

NATIONAL SCULPTORS' GUILD

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photo credit: John Kinkade / Mark Leichliter, National Sculptors' Guild

TOGETHER

BY MARK LEICHLITER & THE NATIONAL SCULPTORS' GUILD

Powder-coated Mild Steel

Scale: 14ft high

Site Location: Peabody Adventure Park, River Market, Little Rock

Commissioned by: the City of Little Rock, AR

Date commissioned: April 2007

Date installed: May 15, 2008

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After the successful placement of "Interdependence: Encircling the Future" at the Little Rock National Airport in 2004, the City of Little Rock immediately began work on a second commission with artist Mark Leichliter and the National Sculptors' Guild [Colorado] for the city's new children's adventure park.

City Director, Dr. Dean Kumpuris felt Leichliter's sculpture 'Together' would reflect joyful play and asked the artist to create a 14-foot tall version. Kumpuris is the visionary behind the revitalization of the River Market and Riverfront Park. The downtown Riverwalk Park leads to the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center. Currently, Kumpuris is spearheading efforts to develop public-private partnerships for Little Rock Parks. Peabody Park is the latest of such an example.

Peabody Park, the new children's adventure playground at Riverfront Park's epicenter, is designed to facilitate imaginative play, with green space, tunnels, a tube slide, a climbing wall, a splash fountain, a spacenet and a "tree room." The new, elevated Ozark Pavilion will overlook the play area and splash fountain.

Funding for the park's artwork, has largely been made by gifts from various businesses and individuals during the last four years. The Peabody Little Rock has partnered with the city to provide \$250,000 over the next five years to fund renovations to Riverfront Park. For his contributions, Kumpuris will be the second inductee into the Peabody Duck Walk of Fame, given to those who have worked to revitalize downtown Little Rock.

Gregory P Luth & Associates [California] assisted Leichliter/NSG in the structural engineering of the vibrant red sculpture fabricated of welded mild steel finished in a durable powder-coating.

ABOUT THE ARTIST: Having explored nearly every method of creating art, from lost-wax casting to hammer and chisel, Mark turned to high technology in an attempt at a fresh approach. "I spent five years immersing myself in 3D Computer Aided Design. I feel like I have finally reached a level that allows me to fully express myself as a sculptor. The technology that exists today is remarkable." Additional public art placements include the cities of Paramount; Cerritos; La Quinta, CA; and the Little Rock National Airport, AR.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCULPTORS' GUILD: Representing some of the most renowned sculpture artists in the nation, the Guild artists work as a team under the leadership of executive director John W. Kinkade. Our organization works closely with cities, municipalities, corporations and private institutions across the country to successfully enhance both indoor and outdoor venues with creative design and innovative artwork. The NSG design teams have enhanced public spaces in a timely fashion within budgets ranging from \$25,000 to \$2.8 million. When appropriate, the design team grows to include architects, landscape architects, structural engineers, designers and contractors from around the nation. Dependent on the nature of each project, the NSG draws upon this knowledgeable group of professionals with proven accountability in past projects.