

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial ArtsPlan

<http://www.nefa.org/projinit/lewisclark.html>

WHAT: Tree in Tree: New Grows from Old

A community-based art project for the national Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Louisiana Purchase 'Three Flags' Signature Event

WHEN: Friday, March 12, 10:00 AM

WHERE: Forest Hills Park, St. Louis, MO (directions included below)

WHO: Lewis & Clark Bicentennial ArtsCorps lead artist Karen McCoy, with regional artist Matthew Dehaemers

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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



From 2003-2006, events are taking place across the country in a national Bicentennial commemoration of Lewis and Clark's historic, cross-country expedition. The Louisiana Purchase Three Flags Event in St. Louis commemorates the transfer of upper Louisiana from Spain to France to the United States 200 years ago.



As part of the **Lewis and Clark Bicentennial ArtsPlan** -- designed to integrate and promote the role of the arts in this national celebration -- artists Karen McCoy and Matthew Dehaemers are working with members of the Osage Nation to plant a tree to mark, "reroot" and honor the ancient Osage presence in the St. Louis region. The tree will become a living and growing permanent installation for all to visit, contemplate and gain greater understanding of our nation's history and future. The installation will commemorate the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase and Corps of Discovery with a gesture that extends forward into the next two hundred years.

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ARTISTS STATEMENT

When Osage Chief Jim Gray told us about the Indian use of marker trees as guides to special places, paths, or water, it marked a turning point in our process. It seemed that the symbolic use of a living growing tree, adapted for special guiding purposes, would be the ideal metaphor for our work in St. Louis for the Three Flags Signature Event. During a visit to the Osage Reservation in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, we were able to share our work history with many prominent members of the Osage Nation, and most importantly, to learn from a series of American Indian mentors and teachers. It is important to dedicate the site in a way that marks the occasion as a significant event. In collaboration with Ed Red Eagle, we have designed a new tree planting and branch tethering ceremony.

The site centers on a special red oak that has a large hollow trunk. Our plan is to use as much of this old tree as possible, in much the same way as the Osage used all parts of animals they hunted in the past. We plan to char the large limbs and branches of the old oak and thereby send some of its substance skyward. Within its vast trunk we will plant a young Osage Orange. One low growing branch will be drawn through a slot cut in the east side of the trunk. This branch will be manipulated and tethered in the old way of the Osage so that it will form a marking arm directing our gaze in an easterly direction. The Osage consider that they are always traveling in an easterly direction on their life paths. We hope to see you there.

DIRECTIONS

Tree in Tree: New Grows from Old will take place in the **Kennedy Forest** in **Forest Park**, St. Louis, MO. Park in the lot for the St Louis Art Museum and walk to the back of the lot. The Forest will be on your left. The gravel path to the site is to the left of a large green metal power box (when facing the forest from the parking lot). Enter there, walk a gentle slope downhill, pass a bench and make a right when you come to the intersection, about 40 feet from the beginning. The site is a short distance from the intersection.

Alternate route, mostly paved: From the green power box continue on the asphalt walking path and make a left at the first intersection, continue down the asphalt path a few yards to an intersection with a gravel path. Make a left and you will come to the site in a very short distance.