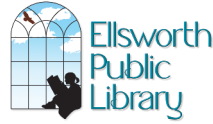


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Monday, 19 May 2025

For Immediate Release

Public Art to Transform Ellsworth's Riverwalk: Sculpture Trail Project Sparks Year of Community Connection

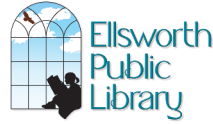
A year-long exhibit on the lawn of the Ellsworth Public Library sets the stage for a dynamic new vision of the downtown waterfront.

Ellsworth, ME – Between May 22–24, the lawn of the Ellsworth Public Library (EPL) will be transformed into a dynamic public art space with 2 large-scale stone sculptures being installed. A third sculpture will find a temporary home in the library's Boat Room. This year-long public installation features works by locally and internationally celebrated artists of the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium (SISS) and is the first phase in a long-term vision to create a Union River Sculpture Trail, a cultural corridor blending art, culture, and outdoor recreation along Ellsworth's scenic Riverwalk North. This project is supported by a planning grant - the Community Outdoor Recreation Assistance (CORA) - from the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation.

Led by Heart of Ellsworth in collaboration with EPL, Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC), and SISS, this initiative represents a major step toward revitalizing the Riverwalk North trail as a community hub and creative destination.

"This is more than an art installation—it's about rallying the community around the Riverwalk North project with our partners while making Ellsworth a downtown destination," says Cara Romano, Executive Director Heart of Ellsworth. "Ellsworth is fortunate to receive this kind of support from the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation. Projects like these help build community and bring recognition to the riverwalk on a statewide level."

"It's about cultivating a sense of place and possibility," reiterates Sarah Lesko, Director of the Ellsworth Public Library. "These sculptures invite people to slow down, reflect, and experience Ellsworth in a new way."

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The first three sculptures to be installed this May are by artists Christopher Miller, Celeste Roberge, and Jesse Salisbury (founder of SISS). By the end of the summer, additional works by sculptors Mark Herrington, Kazumi Hoshino, and Tim Shay (tbc) will join them on the library property, expanding the landscape with striking art pieces carved from regional stone—each resonating with Maine's natural and cultural landscape.

This collaboration builds on a foundation laid in 2007, when SISS donated a sculpture that was positioned on State Street, near the Riverwalk North trailhead. That gift and the continued development of the Riverwalk and greater potential for public engagement—inspired this renewed partnership and shared commitment to creative community development.

As the project unfolds, residents and visitors alike are invited to explore, connect, and imagine the future of Ellsworth's evolving riverfront—one shaped by art, nature, and the people who love it.

About Heart of Ellsworth - A Main Street America Community is dedicated to supporting downtown Ellsworth's economic and cultural vitality through concentrated efforts in the areas of design, organization, promotion, and economic revitalization while protecting the city's unique and historic character. <https://www.heartofellsworth.org/>

About Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium (SISS):

Founded in 2007 by sculptor Jesse Salisbury, SISS brought international artists to Downeast Maine to create large-scale stone sculptures in partnership with local communities. Over five symposia, the organization helped establish a significant public art collection across Eastern Maine. Today, SISS continues its mission through arts education and international artist exchange programs.

<https://www.schoodicsculpture.org>

About the Ellsworth Public Library:

With over 46,000 items in its collection, the Ellsworth Public Library offers books, audiobooks, movies, music, and a growing Library of Things. Patrons enjoy free access to digital resources,

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The New York Times, and local news via ellsworthamerican.com. The library also offers statewide interlibrary loans, museum passes, and free public programs for all. www.ellsworthlibrary.net

About Frenchman Bay Conservancy:

Frenchman Bay Conservancy, a nonprofit land trust serving eastern Hancock, ME, conserves distinctive ecosystems, lands, and waters for the benefit of all, from the Union River and Frenchman Bay watersheds east to the Hancock County line. Since 1987, FBC has conserved 20,000 acres in Hancock County. <https://frenchmanbay.org/>

Contact:

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Artists' websites:

Christopher Miller: <https://npdworkshop.com/>

Celeste Roberge: <http://www.celesteroberge.com/>

Jesse Salisbury: <https://www.jessesalisbury.com/>

Mark Herrington: <https://www.markherrington.com/>

Kazumi Hoshino: <https://kazumihoshino.com/>

Tim Shay: <https://homeandaway.gallery/artist-bios/native-american-artists/tim-shay-penobscot/>

Photo #1: "Chaise Gabio" by artist Celeste Roberge. A fabricated stainless steel chaise lounge filled with river rocks. Photo courtesy of Celeste Roberge.

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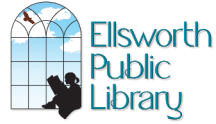
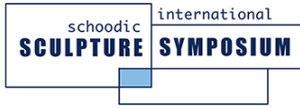


Photo #2: "Bob, the Protocetid" by artist Chris Miller. Bob was originally part of *Carousel Cosmos*--one of seven fantastical animals installed on Portland's Western Promenade from 2023-2024. Photo courtesy of Chris Miller.

Photo #3: "Three Forms in a Stone" by artist Mark Herrington. Ellsworth Schist on Granite. Photo courtesy of Mark Herrington.