

CENTENNIAL ART CENTER

50th
Anniversary



METRO
PARKS
NASHVILLE



Centennial Art
Center

Past and Present – From 1932 to Present



Centennial Park Swimming Pool

Opened in 1932, the pool served Nashville's white community as a premier swimming facility for nearly 30 years. City officials abruptly closed the pool in 1961 after two African American student civil rights activists, Kwame (Leo) Lillard and Matthew Walker Jr., led an effort to desegregate the facility. The city responded by closing all Nashville public pools, blaming the sweeping closures on budgetary concerns.

While many neighborhood pools eventually reopened in 1963 under the newly consolidated metropolitan government, this facility sat vacant for 10 years—to some, a daily reminder of the city's racial divide. The pool's bathhouse was renovated and reopened as Centennial Art Center on April 23, 1972. The former deep end of the swimming pool is preserved as a sunken lawn in the rear portion of the building's courtyard.

City's Bathing Pools Closed

By WILLIAM KEEL

The city board of park commissioners closed the city's 21 swimming pools in mid-afternoon yesterday because of what the board termed "financial reasons."

Negro leaders contended last night the action was taken to block efforts to integrate the pools. Six Negroes were turned away from Centennial pool Tuesday. Leo Lillard, a spokesman for the group, said they were launching a summer-long effort to test segregation at the pools.

One of the park commissioners will be reached for comment after issuing a short written statement.

Walt Elmore, city parks superintendent, said: "All I know was in announcement."

CITY FINANCE Director Joe Pence said he had not been of any financial difficulties to the park board.

Mayor Ben West said he had given no notice of the closing.

Asked whether he had been informed the park system had intended to close the pools, Pence said he had not.

(Continued on Page 8, Column 2)



Photo: Matthew Walker Jr. (left) Kwame (Leo) Lillard (right)

Centennial Pool Opens 1932



The Nashville Tennessean
May 24, 1932

“New Pools At Shelby and Centennial With 16 Playgrounds Ready to Cure Nashville’s “Depression Blues” in Great Outdoors”



Thousands Flock To City Pools

Year's Biggest Crowds Seek Relief From 94-Degree Heat

Business boomed at Nashville's city swimming pools yesterday as thousands of children and adults sought relief from 94-degree heat.

Nearly 3000 people jammed the four municipal pools during the afternoon, and lines formed intermittently when clothing bags ran out.

"I wouldn't say these were the largest crowds we've ever had, but they were the biggest this year," said Jack Spore, superintendent of recreation.

The lines for clothing bags formed at three pools—Centennial park, Shelby and Hadley.

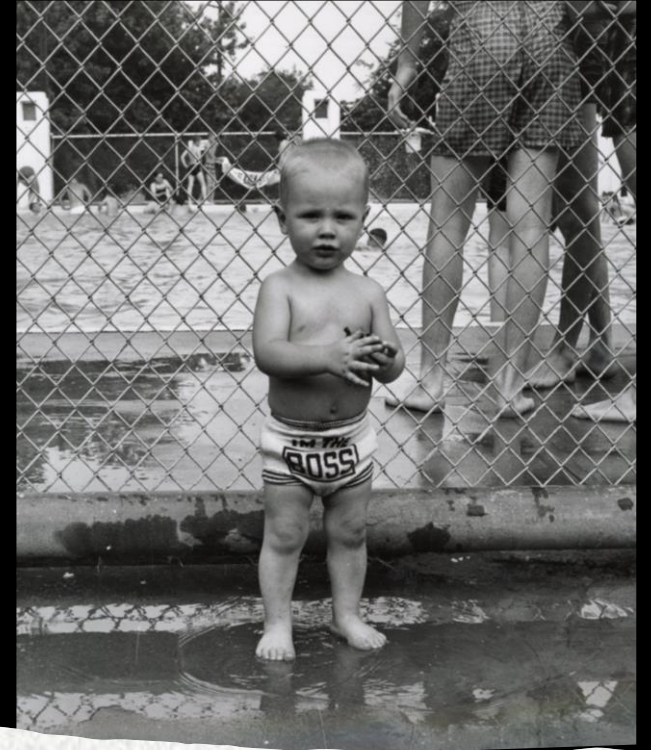
"When we fill up all the clothing bags," said Spore, "we have to wait until somebody gets out before we can let anybody else in."

1250 at Centennial

The fourth city pool—South Howard—had the smallest number of admissions, 389. Centennial park topped 1200 admissions by late afternoon and was crowding 1250 by nightfall.

"This is our biggest crowd of the year by 300," said Hendricks Fox, Centennial pool director. "If the weather stays like this, we'll have an overflow crowd next week end."

The weatherman declined to hazard a forecast that far in advance, but he did predict more hot, humid weather today with some chance of scattered showers tomorrow.

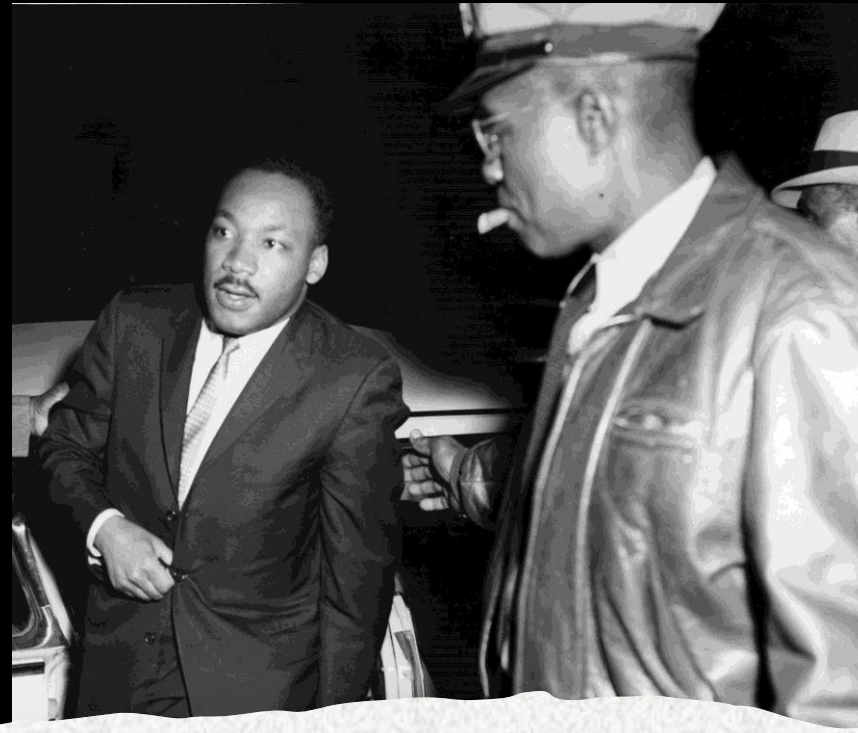


Centennial Pool – Thousands Flock

The Nashville Tennessean
May 24, 1932

“Business boomed at Nashville's city swimming pools yesterday as thousands of children and adults sought relief from 94-degree heat.

