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Friday, August 06, 2010

Loring Park memorial artwork receives Minneapolis Arts Commission award

"Awakening," a stained glass window at the Loring Park Community Arts Center, has received the Award for Community Involvement in Public Art by the Minneapolis Arts Commission (MAC). The window is a memorial to longtime Minneapolis parks employee and neighborhood leader Carol Fox.



Awakening

The window was commissioned by the Friends of Loring Park and is the first of its kind for the Minneapolis park system. Friends of Loring Park is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Loring Park.

The design brings together favorite elements of Loring Park; the graceful white egret that calls the park's pond home, flowers from the Garden of the Seasons, trees and skyline, all tied together by a yellow ribbon along the outer panes. The artwork was installed in August 2009 in the signature quatrefoil window of the MPRB's first permanent park building, the distinctly Spanish style [Loring Park Community Arts Center](#) built in 1906. The window was crafted by north Minneapolis artist Connie Beckers from a design by Reynaldo Diaz.

Plans for the artwork developed from Park Board District 2 Commissioner Jon Olson's longtime wish for an original artwork at the Loring arts center. Olson's long friendship with, and respect for, Carol Fox led him to seek the support of Friends of Loring Park to honor Fox for her service and for her love of the arts, the parks and the community.

"The award is another fitting tribute to a woman whose passion for the Minneapolis park system will long be remembered," said Olson. "This award recognizes all the people involved in this project for their hard work, dedication and creative talents."

During her 25 years with MPRB, Fox worked at Columbia Golf Course and Bottineau, Linden Hills and Lynnhurst parks before accepting a position at the park board headquarters' permit office where many of the policies and procedures she developed are still in use today. Fox's promotion to District Supervisor of Citywide Events brought her to Loring Park.

While at Loring, Fox developed and expanded arts programming citywide. Her efforts made possible the Art in the Park partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the first memorial service for 9/11, and the concerts at Loring Park, Lake Harriet and Minnehaha Falls. She supervised the Great River Roll and New Year's Eve parties on the Riverfront and was instrumental in making the Loring Park Art Festival a part of the weekend arts trifecta, along with the Uptown and Powderhorn Art Fairs. She passed away in 2005 due to cancer.

The MAC presented the award Aug. 6, at the Uptown Art Fair.

Related File: [Awakening](#)

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