



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **KRASL ART CENTER TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW OUTDOOR DESTINATION: SCULPTING COMMUNITY**

*The renovated campus and new sculpture commission by Richard Hunt will create a gateway to St. Joseph downtown cultural corridor*

St. Joseph, MI – Thursday, May 24, 2018 – On Friday, June 8, the Krasl Art Center will mark the beginning of the transformation of its outdoor campus in downtown St. Joseph, Michigan. The groundbreaking event at 10:00 a.m. will celebrate the start of a summer-long construction project to create a welcoming gathering place featuring exciting art, activities and gorgeous surroundings in the heart of Southwest Michigan. A new sculpture by world-renowned artist Richard Hunt will serve as the campus centerpiece.

Hunt's abstract work is site specific and serves as a cultural capstone to the reimagined campus. It's wide base and monumental scale invites visitors to walk under and through the sculpture and to sit on either of its two bases. Fabricated from stainless steel, the 25-foot tall sculpture was inspired by a model of a beautiful arched form by Mr. Hunt that caught the eye of a young visitor to the Richard Hunt Studio Center in Benton Harbor. The youngster shared his enthusiasm with representatives of the Krasl Art Center and discussions of a sculpture commission quickly followed.

"The campus and sculpture will create a dynamic place where memories will be made, creative minds will be engaged and community residents and visitors will come together," said Julia Gourley, Krasl Art Center Executive Director.

This outdoor green space will allow the Krasl Art Center to take its mission outdoors by offering a park-like destination intended to reduce barriers to entering and engaging with the KAC and inviting visitors to come as they are to experience the KAC on their own terms. The outdoor destination will be the perfect venue for artistic programs, performance and community celebrations – all with the framing of the Richard Hunt sculpture as the centerpiece.

The Krasl Art Center is open during Sculpting Community construction. Please visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) for the most up-to-date information on the project and how to enter and move around campus.

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“Whether you are seeking a creative outlet, a place to relax or a space that connects you to community, the Krasl Art Center’s reimagined campus will serve as a dynamic, inclusive outdoor place to engage with the arts, nature and each other,” says Marge Zibbel, president of the Krasl Art Center board of directors. “With Richard Hunt’s sculpture front and center, the campus will inspire residents of the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor area and visitors alike. “It will foster meaningful change by giving people a place that, as Olga Krasl stated as part of the KAC’s mission, ‘makes life more worthwhile.’”

#### **ABOUT KRASL ART CENTER –**

Krasl Art Center is a nonprofit art museum and learning center that enriches the lives of people living in or visiting Southwest Michigan by delivering enlightening art experiences through diverse education opportunities, meaningful events and high quality exhibits and collections. KAC’s mission is to inspire meaningful change and strengthen community through the visual arts. To learn more, visit <http://www.krasl.org>.

#### **ABOUT RICHARD HUNT –**

Richard Hunt is among the most prolific and well-known artists of public sculpture in the nation. His sculptures can be seen in museum collections nationwide - from the Art Institute of Chicago to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Hunt lives in Chicago and has had a satellite studio in Benton Harbor since 1995. Visit <http://richardhuntstudio.com>.

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