Nearly 3000 people jammed the four municipal pools during the afternoon, and lines formed intermittently when clothing bags ran out. ...”



The Civil Rights Movement 1954 - 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Fisk University

"4 Speeches Dr. Martin Luther King Delivered in Nashville"

by Morgan Goldsmith, Urbanite Nashville

"On April 21, 1960, over 4,000 eager listeners, mostly African American, gathered in the Fisk University gymnasium to listen to Dr. King speak. After battling evacuations and scheduling delays due to bomb threats, Dr. King urged the sit-in movements to continue in the city saying, "the movement here is best organized and best discipline of all the movements in the Southland today." He applauded the young students' understanding of the nonviolence philosophy and assured them that "the only thing uncertain about the end of segregation is the day it will be buried."

John Lewis – Nashville, TN

“Lewis became the face of a yearlong movement to desegregate the lunch counters in downtown Nashville, which refused to serve Black customers. He returned again and again with throngs of colleges students, using nonviolent protest to demand respect and racial equity.”

Adam Tamburin

The Nashville Tennessean

July 15, 2021



Negroes Denied Centennial Pool

Six Negroes who said they were launching a summer project to test segregation at Nashville's public recreation areas were refused admission to the Centennial Park pool yesterday.

Park attendants refused to sell the group tickets and they left quietly, Jack Spore, city recreation director, said last night.

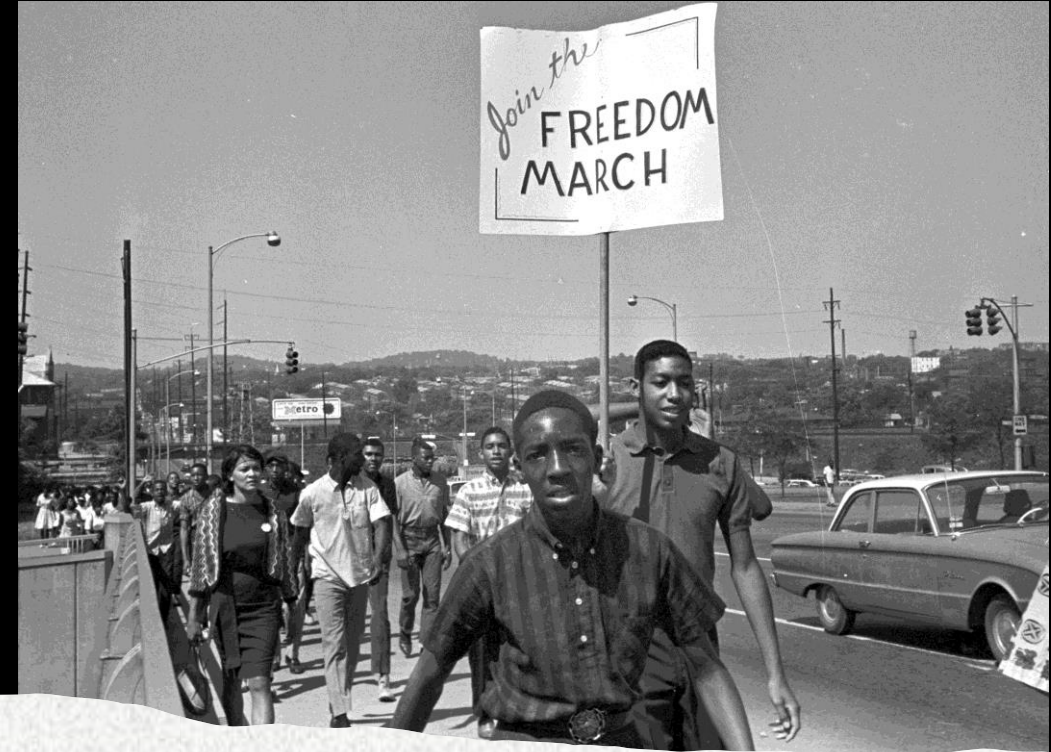
"This is the same procedure they (Negroes) followed to get city golf courses integrated," Spore said. "After they were refused admission they filed suit and got a court order favoring integration."

LEO LILLARD, spokesman for the group and a leader in the student non-violent movement here, mentioned nothing about court action, but said Negro leaders will attempt to negotiate with city officials to gain admission to public pools.

He said Negroes will demonstrate as a "last resort" if negotiations fail.

Spore said the policy to keep the pools segregated was set up by the City Board of Park Commissioners.

BOTH SPORE and one of the board members, Newman Cheek, said they expect a meeting of the board will be called soon to determine if there will be any change



Negros Denied Centennial Pool

The Nashville Tennessean

July 19, 1961

"Six Negroes who said they were launching a summer project to test segregation at Nashville's public recreation areas were refused admission to the Centennial Park pool yesterday.

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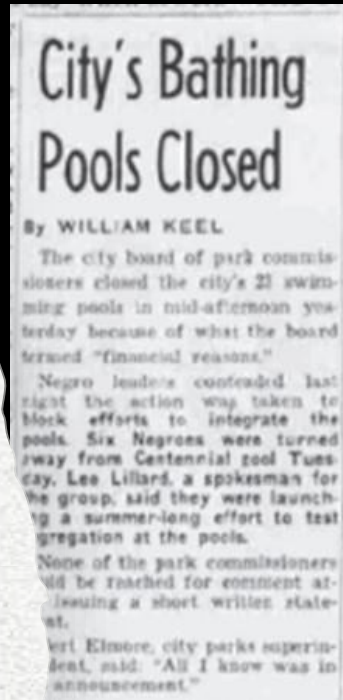
City Bathing Pools Closed

The Nashville Tennessean

July 21, 1961

“The city board of park commissioners closed the city's 23 swimming pools in mid-afternoon yesterday because of what the board termed "financial reasons.”

Negro leaders contended last night the action was taken to block efforts to integrate the pools. Six Negroes were turned away from Centennial pool Tuesday. Leo Lillard, a spokesman for the group, said they were launching a summer-long effort to test segregation at the pools.”



Swimming Pool Opening Asked

To the Editor:

Remember that during the past summer the swimming pools were closed on the heels of a group of young Negroes who used or attempted to use the swimming facilities of Centennial Park. The reason given by the city park commission was the lack of funds. The lack of funds was unknown before by the public.

As a result of closing the pools, there were those children who lost their lives by swimming in unsafe places while the city commission and other city officials refused to do anything to provide safe places for swimming.

What will the new city officials who are to take office very soon do about opening the swimming pools and facilities to all citizens regardless



of where the park is located in the city and county and without regard to one's race or color?

These parks are supported by taxes coming from Negroes as well as whites. Therefore, all citizens should be given equal opportunities in the use of parks. If it is true that they were closed for the lack of funds (of which I have my doubts), then were the trips that Mayor West and other city officials took necessary?

