cedarhurst
Center for the Arts
kimball's
HABITAT
Inspire future generations
through art and nature!
Debbie Alcea Wilson

THE VISION

Kimball's Habitat looks outside of the museum and focuses on Cedarhurst's first impression. One of the most important cultural institutions in southern Illinois, Cedarhurst's 90-acre sculpture park provides a beautiful setting for art and quality-of-life programming that have the potential to touch all who live and work in the region.

The park is a study of contrasts, with ponds, open fields, and wooded areas. It is the perfect habitat for sculpture, giving context and life to different artworks and offering visitors varied experiences. Still, the park requires great care. While Cedarhurst has acquired inspirational works and presents notable artists in the outdoor park, the physical landscape has greater potential as a focal point for Cedarhurst programming.

The success of **Kimball's Habitat** will preserve the longevity of Cedarhurst's outdoor sculpture collection and ensure that visitors feel welcome and enjoy their Cedarhurst experience. Clear direction on navigating the park, increased visitor services, and educational opportunities will encourage visitors to engage with art and nature.

> *"Stewardship of the art at Cedarhurst is is an integral part of preserving the collections for generations to come. Conservation of the Sculpture Park also preserves the legacy of the visionaries who built the park.*
>
> Rusty Freeman
> Director of Visual Arts

Protect the Art that Lives at Cedarhurst

Kimball's Habitat centers around *Kimball*, the flagship horse sculpture at Cedarhurst. Commissioned by artist John Kearney in 1994, *Kimball* stands tall beckoning visitors to the front door of the Mitchell Museum. He is relatable and friendly to new faces. He is a visitor favorite and has become an iconic identifier for Cedarhurst.

Unfortunately *Kimball*, who was built from obsolete automobile bumpers, is beginning to peel and rust. The weld-joints are hastening the decay of the metal, and he deteriorates more each year he goes untreated. To ensure his future at Cedarhurst, we need to repair *Kimball* before there is structural damage.

Kimball is merely one example of the conservation efforts needed within the park. Part of the **Kimball's Habitat** campaign will be used to develop a long-term conservation plan for the entire Sculpture Park. A professional assessment by Midwest Arts Conservation is under way.

Sculptures targeted for immediate repair/ conservation include:

- **Kimball** - John Kearney, 1994
- **Right Angles #36** - Gunnar Theel, 2000
- **Eastern Leanings** - Rico Eastman, 2000
- **Assembly Required** - Jonathan Auger, 2003
- **Balanced/Unbalanced** - Fletcher Benton, 1993
- **Wrench Wench** - Chakaia Booker, 1999
- **Column** - Glen Zweygardt, 1993
- **Lightspill** - Jerry Monteith, 2006

Balance the Ecosystem

Cedarhurst is working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to determine the best way to treat and maintain its wooded areas. Invasive species will be cleared and debris reduced so that a proper plant ecosystem can have the opportunity to grow. Damaged fencing along the north and east sides of the property will be repaired or replaced, and a new volunteer system overseen by the museum's Operation Department will ensure proper maintenance and ongoing control.

Light up the Park

A lighting plan has been developed for the park. This campaign will fund Phase I, which addresses the addition of much needed lighting on the Mitchell Museum Back Patio, at the Shrode Art Center entrance gate, and along the east-west blacktop between the Mitchell Museum and Shrode Art Center.

In addition, aesthetic lighting will be installed for 15 to 20 sculptures in the front of the park, reaching out to new visitors and creating opportunity for new engagement efforts.

"The beauty of the Sculpture Park is that it is different things to different people. It's rewarding as a docent to introduce visitors to the park and share in their enjoyment of the art.

Larry Sidwell
Administrative Counselor
and docent

Let Art and Nature Inspire

Education is the heart of Cedarhurst programs, and it is a vital component of **Kimball's Habitat**. A portion of campaign funds will be used to develop new engagement opportunities and visitor services to help people better enjoy the sculpture park. A virtual tour of the park, accessible through the Cedarhurst website, is in development. In addition, Cedarhurst Docents and volunteers will map out a nature trail identifying various plants and species in the park.

These programs, combined with new signage, additional benches, and trash receptacles will create a welcoming atmosphere that encourages visitors to stay longer and return often.

