

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## New Installations to Debut at The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park Thanks to Transformative Gift from Kent Hawryluk

\$3M from Philanthropist and Longtime Newfields Patron Will Support Ongoing Series of Site-Responsive Commissions Exhibition will represent the launch of The Hawryluk Sculpture Green

**INDIANAPOLIS**, January 11, 2023 – Newfields has announced a new series of outdoor public art installations for <a href="https://linearchy.com/html">The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park</a> that will activate the park and create dynamic opportunities for engagement and exploration. A transformative \$3 million gift by longtime Newfields patron and philanthropist Kent Hawryluk will support the ongoing commissioning and presentation of large-scale sculpture, creating The Hawryluk Collection of Art in Nature. This evolving series will be hosted on The Hawryluk Sculpture Green, located in the heart of The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park.

The initiative will launch in June 2023 with a site-responsive commission by artist Heather Hart, whose colorful interactive rooftop installations appear as if they have fallen from the sky, allowing visitors to climb through windows and doors and onto the roof. Hart's project, which will become a site for spontaneous and planned performances, workshops, and community discussions, will debut as part of a larger exhibition, *Home Again*. The exhibition will include two other sculptures centered around the notion of home and shelter by Anila Quayyum Agha and collaborators Mark Dion and Dana Sherwood. *Home Again* is themed around the refresh and rejuvenation of The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, bringing guests "home again" to experience and interact with new art installations part of The Hawryluk Collection of Art in Nature.

"We are immensely grateful to stalwart Newfields patron Kent Hawryluk, whose generous gift ensures that we can fulfill the original artistic vision for The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, which was to regularly commission and present new, site-specific temporary artworks," said Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette, President & CEO of Newfields. "By providing a platform for living artists to create ambitious large-scale public projects—and by providing free access to experience and engage with these artworks, as Newfields always has—this initiative further solidifies Newfields' role as a leader in offering world-class experiences at the intersection of art and nature."

The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park is one of the largest sculpture parks in the country, sited on 100 acres of land that includes woodlands, wetlands, a lake, and the largest native pollinator meadow in Indianapolis. Since its opening in 2010, the Park has been enlivened with site-specific contemporary artworks by Jeppe Hein, Atelier van Lieshout, Los Carpinteros, Alfredo Jaar, and others, which remain on view. The gift from Hawryluk—which has established The Hawryluk Collection of Art in Nature and The Hawryluk Sculpture Green—will allow Newfields to continuously refresh the works in The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park.

"From its peaceful natural elements to the innovative contemporary artwork integrated seamlessly into the landscape, The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park is a source of inspiration, wonder, and sanctuary for me – and for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who stroll its grounds each year. As an Indiana native, I am proud to support this project and to help Newfields create a world-class resource in The Hawryluk Sculpture Green, with exciting opportunities for visitors to interact with art and nature in unique and unexpected ways," said Kent Hawryluk. "Over time, it is my hope that the Hawryluk Sculpture Green will become a must-see destination for not only art lovers, but everyone who visits our city."

Artworks featured in the *Home Again* exhibition include:

- *Oracle of Intimation*, a participatory installation from Brooklyn-based artist **Heather Hart**. The roof-shaped sculpture will entice visitors to engage with and experience it in various ways, such as playing music, spoken word, or other sounds. Newfields is also planning a wide-ranging series of public programs including performances, workshops, gatherings and other engagements with community partners.
- This is NOT a Refuge (2018) by Pakistan-born, Indianapolis-based artist Anila Quayyum Agha reflects on
  the loss and displacement experienced by refugees from various regions of the world. Visitors may sit on a bench
  inside the white filigree house-shaped structure and listen to recordings of over a dozen immigrants and refugees
  living in Indianapolis who share stories that provide hope or humor within cultural differences, while others
  illustrate the reality of living within a system where the cards are stacked against them.
- **The Pollinator Pavilion** (2020), an interactive and collaborative architectural sculpture by Catskills-based artists **Mark Dion and Dana Sherwood**. The ornate 21.5-foot-tall gazebo is surrounded with native pollinating flowers and hummingbird feeders and decorated with original paintings by Sherwood. In The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, the installation will include plantings indigenous to Indianapolis, complementing the work Newfields has done through the Wild Birds Unlimited Native Pollinator Meadow and other efforts to support pollinator populations and expand native species.

These updates to The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park accompany recent and ongoing infrastructural upgrades as part of Newfields' 30-year master plan, which was unveiled in 2017. Completed projects include the creation of the Wild Birds Unlimited Native Pollinator Meadow; the installation of a multi-use path around the entirety of Newfields' perimeter, providing safe and accessible access for pedestrians and cyclists coming to and from The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park; and a new Pacers Bikeshare station to increase neighborhood connectivity and mobility. Ongoing work includes efforts to mitigate erosion along the banks of the White River, which runs along Newfields' campus and the construction of a new permeable parking lot.

In addition, Newfields is commissioning a new play structure to replace *Chop Stick*, the swing set designed by Swedish architecture firm visiondivision that debuted in 2012 and was deinstalled in November 2022. More details on the new commission, which will also be located on The Hawryluk Sculpture Green, will be announced later this year.

For more information on The Hawryluk Collection of Art in Nature and the artists featured, please visit <u>DiscoverNewfields.org/hawryluk-collection</u>.

## **About Newfields**

Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic home, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the IMA Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of something cold, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and ten oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Ind.—one of the nation's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information, visit DiscoverNewfields.org.

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