



THE WICHITA CENTER FOR THE ARTS
NEWS RELEASE

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Koch Family Sculpture Garden

Opens at The Wichita Center for the Arts

\$90,000 Donation Made by Fred and Mary Koch Foundation

Wichita, Kan. – Nov. 19, 2011. The Wichita Center for the Arts celebrated the opening of the Koch Family Sculpture Garden with an afternoon of free festivities for the entire family. The ribbon cutting and dedication of the Koch Family Sculpture Garden marks the culmination of planning to bring a sculpture garden to the community.

The Koch Family Sculpture Garden is an outdoor gallery showcasing an eclectic collection of sculptures including *Diana and The Fawn* by Bruce Moore and Fred Suderman's contemporary sculpture *Red Circle*. The garden will initially feature five sculptures with additional pieces to be added, including a sculpture to be donated to the Center by the KT Wiedemann Foundation.

The sculpture garden features granite benches and a black-bottom pool highlighting two porpoise statues by Bob Gottschall donated by Center patrons Helen and Jay Galloway. Decorative gates will be designed by Wichita sculptor Chris Brunner.

According to The Wichita Center for the Arts' Executive Director Howard W. Ellington, "The Koch Family Sculpture Garden provides another important visual teaching opportunity for our students, members and the community. In addition, this outdoor classroom will provide a great multi-purpose venue for the Center." Lindsey Lane, parent of a student at the Center, states, "The Creative Child Center Preschool provides a wonderful array of art forms for young children, allowing them to explore by seeing and actually doing. My toddler is always trying to make sense of her experiences, so it's wonderful that the new outdoor sculpture garden will give students the opportunity to visually explore their environments outside of the classroom."



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Ellington first developed the design concept for a sculpture garden at the Center in 1992. The sculpture garden remained only a concept until 2010, when in celebration of the Center's 90th anniversary, the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation provided the lead gift of \$90,000 to make the sculpture garden a reality. With this gift and through generous contributions from Women of Wichita, the Courtney and the Marcellette Davis Trust and Deanna Murray, ground was broken on the Koch Family Sculpture Garden in May 2011. The firm of GLMV Architecture collaborated with Mr. Ellington and served as architect of record on the sculpture garden's construction.

About The Wichita Center for the Arts - Founded in 1920, The Wichita Center for the Arts (formerly the Wichita Art Association) (WCFTA) is Wichita's oldest and most comprehensive visual and performing arts organization and the region's only arts center that includes a school. It is primarily a privately funded organization, generating most of its revenues through gifts, endowment earnings, tuition, and ticket sales. The mission of the WCFTA is to improve understanding about the visual and performing arts among citizens in the region by providing programs which develop the creative process, expand aesthetic appreciation, and bring new meaning and understanding to the potential of being human.

About the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation - Established in 1953, the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation focuses its resources on not-for-profit organizations in Kansas that significantly enhance the state's quality of life through arts and arts education; environmental stewardship; human services; enablement of at-risk youth; and education. More information is at www.fmkfoundation.org.

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Photos follow.

