearance. This will harden the clothes, clay, and other sculpting materials into a shell. This process allows the artist to incorporate a lot of subtle detail into the piece.



- 4) After coating with epoxy, the figure is ready to be sent to the foundry. The foundry begins preparations for casting the sculpture by separating the hardened figure into pieces. Wax is then used to make ceramic molds from the pieces. Below is a shot of the molds made from the wax sections.



- 5) Here a foundry worker is pouring molten bronze into one of the ceramic molds. The bronze and the mold are at 2200° F.



6) Picture of the hat being broken out of the mold 30 minutes after being poured.



7) Once being removed from the molds, the bronze pieces are assembled piece-by-piece.



- 8) The sculpture is completely assembled and polished to remove welding marks. The bronze is then stained to a finished color – which is called adding a patina. Lastly, a coat of wax is applied to protect the patina and bronze.



November 19, 2007 – Bronze Sculpture of Senator John Humphrey Installed at 143rd Street Train Station

On November 19, 2007 Mayor McLaughlin and Trustees Fenton, O'Halloran, and Schussler welcomed a bronze sculpture of Senator John Humphrey to the 143rd Street train station in Orland Park. The installation of the sculpture marked the 115th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village and was the first sculpture to be installed as part of the Village's Art in the Park program. It is situated in a very appropriate place – within yards of where the Village's first train station once stood, across the street from the Historic district, and down the street from John Humphrey's house that still stands at 144th Place.



Mayor McLaughlin presents the new John Humphrey sculpture at the 143rd Street train station. Trustees Fenton and Schussler help with the unveiling.



Trustee O'Halloran, Trustee Fenton, Mayor McLaughlin and Trustee Schussler pose for a picture with the newly unveiled sculpture.

There was an energetic crowd on hand to witness the unveiling, which included members of local Brownie and Boy Scout troupes, the President of Orland Park's historical society Bob Elli, representatives from The Horton Group (who helped sponsor the sculpture), village staff members, and many others.

A Call to Sculptors:

The Village will continue its efforts in promoting public art by accepting applications to the Art in the Park program. Artists interested in having their sculpture put on display in the Village by the spring of 2008 should submit their application by March 15th. The application and further information can be found at www.orland-park.il.us.

For more information send an email to artinthepark@orland-park.il.us

Those wishing to support the arts by donating to Art in the Park can do so by sending checks to:



Art in the Park
Village of Orland Park
14700 S. Ravinia Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462

Please make checks payable to the Village of Orland Park. Thank you for your kind support.