If Mayor West could find money to increase the city employees' salary, he should have found money to open the pools. Since Mayor West failed the taxpayers and especially the youth, I am asking that the new mayor act favorably in this regard.

JAMES R. THORNTON SR.
602 40th Avenue, North
Nashville 2,



Swimming Pool Opening Asked Letter to the editor

The Nashville Tennessean
January 8, 1963

“Remember that during the past summer the swimming pools were closed on the heels of a group of young Negroes who used or attempted to use the swimming facilities of Centennial Park. The reason given by the city park commission was lack of funds. The lack of funds was unknown before by the public.”

Calmly, Without Fuss Human Rights Gain

The Nashville Tennessean
September 15, 1963

“THIS IS a story of progress—in the area of race, the city of Nashville.

This story can be seen everywhere. It's obvious at a movie on the weekend, on a shopping trip during the week, even during a hospital visit. Yet this story is difficult to tell.

Because of its controversial nature, most businessmen prefer to keep their names and the names of their companies out of the news. Those who speak on the subject at public gatherings are reluctant to be quoted and are concerned about the quotes.

But the transitions underway in Nashville are obvious.”



Progress Report: Calmly, Without Fuss Human Rights Gain

EDMUND WILLINGHAM
Religion News Editor

THIS IS a story of progress—in the area of race, in the city of Nashville. It's obvious at a movie on the weekend, on a shopping trip during the week, even during a hospital visit.

Yet this story is difficult to tell.

Because of its controversial nature, most businessmen prefer to keep their names and the names of their companies out of the news. Those who speak on the subject at public gatherings are reluctant to be quoted and are concerned about the quotes.

But the transitions underway in Nashville are obvious.

A Faster Pace

Through the transition in the city, the city has seen the working class move into the city. It is a sign of progress.

At the Present Time

At the present time, the city is seeing a change in the way it handles its business.

Without Incidents

The city is seeing a change in the way it handles its business.

Not Alone

The city is seeing a change in the way it handles its business.

Hotel Manager

The city is seeing a change in the way it handles its business.

Restaurant Manager

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Restaurant Manager

There is a month ago, the transition in the city of Nashville was announced. It was a sign of progress.

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At the present time, the city is seeing a change in the way it handles its business.

Without incidents, the city is seeing a change in the way it handles its business.

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Airport Manager Homer Anderson and Staff
Job opportunities without incident or inequality

(Continued on Page 3D)



Neelys Bend Park Advanced

By FRANK RITTER

The Metro Park Board voted yesterday to recommend the purchase of 256 acres in Neelys Bend for a public park for the Madison and Old Hickory area.

The property would be purchased for "not more than \$185,000" from Mr. and Mrs. Houston N. Peeler.

The action "virtually assures" that the property will be developed as a park, said Bill Crouch, assistant director of the parks and recreation department.

A resolution asking purchase of the land for \$194,207 was considered last month by Metro Council. At that time, the park board recommended that the measure be defeated so officials could attempt to negotiate a lower price.

THE PEELERS have indicated they will accept the \$185,000, Crouch said yesterday.

If the land cannot be bought, the park board official added, it may be acquired through condemnation. The tract is in the lower end of the bend and borders on the Cumberland River.

Under the Open Space Act, passed in 1961 by Congress, the federal government will pay approximately 30 per cent of the cost. The money which the local government will have to pay has already been appropriated — from sale of a \$1 million bond issue by the old City Council.

Bert Elmora, director of parks, said yesterday that tentative plans call for building ball diamonds, picnic areas and playgrounds in the tract.

A small section of the land is subject to flooding from a creek which runs into the Cumberland River. However, park board officials said it is felt this can be obstructed.

Neelys Bend Park Advanced

The Nashville Tennessean
February 6, 1964

“The park board voted to close permanently the swimming pools at Shelby and Centennial Parks. The pools need extensive repairs before they can be used, officials said, and the cost for doing this has been estimated at more than \$200,000.”

Crouch said the park board feels it can build completely new pools for less.”

Dry Pool Is Grim Monument

To the Editor:
The once beautiful and much-used swimming pool in Centennial Park stands as a mute and bleak reminder of the social progress which Metropolitan Nashville is not making!

Several hot summers have passed since the city fathers saw fit to close the pool, and on more than one occasion during those years when reading of a youth having drowned while swimming in unsafe waters and without the protection of a lifeguard, I have asked myself, "Would he have been in the Centennial Park pool were it open?"

Where once clean, cool, blue water offered welcome relief to parching youth, broken park benches, iron posts and wire fencing are now exposed. The paint is peeling rapidly from the brick posts and sides of the pool, weeds are pushing their way through seams in the concrete floor, and the bath house is boarded tightly as though it holds a dangerous criminal. The dry pool is the eyesore in an otherwise beautiful park.

On Independence Day as I stood gazing into the forsaken hole my first thought was, "Why doesn't the city do something about it?" But, perhaps it should not be disturbed. Is it not a monument among monuments?

Years from now when all Americans walk as Americans and swim as Americans — should we survive so long —

Letters to the editor must be signed and names and addresses will be printed except in unusual circumstances. Because of space limitations, letters may be edited. All letters must be 350 words or less before they will be considered for publication. Exceptions will be made in this rule only in special cases.

An award of \$1 will be made for the best letter, designated by three stars.

those who come with their children to Centennial Park can be told of the reasons for the various monuments which stand there: The Footstones for Tennessee's first one hundred years; the four mighty iron wheels to the left of the pool with their inscriptions that they were used to grind powder for the Confederate army; the glacial statues and bronze plaques denoting the founding of Nashville and commemorating its war dead; and, yes, the nose-covered, wind-filled concrete depression marking the social strife of the 1960's.

So, let it stand as a reminder that in this decade we were not ready to accept men as men, and that we were more concerned about an uneasy and temporary community peace than we were about the lives and safety of our children.

Perhaps a plaque embellished with the facts, dates, and community leaders should be installed with appropriate ceremonies and speeches so that this barren pit can be identified by those unborn generations who will come to Centennial Park to view Nashville's history — should we survive so long!

The memory of those war dead whose names are recorded is not revered, but with only three sheets to the wind!

boy takes turns leading the prayer. I try to teach these boys that prayer is a necessity for anything they do in life. I stress good sportsmanship, working together as a team, getting a good education, being a Christian, etc. besides giving them all of the baseball knowledge I have.

These kids have grown to be so much a part of me that it hurts me when one gets hurt. I also broke my heart to see a kid show bad sportsmanship. This has to be a failure of his manager or his parents.

Speaking of parents, if the parents would just let the managers have their kids instead of fussing because their kid doesn't get to play everything would just about be perfect. The main trouble in Little League Baseball is definitely caused by parents trying to tell the manager what to do. People don't realize that the managers and umpires are donating all this time to try to help their child. Until they realize this there will always be trouble.

