
Spirit of Victory Needs a Little Work!

The Spirit of Victory sculpture, located in Joseph Davis State Park, holds a special place in the heart of LCA. It was the first piece of public art sited by the Council, and it was the most challenging.

"Drums Along the Niagara" was sculpted in the 1989 by Tom Mullany while he was an artist in residence at Artpark. The iron piece was nearly 40 feet tall and consisted of a classic Greek column with an angel at its top set on stacked drums to symbolize the area's connection to environmental contaminants. Artpark's residency program was meant to encourage sculptors to create large pieces of public art that were temporary in nature. So, after Tom left Artpark the sculpture was dismantled and forgotten. Years later, Irene Rykaszewski, LCA Executive Director and Eva Nicklas, LCA Artistic Director, came across a portion of the statue while walking the trails at Artpark.



The women located the artist and he agreed to sign ownership over to the Council and help to restore the angel to its original luster.

But it was missing a crucial part - its wings, which were eventually found to be in the possession of a former Artpark employee living in the Adirondack mountains. He agreed to return the wings and the statue's base.



Artist Tom Mullany repairing the sculpture in the 1990's.

While Tom repaired and restored the Spirit, Eva and Irene negotiated with NY State Parks to site the sculpture on a piece of land known as Grand View, across from the entrance of Joseph Davis State Park. Members of the Town of Lewiston and Town of Lewiston Water Department were invaluable to LCA by lending their heavy equipment to move the sculpture and pour a new foundation.

Landscaping, lights and seating enhanced the pocket park, and signs



explaining the sculpture and its references to Native American culture were purchased and placed.

Now, 30 years later, the statue is again in need of repair. Members of the Board of Directors are formulating a plan to work with local craftsmen to repair the wings, paint it with a coat of preservative, and refresh the landscaping, lighting and benches.

And once our statue is returned to glory, we're planning a celebration at Grand View. That's right - we're gonna party like it's 1999!



Town of Lewiston and workers assist in preparing the site

If you'd like to contribute to this worthy project, we are accepting donations for the restoration on our website (artcouncil.org)