



## NEWS RELEASE

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### JOSLYN ART MUSEUM SCULPTURE GARDEN IS NEWEST NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM AFFILIATE SITE

Omaha, Neb. – Joslyn Art Museum's sculpture garden has recently been accepted into the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc.'s (NSA) Landscape Steward Affiliation Program. The Museum's seven plus acre open-air campus features over 20 sculptures, positioned in its parking garden, along the entrance drives, and in two primary gardens: the Peter Kiewit Foundation Sculpture Garden and the Dorothy and Stanley Truhlsen Discovery Garden. The focal point of a 2009 campus redevelopment and beautification plan, the landscaped gardens have dramatically enhanced the face of Joslyn's grounds with their vast array of trees and other landscape plants and strong examples of formal and informal landscape design. To qualify as a NSA Landscape Steward, a site must be a managed landscape (public or private) exhibiting excellence in design, plant diversity, and maintenance. The Joslyn sculpture garden joins 16 other Omaha area sites, including Lauritzen Gardens and Elmwood Park, to earn the distinction.

The NSA Landscape Steward program was developed to recognize Nebraska's important people-planted landscapes and to form an ongoing partnership with managers and caregivers of those landscapes. Joslyn's acceptance process included a site visit by NSA staff. Hallmarks of sites selected for inclusion in the program include appropriate pruning, lawn care practices that do not cause harm to trees and other landscape plants, and wise and efficient irrigation.

A wide variety of shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses can be found throughout Joslyn's campus. The most noteworthy element of diversity is evident in the tree collection. There are currently 36 different species of trees represented at the Museum. Highlights include the American Yellowwood, Tuliptree, Ginkgo, White Fringetree, Katsura, Whitebud, Ironwood, Bristlecone Pine, Japanese Zelkova, London Planetree, Kentucky Coffeetree, Russian Bald Cypress, Paperbark Maple, and Horsechestnut.

Maintenance of the Museum sculpture garden has unique challenges due to the large presence of sculptures, walkways, lighting, and thousands of linear feet of bed lines, and approaches are adopted to

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*Joslyn Art Museum Sculpture Garden New NSA Affiliate*

maximize simplicity, efficiency, and sustainability. Over the past season, the Museum made a major shift from a traditional, synthetic-based lawn and landscape care program to one that is predominantly organic. The new program includes the use of compost and compost tea produced on-site, as well as a dramatic reduction in the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Almost all ornamental grasses and shrubs are left over the winter to provide winter texture and color. As old plants are replaced, new selections are made based on the right plant/right place philosophy. New plants installed at the Museum tend to be chosen based on the qualifications of being low-maintenance, hardy, rabbit resistant, and native when applicable.

Joslyn Art Museum sculpture gardens are open daily, 7 am to 11 pm, year round. Admission is free.



The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc., is a private, nonprofit organization working to enhance the culture and beauty of Nebraska. Rather than operating from a single location, NSA, Inc. is a unique statewide network of arboretums, botanical gardens, historic places, and high-quality landscapes linked up to foster knowledge and appreciation of plants and excellent in landscape practice in Nebraska. The professional staff, located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, supports the efforts of these local sites by providing technical and financial assistance along with offerings of unique plant materials.

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**Our Mission** – Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.

**Our Vision** – To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, and shop.

General Museum Admission: Free (some special exhibitions incur a ticket fee)

Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am-4 pm; Thursday, 10 am-8 pm; Sunday, 10 am-4 pm (now open earlier on Sundays); closed Monday and major holidays.

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