There just aren't enough words to express how I feel about young people.

BUDNY MEDGULAR
562 Neely's Bend Rd.
Madison

Heard Sounds Of Freedom

To the Editor:
When the church bells rang on July 4, we thought of the sound of freedom.

First we had heard a car hurrying past, running a stop-sign, then the sound of firecrackers, illegal in the county. Then the bells, representing the efforts of hundreds of people watching the second hands on their watches.

And that made us think: the sound of freedom carries responsibility. One day, reportedly three sheets to the wind!

is the responsibility to try to see our country not be wrong. The sound of freedom is the great music of Slag Out, and also the right of a few stations to reject it on the basis of an editorial point of view is the logic. (Slag Out?) The neutrality that a word German agents to spy on Allied shipping channels in World War II?)

The sound of freedom is Let Freedom Ring, warning us against alliances with "alien philosophies." It is the voice of a newspaper backing victorious vietnamese candidates, and the voice of a newspaper backing vietnamese candidates. It is voices in debate at UN, surely a more civilized approach towards settling affairs of nations than warfare.

The sound of freedom is the silence of a plant with workers struck and no deliveries. It is the sound of candidates who urge the repeal or the retention of it (it). (How do your chosen conventional candidates stand on compulsory censored shops?)

The sound of freedom is a colored mother who may now not only buy her little girl a dress in a department store, but also lunch there and go through the door marked "Ladies." The sound of freedom was voices yelling for against the civil rights bill, and now debating constitutional property rights.

The sound of freedom is nominating conventions. Will you know on August 4 how each candidate for state committee or woman stands, which ones will publicly disavow the John Birch Society or tacitly favor Tom Anderson's statement, "I'm for making the Republican party conservative or making it die?" Do you know which candidate, or organizations, these committee members will support in 1968?

The sound of freedom is your vote in the vote. Keep it responsible.

Park Employee Takes One Last Dip



A city park employee takes one last dip as draining operations begin at Centennial Park Pool after the city board of park commissioners orders all city pools closed. Swimmers were refunded their money when the pools were ordered closed.

City's Bathing Pools Are Closed

—Staff photo by Gerald Koenig



Dry Pool is Grim Monument

Letter to the editor from Augustus Bankhead

The Nashville Tennessean
July 11, 1966

"The once beautiful and much-used swimming pool in Centennial Park stands as a mute and bleak reminder of the social progress which Metropolitan Nashville is not making!

Several hot summers have passed since the city fathers saw fit to close the pool, and on more than one occasion during those years when reading of a youth having drowned while swimming in unsafe waters and without the protection of a lifeguard, I have asked myself, "Would he have been in the Centennial Park pool were it open?"

CENTENNIAL ART CENTER

50th
Anniversary



Centennial Art
Center Opens

1972 to present

April 20, 1972 (publication unknown)

APR 20 1972 15/5-2
Art Center Dedication Set

The new Centennial Art Center at Centennial Park will be officially dedicated and opened to the public in ceremonies at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The \$165,000 structure, which includes terraced walkways, fountains, flower beds and an art instruction center, was built in the converted Centennial Park swimming pool. Park and Recreation Department officials said use of the old pool, which has not been open for several years, resulted in a considerable savings over construction of an entirely new

The pool's former bathhouse was renovated to provide art classrooms and workshops.

Mrs. Beverly Briley will represent the mayor in the dedication ceremonies. Other officials expected to be present include: Councilman Morris Haddox, Dr. George Reichardt, chairman of the Park board, Charles Spears, Director of Parks and Recreation and Jack Spore, recreation administrator.

The new center will provide areas for public displays and art shows, as well as regular art classes to be conducted by the Department of Parks and Recreation.



Dr. George W. Reichardt, chairman of the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation, left, officially presents the keys to the new Centennial Art Center, in Mrs. Beverly Briley in behalf of the citizens of Nashville at the Sunday dedication ceremonies. At right is board director Charles H. Spears, who will be in charge of operating the department.

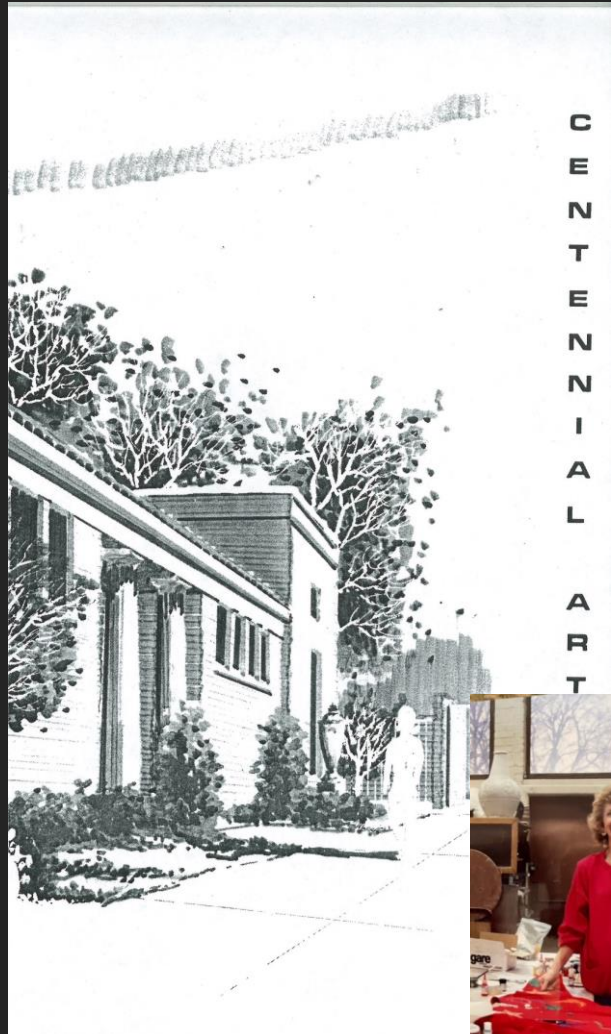
*Photo courtesy of Warterfield Collections
Nashville Public Library, Special Collections*

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Centennial Art Center Opens



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Sunday, April 23, 1972

CENTENNIAL ART CENTER DEDICATION

April 23, 1972

MRS. BEVERLY BRILEY *Wife of Mayor Briley*
Metropolitan Council

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DR. GEORGE W. REICHARDT, *Chairman*
A. J. ROPER, *Vice Chairman*

MRS. IRWIN B. ESKIND MOSE J. DAVIE
C. F. MAGER B. R. ALLISON

CHARLES R. SPEARS *Director of
Parks and Recreation*

JACK SPORE *Recreation Administrator*

FRANK S. ATCHLEY *Park Administrator*

LALLIE T. RICHTER *Planning Administrator*

JAMES H. FYKE *Special Services Administrator*

JAMES R. DERSEWEH *Business Administrator*

COOPER AND WATERFIELD *Architects*

PROGRAM

InvocationREV. KELLY MILLER SMITH
First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

