



For Immediate Release
June 3, 2024

Media Contacts

Ann Fink / Alyssa Krueger, Carol Fox & Associates

anf@carolfoxassociates.com / 773.969.5042
alyssak@carolfoxassociates.com / 708.870.0968

[CLICK HERE](#) for EPK Materials

COD AND THE MAC HOST FREE “OLMEC TRAILS FAMILY FIESTA” CELEBRATION JUNE 30

Family Friendly Event Celebrates the Opening of “Olmec Trails: Culture and Legacy” an Exciting Public Art Initiative Showcasing 33 Brightly Painted Mesoamerican Sculptures on Display in the Chicago Area July – October 2024

GLEN ELLYN, III.— Mexican Cultural Center DuPage (MCCD) in coordination with Meztli Mexico and in partnership with the College of DuPage Public Art Project (COD) and the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB) presents an exciting new project: “Olmec Trails: Culture and Legacy.” This new outdoor exhibit featuring 33 large, brightly colored, hand-painted renditions of iconic Mesoamerican sculptures will be displayed July through October 2024 predominantly throughout suburban Chicago’s DuPage County in an expansive exhibition highlighting the culture of the ancient Olmec civilization in a fresh and accessible way.

To celebrate the exhibition, a free “**Olmec Trails Family Fiesta**” celebration will be held at COD’s McAninch Arts Center’s (MAC) Lakeside Pavilion, 425 Fawell Blvd., Sunday, June 30, 2-6 p.m. This family friendly event featuring live music by Mariachi Monumental, folkloric dance by Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl, salsa dance lessons, face painting, food vendors and more is sponsored by College of DuPage Foundation. Attendees will have the opportunity to view the 10 Olmec sculptures installed at COD and immerse themselves in the educational and informational display in the MAC lobby containing information on locations and artists and the mystery of the legendary Olmec people. More information is available at OlmecTrails.com.

The colossal stone heads, crafted by the Olmecs between 1400 BCE to 400 BCE, originated in the southern part of Veracruz, Mexico, the cultural heart of this early Mesoamerican civilization. Each multi-ton sculpture, sculpted from a single stone using primitive tools, reflected the Olmecs’ artistic prowess and their significant influence on subsequent Mesoamerican cultures. Today, these iconic heads are celebrated globally as prime examples of pre-Columbian art and adorn various museums and public spaces. Notably, the Olmecs, Mesoamerica’s earliest civilization, left enduring legacies, including the precursor to sports like basketball and soccer.

“Olmec Trails” pays tribute to the indigenous roots of Mexican heritage as well as brings attention to the importance of public art by showcasing the immense talent and creativity of 33 contemporary artists from across North America.

Installations will be located throughout DuPage County and beyond. Those in DuPage County include 10 installations located on the walking paths of College of DuPage; five at St. James



Farm in Warrenville, Ill.; three at Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook, Ill.; three at Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook, Ill.; and one in the following locations: Naperville's downtown and 95 St. Public Libraries; Great Western Prairie Path in Elmhurst, Ill.; Glen Ellyn Prairie Path in Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Kline Creek Farm, West Chicago Public Library, West Chicago Park District and Kruse House in the City of West Chicago, Ill.; Wheaton Prairie Path in Wheaton, Ill. plus a location to be announced. A list of location addresses is attached to this release.

Installations outside of DuPage County include the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, Ill. and the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The latter is in honor of Carlos Tortolero, the museum's President Emeritus and Founder, and the inspiration behind the project.

Support for "Olmec Trails: Culture and Legacy" is provided in part by the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, College of DuPage, the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Illinois Office of Tourism and the National Museum of Mexican Art. Artist support is provided in part by Meztli Mexico and the Mexican Cultural Arts Alliance.

Mexican Cultural Center DuPage (MCCD)

The Mexican Cultural Center DuPage (MCCD) has built a long-standing reputation and stands as a beacon of cultural expression, emphasizing expansive community public art projects deeply rooted in Mexican traditions. In 2022, MCCD joined forces with Meztli and embarked on the "Alebrijos: Creatures of a Dream World", at Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Ill. The exhibit emerged as the largest display of "Alebrijos Monumentales" outside Mexico. As champions of Mexican arts in America, MCCD caters to the population of 43 million Americans of Mexican lineage. MCCD is a founding member of the Mexican Cultural Arts Alliance (MCAA). MCAA is a bi-national alliance of Mexican-led organizations led by the National Museum of Mexican Art. For more information about MCCD, visit MCCDDuPage.org.

College of DuPage Public Art Project (COD)

The COD DuPage Public Art Project proposed by MAC Director Diana Martinez, was approved by the COD Board of Trustees in October 2020 with the goal of initiating public art events and art installations throughout DuPage County. The idea of the project was inspired by the announcement by COD President Dr. Brian Caputo of the Arts, Culture and Community Engagement Pillar of the College's 2021-2026 Strategic Long-Range Plan. The COD Public Art Committee partnership with Glen Ellyn kicked off with the September 2021 installation of the Tony Fitzpatrick murals. Additional projects have included October 2021 "Chalk the Walk" community initiative featuring art by 3D chalk artist Nate Baranowski, the travelling installation "Glen Ellyn Letters" created by Juan Chawuk, and "The Grove" Glen Ellyn Taylor Avenue pedestrian underpass tunnel mural. For more information about the COD Public Art Project, visit theccma.org/codpubart.

DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB)

DCVB is the official destination marketing organization for DuPage County, Illinois' second largest County, comprised of 38 communities. The DCVB works in partnership with community business and civic leaders to maximize travel and tourism opportunities which contribute to the economic vitality of the County and its residents. For more information, visit DiscoverDuPage.com.

#



Scheduled Placement Locations as of 6-3-24

Placements	Location Description	Address	City, Town or Village
10	COD Prairie and MAC Lobby	425 Fawell Blvd.	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
5	St. James Farm	2S. 541 Winfield Rd.	Warrenville, Ill.
3	Mayslake Peabody Estate	1717 31st St.	Oak Brook, Ill.
3	Fullersburg Woods	3609 Spring Rd.	Oak Brook, Ill.
1	National Museum of Mexican Art	1852 W. 19th St.	Chicago
1	Kline Creek Farm	1N600 County Farm Rd.	City of West Chicago, Ill.
1	Kruse House	527 Main St.	City of West Chicago, Ill.
1	West Chicago Park District	Freemont St. and Arbor Ave.	City of West Chicago, Ill.
1	West Chicago Public Library	118 West Washington St.	City of West Chicago, Ill.
1	Gail Borden Public Library	270 N. Grove Ave.	Elgin, Ill.
1	Elmhurst Great Western Prairie Path	Spring Rd. and Prairie Path Lane (Spring Rd. Bus. Dist.)	Elmhurst, Ill.
1	Glen Ellyn Prairie Path & Main	Forest Ave. and Duane St. at the Train Station	Glen Ellyn, Ill.
1	Naperville Public Library 95th	3015 Cedar Glade Dr.	Naperville, Ill.
1	Naperville Public Library Downtown	200 W. Jefferson Ave.	Naperville, Ill.
1	Wheaton (Prairie Path)	Corner of W. Liberty Dr. and Wheaton Ave.	Wheaton, Ill.
1	To be announced		

