

# International Sculpture Garden

## Frequently Asked Questions

The International Sculpture Garden will ultimately be located on the land adjacent to the Arboretum to the west, often referred to as “The Kemper Farm.” Upon completion the sculpture garden will contain 100+ sculptures, some of them monumental in size, from artists worldwide.

### **Q. Why are we interested in starting an International Sculpture Garden?**

A. A sculpture garden has been on the master plan for the Kemper Farm for many years. Overland Park includes a richly diverse population of people who have gathered here from around the country and around the world to make this community their home. We determined an International Sculpture Garden would give the City a distinctive, unique, enriching community asset, much like the existing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, which would echo our community’s International heritage and connections, as well as our City’s unsurpassed commitment to the arts.

### **Q. How did we decide to start with the Chinese-US Sculpture Garden as Phase I of the International Sculpture Garden?**

A. Kwan Wu approached the City of Overland Park and the Arts & Recreation Foundation of Overland Park with the concept of a Chinese-US Sculpture Garden. Kwan Wu is an internationally lauded sculptor who immigrated to our country and became a United States citizen in 1991. For the past twenty years, Kwan has been a working artist in our community and is best known locally for his iconic statue of George Brett at the stadium. The City of Overland Park and the Foundation determined that this would be the perfect match for the planned International Sculpture Garden.

### **Q. Why did we locate it on the ½ mile asphalt loop in the Arboretum instead of the Kemper Farm?**

A. At this time, there is not a defined plan for the sculpture garden nor the infrastructure required to accommodate visitors on the Kemper Farm grounds. The sculptures have been placed in the Arboretum on an extended temporary basis—expected to last approximately 3-5 years—while the permanent plans for the sculpture garden are developed. The Arboretum’s pre-existing art displays and available space made it an ideal choice for this interim placement, which will allow visitors to enjoy the new sculptures without having to wait for the permanent garden to be built.

### **Q. How much has the International Sculpture Garden cost?**

A. To date, neither the City, nor the Arts & Recreation Foundation has expended any money for this garden. Kwan Wu coordinated the donation of all 11 pieces of sculpture—the artists donated these sculptures to the garden. Kwan Wu coordinated the donation of all shipping costs. The Foundation received a \$7,500 grant for installation.

### **Q. What is the value of the donated sculpture?**

A. The sculpture is insured for \$2,065,000. Individual pieces in the collection have been valued as high as \$500,000.

### **Q. How will the International Sculpture Garden be funded?**

A. It will be funded from private funds and donations from local donors, artists and their countries.

### **Q. What is Kwan Wu’s background? What other sculptures has he created?**

- Master’s degree in sculpture, 1981
- Professor of Guangzhou Fine Arts Institute, 1981-1988
- Chairman of Young Sculptor association of Guangdong, China
- Immigrated to the US, 1988
- Major works: the Bill of Rights; George Brett (at Kauffman Stadium); Phog Allen; Negro League Base Ball Team (Negro League Hall of Fame)
- Invited by President & Mrs. Clinton to visit the White House, 2000
- One man sculpture show in the National Arts Museum, Beijing, China, 2007
- One man sculpture show in the Guangdong Arts Museum, Guangzhou, China 2009
- Art Director of Shishan International Sculpture Park, Guangdong, China
- Honorary Chairman of Kwan Wu’s Arts Gallery (10,000sqf) Guangdong, China

You can read more about Kwan Wu and see examples of his work at: [www.kwanwusculpture.com](http://www.kwanwusculpture.com)

- *East West—the Same Man* valued at \$200,000
- *The President and the Empress* valued at \$95,000

**Q. Who are the other Chinese artists and what are their qualifications?**

A. There are seven artists represented in the garden including Kwan Wu.

- Yu Chang, *Accept or Reject* and *Children with their Door Keys*
  - President, Sculpture Academy of Guangzhou
  - National first class sculptor
  - Sculpture in the National Arts Museum, Beijing, 2002 and the International Olympics Sculpture Show 2008
  - *Accept or Reject* valued at \$150,000
  - *Children with their Door Keys* valued at \$125,000
  - For more information, <http://arts.cultural-china.com/en/68Arts2995.html>
- Pan Fen, *The Same Generation* and *New Born*
  - Chairman of Pan He National Sculpture Park
  - Member of the National Sculpture Committee
  - Sculpture in the National Sculpture Exhibition, 2009 and the Commemorative China-US Peace & Friendship Exchange 2010
  - *Same Generation* valued at \$500,000
  - *New Born* valued at \$90,000
  - For more information, [http://www.leonacraig.com/catalogue\\_art\\_gallery/sculpture/pan\\_fen\\_page.htm](http://www.leonacraig.com/catalogue_art_gallery/sculpture/pan_fen_page.htm)
- Zhong Zhiyuan, *Breeze*
  - Vice President, Sculpture Academy of Guangzhou
  - National first class sculptor
  - Sculpture in the National Arts Exhibition, Beijing, 2006 and National Sculpture Exhibition 2008
  - *Breeze* valued at \$150,000
- Yang Xuejun, *The Chinese Pioneer in the US* and *Village Boys*
  - National first class sculptor
  - Sculpture in the City of Boston collection, 2009 and National Show 2010
  - *Chinese Pioneer* valued at \$300,000
  - *Village Boys* valued at \$175,000
- Lu Zhengkang, *Michael Jackson* and *Swimming Girl*
  - Professional sculptor, Guangzhou Sculpture Academy
  - National first class sculptor
  - Sculpture in the Chinese National Sport Museum, 2008 and the 9<sup>th</sup> National Game in Beijing, 2008
  - *Michael Jackson* valued at \$175,000
  - *Swimming Girl* valued at \$105,000