Presentation of Building to
The City of Nashville ...DR. GEORGE W. REICHARDT
Park Board Chairman

Acceptance in Behalf of
Citizens of NashvilleMRS. BEVERLY BRILEY

Councilman to Receive Keys
From Mrs. BrileyMORRIS B. HADDOX
Councilman, 20th District

Acceptance of Keys for
Operating DepartmentCHARLES R. SPEARS
Director

Introduction of Guests and
Art Center StaffJACK SPORE
Recreation Administrator

BenedictionREV. JAMES HOPKINS
Inglewood Baptist Church

ART CENTER STAFF

MRS. ANN HORAN*Director*

MICHAEL GIBSON*Painting Instructor*

Refreshments and Open House Tour of Building

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New Centennial Art Center Officially Opened To Public

By LAURA HANNEY

The new spacious Centennial Art Center at Centennial Park is now officially open to the public after dedication ceremonies Sunday.

At the suggestion of Parks and Recreation Department officials the \$185,000 structure was built in the converted park swimming pool, which had been closed a number of years ago.

Dr. George W. Stinchcomb, chairman of the Park Board, initiated the outside ceremonies by officially presenting the building to the city as its first gallery stand among the

will be available for both children and adults, are scheduled to begin in June. members of the art staff said. The art classes and periodical art displays and shows will be held in the spacious Mediterranean-style art instruction center.

The art classes will be conducted by the Department of Parks and Recreation.



Photos courtesy of Warterfield Collections
Nashville Public Library, Special Collections

New Centennial Art Center Officially Opened to the Public

The Nashville Banner
April 23, 1972

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Old Pool Site Now Sees Brushstrokes

Article by Kay Beasley,
publication unknown

“Today at the site of the old Centennial Park swimming pool, the park patrons are still diving in and swimming, but the strokes are with paint brushes and the water is for the potter’s wheel.”

Wonderworks Exhibits

Ariel lands in front of Centennial Art Center

Page 10—Nashville Suburban Newspapers, Wed., Oct. 17, 1979

Five Printers' Wonderworks Four Works Are Added To Parks Permanent Collection

Works by five of the 27 artists whose prints currently are on exhibit at the Centennial Art Center in 1979 *Wonderworks Four* have been purchased for the Board of Parks and Recreation permanent collection.

Chosen from this intriguing array of work representing the finest done by professional artist are prints by Lucius DuBose, who formerly taught at Peabody College before opening his own studio; John Hominee, who's teaching career included a stint at Austin Peay State University, before he settled in Newburgh, Ind.; Arthur Skinner, Florida; Stephen Horan, Illinois, and Doris Serdler, New York.

The current *Wonderworks Four* was not competitive and no purchase prizes were offered although all the prints may be purchased.

Ann Horan, Centennial Art Center director, said some funds were left over from last year's *Wonderworks* which made the purchase of the prints possible.

Last year *Wonderworks* featured sculpture of Southeastern United States artists and the purchase

award went to Lin Emery of New Orleans, whose graceful "Ariel," now adorns the courtyard at the art center.

Metro Parks' staff hasn't

come up with a firm idea of what sort of art *Wonderworks Five* will emphasize, although Mildred DuBois, public information officer and special

programs coordinator, said some consideration has been given weaving *Wonderworks Four* will be on exhibit through Oct. 31.



AMONG HONORED GUESTS—Larry Hortenbury of the Austin Peay State University art department, and Centennial Art Center director, Ann Horan, stand before one of two prints Hortenbury has on exhibit in *Wonderwork Four*. He was among artists honored at the reception which opened the 1979 exhibit at the center.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON—Present for the opening of Metro Parks' *Wonderworks Four* at Centennial Art Center were Mary Wherry, parks' president of recreation; Paul Downey, assistant president, recreation-cultural arts, and Mildred DuBois, public information officer. They stand in the

sun-dappled courtyard before "Ariel" by Lin Emery of New Orleans, winner of the *Wonderwork Three* purchase prize in 1978. Emphasizing prints by 27 artists from 10 states, *Wonderwork Four* may be seen through Oct. 31.

'Wonderworks' Sculptors Bring Entry Models to Centennial Park

By CLARA HIERONYMUS

ALMOST AS exciting as seeing an exhibition of sculpture is the opportunity to view the artists' models of their work in which they project their concept from basic dream to proposed finished state.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, in planning *Wonderworks III*, the third annual invitational exhibition featuring works by professional artists and craftsmen, had a bold and innovative idea.

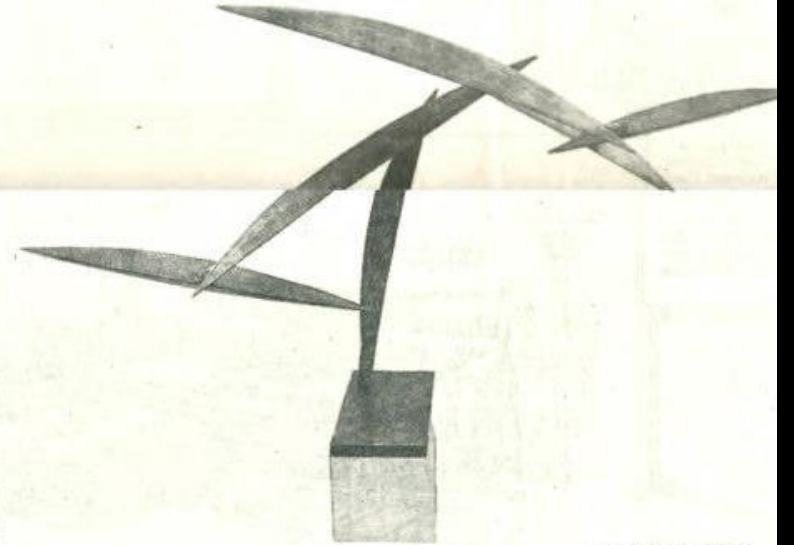
THROUGH THE Metro Board of Parks and Recreation, invitations to 40 sculptors were sent.

heater

On the basis of their work, they participate in the competition and were selected for sculptural work to be shown in the front courtyard of the Centennial Art Center.

Artists were invited to submit a scale model of their work. And if the sculpture temporary material was used, it must be made of permanent material.

Invitations were sent to submit work by Oct. 15. More than 40 scale models were received. More than 40 scale models were received. More than 40 scale models were received.



—Staff photo by S.A. Terkington

Ariel: Lin Emery, New Orleans sculptor, submitted this scale model for a mobile sculpture in copper base alloy and architectural bronze as her entry in the Metro *Wonderworks III* competition. The finished work is meant to stand 8 feet high, with its various arcs moving on ball bearings.

