



ART GATHERING: "PUBLIC ART FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES" **NOVEMBER 2-3, 2012**

Creating Great Places and Whiterock Conservancy invite you to the event *"Public Art for Rural Communities,"* to be held Friday afternoon through Saturday morning, November 2-3, 2011, at Coon Rapids, Iowa.

This art gathering will bring together a select group of artists, art appreciators, art patrons, and rural leaders from across Iowa to discuss prospects and potential for public art, even in small rural towns. The gathering will be held in lovely Coon Rapids, home to the 5,000-acre Whiterock Conservancy land trust, where residents are using music, sculpture, landscape painting, and more, to celebrate the community's unique history and sense of place.

Featured participants will include:

- Melinda Childs, Forecast Public Art
- John Davis, director of the Arts Center from the thriving town of Lanesboro, MN (pop. 754).
- Connie Goeken from the Spencer, Iowa, arts movement
- Ron Kopaska, from the Franconia Sculpture Park
- Rachel Garst, describing Coon Rapids assets and their expression through art

"Public Art for Rural Communities" will showcase the creative efforts of small communities in fostering and reaping the benefits of public art ranging from sculpture parks, cultural centers, and performance venues. The idea is to learn from each other about how even small towns can create and reap the benefits of public art.

Besides networking, participants will enjoy live folk music, the Best Burger in Iowa, poetry, night-views of David Dahlquist's massive "Hybrid Icon," stargazing, breakfast at Whiterock's beautiful River House, and a tour of part of beautiful Whiterock Conservancy.

The event will end on Saturday morning with a visit to the seventh annual Raccoon River Art Fair in downtown Coon Rapids.

SCHEDULE

Friday, November 2

1:00-1:30 **Registration at the Whiterock Burr Oak Visitor Center,**
1436 Hwy 141, Coon Rapids (half mile east of Coon Rapids)

1:30-5:00 **Conference: Public Art for Rural Communities**

Doug Carpenter		Welcome & introductions
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Melinda Childs	Forecast Public Art, Director of Service Program	Public Art Tool Kit
John Davis	Director, Lanesboro Arts Center	Cultivating the Arts in a Rural Community
<i>coffee break</i>	<i>Exhibition of Nancy Thompson landscape paintings</i>	
Connie Goeken	Business Manager Spencer Community Theatre	The scope and success of public art initiatives in Spencer
Rachel Garst	Executive Director Creating Great Places	Coon Rapids – Whiterock progress
Ron Kopaska	Franconia Sculpture Park	Advice and lessons learned for rural communities

5:00-6:00 Live music on the Burr Oak patio

6:00-9:00 Dinner, Discussion, Poems, and Stargazing
Dinner at Coon Bowl III (2012 winner of Iowa's Best Burger)
Individual introductions and Open Discussion
Poetry Reading
Astronomy viewing (skies permitting)

Saturday, November 12

8:00-9:15 Breakfast and tour at Whiterock's River House and Dance Barn
(5 miles SE of Coon Rapids at 1313 Fig Ave.)

9:30-10:30 Tour of Coon Rapids' public art installations
David Dahlquist's Hybrid Icon
Roadside Sculpture Park
Local art installations

All day (9:00-5:00) Coon Rapids' 6th annual Raccoon River Art Fair
Over 20 art vendors
Live music
Local foods

To register for the art gathering, tours, and meals, please fill out and mail in the attached form.
Space is limited so make sure to reserve early!

For lodging near Coon Rapids at the historic Garst Farm, Woodland Carriage House, or Oakridge Farm House, reserve online at www.whiterockconservancy.org. For lodging questions or assistance, email Whiterock at guestinfo@whiterockconservancy.org, or call 712-684-2697, ext. 112.

For questions please contact call Rachel Garst, rachelg@creatinggreatplaces.org, cell 712-210-4327, or Doug Carpenter at dpcarp@crmu.net, cell 712-210-5075.



Public Art for Rural Communities REGISTRATION FORM

To register for Public Art in Rural Communities, please fill out this form and send to:

Art Gathering
Creating Great Places
401 5th Avenue South
Coon Rapids, IA 50058
Fax 712-999-7032
rachelg@creatinggreatplaces.org

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I wish to attend this event in Coon Rapids on November 2nd and 3rd. I have checked the portions I plan to attend:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday afternoon conference (1:00-5:00) | free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evening dinner, information sharing & stargazing (6:00-9:00) | \$20 |
| | At Coon Bowl III, voted best burger in Iowa. Several selections will be available. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Whiterock breakfast & tour (8:00-9:15) | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Coon Rapids Public Art Tour (9:30-10:00) | free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Raccoon River Art Fair (from 9:30 onwards) | free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Enclosed is my check for the meals | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I will pay at the door | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I will need a receipt for my employer | |

Note: For lodging near Coon Rapids at the historic Garst Farm, , go to www.whiterockconservancy.org, email resort@whiterockconservancy.org, or call 712-684-2697, ext. 112.

Lodging is also available within a half hour drive in Carroll. Convenient motels close to Hwy 71 or Hwy 30 include: Carrolton Inn 1730 Hwy 30 N, www.carrolltoninn.com; Days Inn, 1127 West Hwy 30; 712-792-9404; Burke Inn Hwy 30 East, 712-7925156