

NEIGHBORHOODS

Tillman Sculpture Park under construction in Binghampton

By [Kambui Bomani](#), Daily Memphian

Updated: January 08, 2024 2:25 PM CT | Published: January 06, 2024 4:09 PM CT



The teens constructing the sculptures are part of the Carpenter Art Garden's Mosaic Art Apprenticeship Program, which is led by sculptor Suzy Hendrix and University of Memphis sculpture professor Kelsey Harrison.
(Courtesy Brandon Herrington)

A Binghampton-based nonprofit is turning an empty lot into an artistic green space.

Carpenter Art Garden and a team of collaborators are constructing Tillman Sculpture Park on the corner of Princeton Avenue and Tillman Street.

The .19-acre park will feature native plant species, 10 sculptures, winding walking paths, seating and shade upon completion.

Memphian is capturing her family's legacy of 'extraction and survival' in Louisiana

The collaborators are HBG Design, Montgomery Martin Contractors, landscape designer Greg Touliatos, neighborhood teen sculptors and other local artists and residents.

The Carpenter Art Garden was awarded an \$84,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation for the community project alongside a \$50,000 Blight Out grant from the UrbanArt Commission, a \$10,000 donation from Mom's Demand Action through Everyone and a \$1,000 contribution from the Little Garden Club to help support the park's art-making and plant-growing process.

Tillman Sculpture Park is set to be complete by fall 2024.

The reconstruction timeline is in the second phase of its four-phase process. Phase one included the renovation of the first half of the lot, while phase three will focus on the renovation of the second half of the lot.

Phase two and four will emphasize construction of sculptures and growth of native plants for the new park.

New Lester Community Center breaks ground in Binghampton on familiar turf



A Binghampton-based nonprofit is turning an empty lot into an artistic green space. (Courtesy Brandon Herrington)

“This was not only a great opportunity to take a blighted space and make it a green space,” said Jazmin Miller, Carpenter Art Garden executive director, “but (also) for it to be informed by youth who not only live in the community, but they work with us.”

The teens constructing the sculptures are part of the Carpenter Art Garden’s Mosaic Art Apprenticeship Program, which is led by sculptor Suzy Hendrix and University of Memphis sculpture professor Kelsey Harrison. They are Nakia Prep of Lester Prep and Trevian Humphrey and Keauna Woods of Douglass High.

Miller said the goal is to create a park accessible to everyone.

“It’s right across the street from Inspire (Community Cafe). It’s right across the street from Junior Achievement,” she said. “It’s in a bike path that cuts through

Binghamton on Tillman (Street). It's a public space.”

HBG Design is designing the project through its Kirk Bobo Creating Impact Initiative.

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Carpenter Art Garden and a team of collaborators are constructing Tillman Sculpture Park on the corner of Princeton Avenue and Tillman Street. (Courtesy Brandon Herrington)

“Kirk was one of the original founding partners of HBG Design,” HBG Design principal Danny Valle said. “When he retired, we wanted to honor Kirk by doing something, and we created KBCI.

“Kirk was always giving to the community, and we wanted to make sure we continued that.”

The relationship Valle and his wife Jenny have with Carpenter Art Garden also played a role in the partnership.

Jenny worked as a volunteer with Carpenter Art Garden for more than a decade with a focus on tutoring, small-group mentoring and facilitating summer book clubs at the garden.

Guest Column: Remembering the mothers hurt by 'our violent culture'

Her participation led Danny to get involved himself and become a Carpenter Art Garden board member in 2018.

“It was kind of the best of both worlds,” Valle said. “We were able to accomplish something that hit the mission of KBCI, and we were able to take a blighted lot within Binghampton and do something great for the Carpenter Art park.”

TOPICS

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