The First Annual Tennessee Crafts Fair Was Held At Centennial Art Center in 1972

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1972

By CLARA HIERONYMUS

Ceramic pots, carved birds, colorful fabric prints, cast silver jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, copper "varmint" and other crafts of Tennessee origin will bloom like flowers on the green grass at Centennial Park art center and surrounding area this weekend.

Friday, Saturday and next Sunday are the dates for the first annual Tennessee Crafts Fair, organized by the Tennessee Artist-Craftsmen's Association to bring to public attention the fascinating scope of both folk and contemporary crafts in our state and to provide a measure of recognition to the talented people who produce them.

Co-sponsored by the Nashville Chapter of the American Association of University Women, the event is

from 1 to 6 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 30.

A major feature on Friday will be demonstrations by two African potters, Ladi Kwali of Nigeria and C. Kofi Athey of Ghana. Accompanied by Michael Cardew, famed British potter and author who acts as their interpreter, they are on a six-week tour of the United States.

The craft fair not only reflects the upsurge of interest nationally in hand-crafts, but will spotlight the wealth of crafts and craftsmen with which Tennessee is blessed.

Among the basic crafts reflecting an earlier era is spinning and yarn dyeing, which will be demonstrated by Nashville's Sadye Wilson and her 14-year old pupil, Gail Matthews. They will set up spinning wheels to show how cotton, flax and wool are

Tennessean Newspaper
Sunday, April 23, 1972

an exhibitor, as will Jane Rozier, textile designer and batik artist. John Maxwell, of the Upper Cumberland Craft Center at Cookeville, will be there with his hand-made dulcimers and other wooden objects. He makes wood-carved jewelry, relief carved



Tennessee Craft Fair –1972 A legacy begins

“Ceramic pots, carved birds, colorful fabric prints, cast silver jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, copper ‘varmint’ and other crafts of Tennessee origin will bloom like flowers on the green grass at Centennial Park Art Center and surrounding area this weekend.



Art Class Registration

Students wait in line to sign up for a variety of visual art classes including painting, arts & crafts, jewelry and pottery.

Centennial Art Center Classes explore different media

Macrame, pottery, metal AUGUST 14, 1972

Art center classes explore different media

The Centennial Art Center celebrated its first summer program with a festival of the Arts recently that featured dance performances, live music and student showings.

The art center, sponsored by the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation, opened June 1st, at the site of the old swimming pool in Centennial Park. As soon as the center opened classes in painting, macrame, sketching, pottery and weaving were open for public participation. And according to the director of the center, Ann Moran, the classes were a huge success.

"WE WANT NASHVILLIANS to enjoy and appreciate art. Nashville has had a need for an art center where the public could not only view artists and craftsmen's works, but participate as well," said Ms. Moran, who has been with the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation

"I start my students in hand building first in classes. Then they go to the wheels, or whatever they want to do," stated Moran.

The pottery room occupies one end of the center. There are 10 wheels on which students work. Each has three different kinds, so a student may work with each to see which one fits him best. Three wheels are the old kick type, four are electric, and three are treadle wheels.

"MY STUDENTS HAVE amazed me in their progress. Of course, no one is forced into taking pottery, therefore, it is a desired learning experience. But many have done much better and gone faster than I would have. For instance, there is one retired gentleman who took the course and has thrown pieces better than I. He enjoys it and works on it in his spare time at home, but he has never attempted to do it before."



Centennial Art Center Offers Varied Program For All Ages

Charles "Red" Grooms is now showing some of his finest work at the centennial art center. The center is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. every Sunday; 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. every Saturday. The exhibit is sponsored by the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation and will be at the art center until July 16,

Grooms was born in Nashville where he attended Hillsboro High School and is now living in New York with his wife and daughter. He has been called both a primitive and a pop artist. He has combined the art media, and even surpassed this to project a high personal element into his art. He has been a performer, director, designer, and is producing a play which

will be made into a movie.

The handsome Centennial Art Center, recently constructed from the remains of the old Centennial Park swimming pool facilities, offers a week-long program of high level art instruction for persons of all ages through the sponsorship of the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, Charles R. Spears, director.

The center is closed on Mondays.

Tuesday, art classes for adults are conducted from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. by Mike Gibson. From 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Gibson has a class for teens. Both of these classes meet at the same time on Thursdays.

In addition, Gibson conducts a 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. class for adults

on Thursdays as well.

Hazel King instructs a class for children.

In addition, Gibson conducts adult pottery classes from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Becky Kenny is instructor for adult pottery classes from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

She also instructs a pottery class for children from 8 to 10 years of age on Thursday afternoons from 2 until 5 p.m.

Gibson has three more adult pottery classes Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., from 2 until 5 p.m. and from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m.

Pottery classes for adults are conducted Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. and are taught by Stan Rust.



Centennial Art Center Offers Varied Program For All Ages

"Centennial Art Center...offers a week-long program of high-level art instruction for persons of all ages through the sponsorship of Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, Charles R. Spears, director.



1978

Centennial Art Center Wins State Outstanding Art Award

Centennial Art Center was chosen as having the outstanding arts program in the state during a meeting of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association.

The award cited the recent invitational sculpture exhibit *Wonderworks III* as an outstanding community event. The category was for "excellence in art contribution

to the community with a lasting and far-reaching effect."

A bronze-hinged, fountain-type sculpture by Lin Emery was granted the \$2,500 commission, and the completed sculpture will be installed permanently in the center's front courtyard. Sculptors from seven Southeastern states were invited to submit works for the juried competition.

Centennial Art Center Wins State Outstanding Art Award

"Centennial Art Center was chosen as having the outstanding arts program in the state during the meeting of Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association."

Exhibits of Centennial Art Center Instructors

1989

Local artist's works on exhibit

Local resident Lena Arice Lucas is an artist who does not confine herself to one medium or discipline. Her exhibition at Centennial Art Center, which opened Sunday, November 5, is an ample demonstration of that fact. Paintings, sculptures, fabric designs, and hand-built ceramic works (usable as both functional pieces or displayed on walls) will be on view through November 29.

Recently honored by the Nashville International Airport and Metro Art Commission's "Art in the Airport", Ms. Lucas also has been commissioned by Interior Design Service to produce eight large scale wheel-thrown pottery urns for a major corporation's offices here.

An extensive traveler, Ms. Lucas feels her journeys enrich her art by providing visual stimulation. The most unusual and more frequently referred to journeys depicted in her art are what she refers to as "Soul Travel," "a form of out-of-body-consciousness movement wherein active exploration, study, and participation in inner spiritual realms takes place," she

said. Ms. Lucas, when asked to describe her art, says, "I have for some time now been developing an abstract visual vocabulary utilizing simple universal symbols that represent the light and sound of God, and represent Souls' (our spiritual selves) procession and evolution into higher understanding. This language has visual elements that often recur in my individual works of art in much the same fashion that a musical theme recurs in separate movements of a composition or larger collected body of work produced during a specific period of a composer's life. My visual art, in all its varied forms, share a common thread and deal with Soul's journey home to God."