**Q. What do the sculptures mean?**

A. Each artist had his own vision.

- East West—the Same Man  
One side is an image of the famous Chinese terra cotta soldier, the other side is a Roman soldier. They are warriors fighting through history. The olive leaves in the middle connect the east and the west warrior representing becoming the same man—hoping for no more wars only peace and friendship and working together for the future of us all.
- The President and the Empress  
President Lincoln freed the slaves and about the same time, Chinese Empress CiXi was a dictator who dominated China. These two persons seated next to each other, dramatically show the contrast from the two different culture systems.
- Stream / Creek or Swimming Girl  
A young girl is playing with water; she is the memory of childhood with clear water and a green environment. She is the recollection of years past when the environment was less endangered. This piece reminds us of the treasure of human resources and our responsibility to care for the environment.

- **Michael Jackson**  
Michael Jackson's strong rhythmic pop music influenced generations of people. He is a musical icon in China. Mr. Lu is an avid admirer of the artist. The statue was promoted by Michael Jackson fan clubs internationally and was approved by his family.
- **The Chinese Pioneer**  
Through the construction of the Pacific Railway, Chinese pioneers over 100 years ago made significant contributions to economic development. It was with their hard work, combined with extraordinary perseverance, that this railway was possible for the United States.
- **Village Boys**  
This piece was chosen for the 2008 Olympic Sculpture Show and has been made in honor of all the young boys from small village who dream of being an Olympic champion some day. While they do not have professional training and proper exercise equipment, the statue is an inspiration and encourages the young to study and work hard to reach their dreams.
- **Reject or Accept**  
We all have choices in life and opportunities to accept or reject the things presented to us. Virtual (as in a photograph) or real life, we pay attention to the things that interest us most and ignore things that do not matter. When we take pictures we tend to focus on only a small part of what is around us.
- **Latch Key Children**  
In the early 80's, China was entering a period of reform. Parents worked long hours and were not always able to be at home when their children left for school, came home for lunch or after school. Children wore their door keys around their necks and had to take more responsibility for their well being such as making their own simple lunch. This early lesson in self-reliance has resulted in a generation endowed with strong leadership skills, which are recognized and respected as the backbone of Chinese society.
- **The Same Generation**  
A combination of bronze and steel helps highlight the differences in nationalities, cultures and faith and, yet we are all the same. We breathe the same air, live in the same world, experience laughter and sadness. The semi-abstract sculpture expresses the world of national harmony in an international metropolis. The world and its people should not be judged by our differences that can lead to hostility and even war. Peace and prosperity will grow from mutual respect and understanding, equality and inclusion. We will then be a "global village."
- **New Born Baby**  
The shape of the water drop, the olive leaves and the bird symbolize a healthy environment, where the basic condition of life is at its best. The child has open arms to embrace the symbol of victory and peace. He is entering a new world, and is welcomed by the dove of peace. It is symbolic of our children being born into a healthy and peaceful environment, if we recognize life depends on the ecological environment.
- **Breeze**  
Wind is a natural breath. Breeze is the memory of the wind. That moment of touch, that moment of happiness that makes us throwback our heads in pleasure. As the wind on the water makes ripples, the breeze also ripples our hair and wrinkles our clothing. The feeling is refreshed intoxication from breathing it all in and preserving that happy and wonderful moment.

**Q. What's the next step in the process to create an International Sculpture Garden?**

A. We are currently working on a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) that will be sent out inviting designers and landscape architects to submit their interest and in later providing a proposal for the design of the International Sculpture Garden in its permanent home at the Kemper Farm. Following a Request for Proposal (RFP), the Sculpture Garden Committee, the Arts & Recreation Foundation and the City of Overland Park will select a design. Fundraising will follow.

**Q. This project intrigues me—how can I support it?**

A. Donations may be made to the Arts and Recreation Foundation at <http://artsandrec-op.org>. You may also contact Teresa Stohs for more information at [Teresa.stohs@artsandrec-op.org](mailto:Teresa.stohs@artsandrec-op.org) or 913-322-6467.