Campaign contributions will enable Cedarhurst to:

- Repair key sculptures in Cedarhurst's collection
- Develop a long-term conservation plan for Cedarhurst's sculpture collection
- Implement a treatment plan for wooded areas
- Repair and replace fencing on north and east property lines
- Install new lighting at Shrode Art Center entrance gate, on the Mitchell Museum back patio, and along east-west blacktop connecting the Mitchell Museum and Shrode Art Center
- Install lighting for approximately 15 to 20 sculptures in the front of the park
- Create new educational engagement opportunities for visitors
- Purchase and install new welcome banners and wayfinding signage
- Install bench seating, trash receptacles, and other visitor services throughout the park

Sculpture Conservation

- Repair key sculptures in Cedarhurst's collection
- Develop a long-term conservation plan for Cedarhurst's sculpture collection

Lighting

- Install new lighting at Shrode Art Center entrance gate, on the Mitchell Museum back patio, and along east-west blacktop connecting the Mitchell Museum and Shrode Art Center
- Install lighting for approximately 15 to 20 sculptures in the front of the park

○ Indicates current sculpture sites

Cover art by Debbie Wilson

Wooded Areas

- Implement a treatment plan for wooded areas
- Repair and replace fencing on north and east property lines

Visitor Services

- Create new educational engagement opportunities for visitors
- Purchase and install new welcome banners and wayfinding signage
- Install bench seating, trash receptacles, and other visitor services throughout the park

Support Kimball's Habitat

Help protect the art and nature that live at Cedarhurst!

The museum aims to raise $250,000 through the **Kimball's Habitat** campaign. Success will preserve the longevity of Cedarhurst's outdoor sculpture collection and ensure that visitors feel welcome and enjoy their museum experience.

Your contribution will help inspire future generations through art and nature at Cedarhurst!

Ways to Give

The **Kimball's Habitat** campaign provides a variety of opportunities for individuals, foundations, businesses, and civic groups to support the work of Cedarhurst. Tax-deductible campaign contributions may take the form of cash or pledges over a two-year period.

Donors at the $5,000 level and above will be recognized in name on an artful tribute in the sculpture park.

Naming opportunities exist for donors contributing $25,000 or more.

Additional opportunities exist to create a Friends of the Sculpture Park specified endowment fund that directs earnings to sculpture conservation and park services.

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HISTORY OF THE SCULPTURE PARK

The Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park located at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts is unique to Mt. Vernon and southern Illinois. Sculpture gardens and parks have become trendy in recent years, popping up in small green spaces located around metropolitan areas, but Cedarhurst began developing its Sculpture Park long before. In 1983 the Museum commissioned artist Robert Youngman to create an outdoor sculpture to commemorate the Mitchell Museum 10th Anniversary. *Cedarhurst One* was designed to reflect the variety and wealth of the southern Illinois landscape and in retrospect paved the way for the Cedarhurst Sculpture Park.

"Over the last 25 years the Cedarhurst campus has been transformed into an amazing outdoor gallery. Nature and its changing seasons create the perfect backdrop for visitors to enjoy the art.

Sharon Bradham
Executive Director

In the early 1990s Curator Bonnie Speed and Administrative Counselor Jack Goldman helped make the Sculpture Park a priority. With 90 acres of land boasting a variety of beautiful scenery, the idea was for Cedarhurst to create a welcoming place for people to enjoy the land and the art, to enrich lives and encourage creative thinking by engaging people in the experiences of sculpture and nature. Through purchases, donations, and art loan agreements, Cedarhurst welcomed 20 new sculptures to the grounds in the early 90's. The official Sculpture Park grand opening was held in 1995.

Cedarhurst continued to add contemporary artworks by notable artists (Dennis Oppenheim, Fletcher Benton, and Alexander Liberman, to name a few), helping the museum enhance its position as a cultural and tourism destination. In *A Guide to the Sculpture Parks and Gardens of America* the Cedarhurst Sculpture Park is listed as having one of the top 15 contemporary sculpture collections in the nation, and a picture of the floating sculpture *Dancers* was chosen for the book's cover image.

When Cedarhurst announced plans to expand the Mitchell Museum in 2004, the surrounding sculpture park was a major part of conceptual plans. Architects found inspiration in the park and incorporated hundreds of windows into the 20,000-square-foot addition to bring the natural beauty inside the new wing. Campaign funds helped address some initial projects in the park such as the nature trails and new sculpture sites. Additional funding will help in realizing the true potential impact of the Sculpture Park.

Today, the Cedarhurst Sculpture Park is home to more than 70 large-scale contemporary sculptures. Each sculpture has brought with it a new story, a new relationship, and they help tell the unique history of Cedarhurst. Free and open to the public six days a week, the park continues to enrich lives as a valuable resource for southern Illinois.

- For many, it is a place to learn. Field trips and tours give meaning to various artworks and create fun memories.
- For others, the park is a place to find inspiration. The sculpture park provides a joy of discovery and encourages visitors to imagine and play.
- The sculpture park is often a much-needed break to travelers looking to stretch their legs, play with children, or walk the dogs.
- For local residents, it is the perfect place to find solitude, to enjoy a walk, or to connect with a friend.