Lena Lucas grew up in Inglewood, attended Jere Baxter Elementary, Isaac Litton, Stratford, and McGavock schools, and recently returned to live in the east side of town (Lockeland Springs) after over 10 years in the Hillsboro area. Her exhibit at Centennial Art Center runs through November 28.

LUCAS



PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

By Lena Arice Lucas

November 5 thru 28

CENTENNIAL ART CENTER

Centennial Park

(25th Ave. N. & Charlotte Pk. Corner of Park)

Ph. 615/259-5538

Metro Board of Parks and Recreation



An Exhibition by Students of

Wendell Dorris

Hazel King

Martha Hannah

Lena Lucas



HAZEL KING

recent works in
Clay, Acrylics and Watercolor

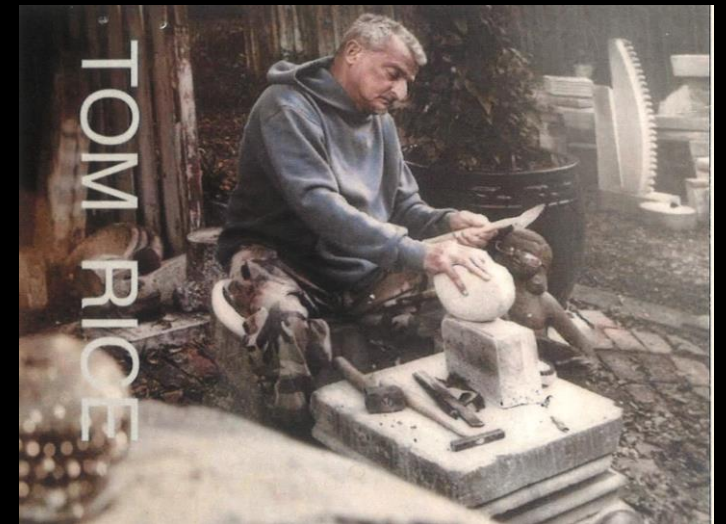
Centennial Art Center

Nashville, Tennessee

January 7 - 29, 1988

Opening Reception

Thursday, January 7, 1988, 5 - 7 p.m.



International artists living in Nashville to exhibit at Centennial

The public is invited to meet the artists while attending the opening reception for Nashville's Internationals 2007 on Friday, October 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Centennial Art Center. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. The exhibit will run from October 5 through October 26. Director Brenda McSurley

said the gallery will feature 14 artists from around the world that now call Nashville home. The gallery will remain open that weekend during abstractions. Among the 14 are both trained professional as well as self-taught artists. Some of them are already represented in Nashville's galleries. Centennial Art Center is located in the 25th Avenue North and Park Plaza corner of Centennial Park. For more information and for directions,



Dinki Cow by Jon Kur, Sudan



Farm by Joy Min Xu, China



Islands by Camille Torchon, Haiti

METRO PARKS' CENTENNIAL ART CENTER PRESENTS
NASHVILLE'S INTERNATIONALS
 a pre-festival event for Metro Parks and Scarritt-Bennett's Celebration of Cultures
 ...works by 14 artists who have immigrated to Nashville...
OCTOBER 2—30, 2009
ARTISTS' OPENING RECEPTION
FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 5 — 7 PM

 MANYANG JOK	 OLGA ALEXEEVA	 JOHNSON CHANG	 ROBERTA WINNETT HARRISON
 CHOL GARANG	 TERRY LAPIDUS	 JAMES MAKUAC	 JAMES BOL
 CAMILLE TORCHON	 JOHN KUR	 HEIDE BROWNE	 GEPPE HERNANDEZ
 GABRIEL WAL	 VOYMIR MUSTAPIGH	CENTENNIAL ART CENTER 25TH AVENUE NORTH & PARK PLAZA CORNER OF NASHVILLE'S CENTENNIAL PARK PH (615) 862-8442 http://www.nashville.gov/parks/cac.htm	

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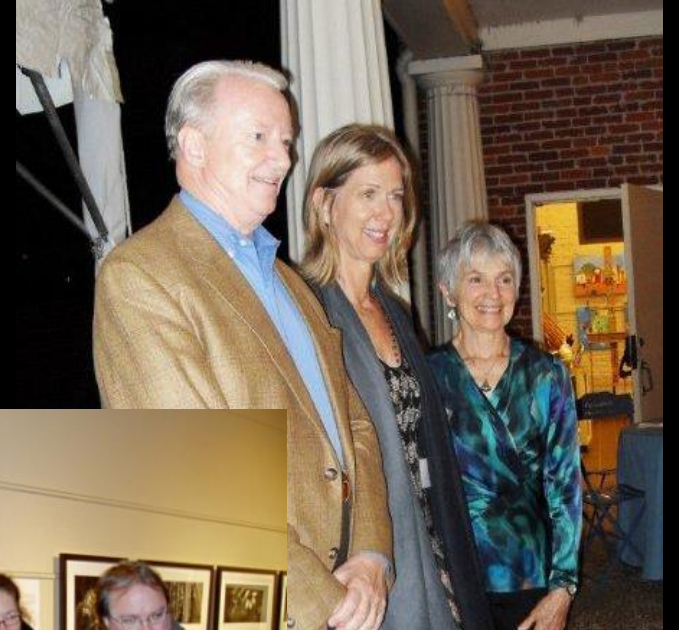
Students show their stuff at annual exhibition, sale for Arts in the Parks



Centennial Art Center Gallery Exhibits



Gallery Exhibits



Gallery Exhibits



Ann Gadsey Horan

Ann Gadsey Horan served for 30 years as the First Centennial Art Center Director. A lifetime supporter of the arts, her legacy lives on through the Ann Gadsey Horan endowment fund supporting Metro Parks Visual Arts programs.



Popular art instructor Hazel King to retire but will continue center classes

After 40 years, budget cuts eliminated her Metro Parks position

By SUZANNE NORMAND BLACKWOOD
Staff Writer

WEST END — As she sat reminiscing in the art room at Centennial Art Center, Hazel King, 86, recalled how she went from “artist” to “art teacher.”

She was working for Tinsley’s department store as a fashion design artist, creating ads for the newspaper. She was also taking classes at Watkins College of Art and Design, and one of her instructors was Morgan Stinemetz, the art director for the Methodist Publishing House.

“He sat me down and said, ‘You’re a natural-born teacher. They are few and far between. Nashville is ready for this kind of teacher to teach art.’”

King said she asked what made him think that. “He said, ‘When you learn something, you jump up and down, tell everyone, and they listen. That’s what makes a good teacher.’”



Hazel King

“As she sat reminiscing in the art room of Centennial Art Center, Hazel King, 86, recalled how she went from “artist” to art teacher...At the end of the month King will retire from the art program she started more than 40 years ago for Metro Parks.”





SPOTLIGHT

Lena Lucas 37 Glorious Art Years

by Joanne Lamphere Beckham

On a hot day in August, Lena Lucas lovingly surveyed the clay, pottery wheels, and kilns in the ceramics studio at Centennial Art Center. As she prepared to celebrate her retirement as gallery manager and instructor of sculpture and pottery, Lucas reflected on nearly four decades of creating and teaching art at Centennial.

"I've been blessed with the privilege of teaching so many people in my pottery classes through the years," she says. "I loved sharing as I was learning and adapting to each student's learning style."

Lucas began her tenure at Centennial in 1975 as a 19-year-old receptionist. When then-director Ann Horan asked her to fill in occasionally for the instructors, Lucas found that teaching came naturally. She became a full-time ceramics instructor in 1978, eventually overseeing the department.

Lucas began managing the center's gallery in 1982, organizing exhibits of local artists like James Threalkill, Edie Maney, and many others. "I've loved

Lucas attempts to express life's challenges and transcendence through her abstract clay structures and paintings. She also creates naturalistic paintings and ceramics as a way to meditate.



Past Present Future, Acrylic on canvas

"I think of my wheel-thrown and hand-built pottery vessels as possessing a ceremonial energy inspired by ancient Chinese bronze vessels I saw as a young woman," she says. "The hand-built ones make me imagine a sacred purpose they may be intended for. I often use imagery from my abstract paintings on the surfaces of my wheel-thrown jars to describe what is contained within."

A series of work-related spinal injuries made it necessary for Lucas to take early retirement August 31, 2012. She hopes to spend her days healing, making art, writing music, and teaching art workshops.

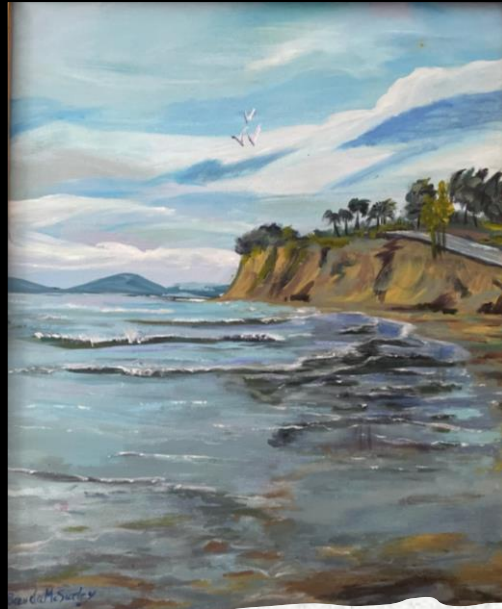
"I'm not disappearing off the face of the earth," she says. "I hate to leave Centennial Art Center. I've loved working here. Being able to have a career in art has truly been a blessing."

For more information about Lucas, please visit www.lenaarcelucas.com.



Lena Lucas

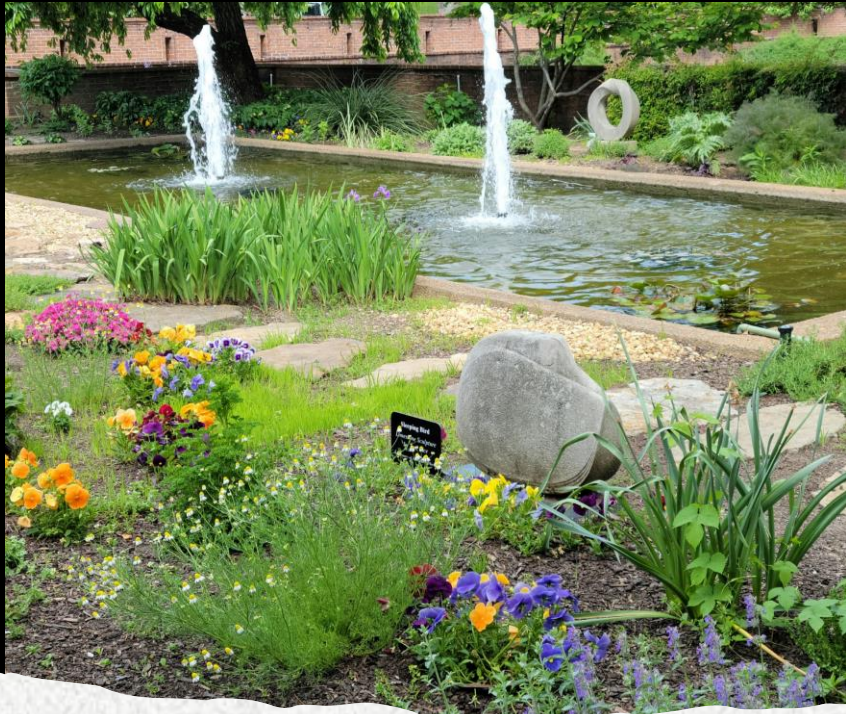
“On a hot day in August, Lena Lucas lovingly surveyed the clay, pottery wheels and kilns in the ceramic art studio at Centennial Art Center. As she prepared to celebrate her retirement as gallery manager and instructor of pottery, Lucas reflected on nearly 4 decades of creating and teaching art. At Centennial...”



Brenda McSurley

“Brenda McSurley, a native Nashvillian, worked more than 13 years for Metro Parks and Recreation as the Specialized Skills Supervisor for the Visual Arts and the Metro Centennial Art Center Director. She received a B.S. degree in Education from Peabody/Vanderbilt University. Art has always been her passion; she still possesses that love of art and passion for creating. Brenda’s favorite subject matter is water. Many of her original paintings are scenes and landscapes from Nashville and the Great Smokey Mountains.





Centennial Art Center Partnerships The Herb Society of Nashville

Through a long-standing partnership, the Herb Society of Nashville maintains a beautiful herb garden in our courtyard making this a wonderful place to visit or have lunch in Centennial Park.



—Staff photo by Dale Emberger
Herb Happy: Mrs. Charles S. Riddle will speak on "Discovering the Taste of Fresh Herbs in Food" at a meeting open to the public of the Nashville Herb Society at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, at the Art Center in Centennial Park. Mrs. Riddle inspects the herb garden planted at the center by the society.



Centennial Art Center Partnerships

Tennessee Craft

**CALL
FOR
ARTISTS**



38th Annual Fall

TENNESSEE CRAFT FAIR

Deadline to apply: July 15, 2016 | Event: September 23, 24 & 25, 2016
Centennial Park | Nashville, Tennessee

CAC Partnerships

The Frist Art Museum



Clay Demonstrations and more



Painting





A few of Centennial Art Center Teachers and Staff



Centennial Art Center

301 25th Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37203

For more information, visit us online at
<https://www.nashville.gov/mpva>

Music: *We'll Be Okay* by Michael Ramir C.

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