



SCULPTURE
WALK
• PEORIA •

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jenn Gordon and I serve as Executive Director for ArtsPartners of Central Illinois. I'm writing this letter of recommendation in support of Craig Gray. Craig Gray's piece, "Slices of Heaven" was selected through a blind juried process to be featured on our 2019 Sculpture Walk Peoria outdoor art exhibit. The piece itself has brought to our walk a sense of whimsy, accessibility, and vibrancy and as a result we have seen more families and youth engaging in our walk than ever before!

As part of our Opening Weekend festivities, we ask all participating artists to take part in a "Meet and Learn" with the public. In the five years that we have produced Sculpture Walk Peoria, I have never seen an artist interact so fluidly and enthusiastically with our opening day crowd. Craig not only has a gift for creating large-scale sculpture – but he is also a gifted educator, entertainer, and an all-around dynamic arts advocate. The children who came to our event absolutely loved Craig.

While we all know the economic and cultural benefits that Sculpture Walks can have on a community – they can prove challenging when it comes to building engagement with people of all ages and backgrounds. Sometimes large scale art work can feel intimidating and unapproachable. Both Craig's piece, and Craig's presence on-site at our walk helped immensely educate and reach new audiences in our community with an art experience that they will not soon forget.

Warm regards,

Jenn Gordon
Executive Director
ArtsPartners of Central Illinois

Sculpture Walk Peoria 2019 Committee: Lynette Steger - Chair, Fadi Rustom, Glen Harris, Michelle Nielsen Ott, Hiral Hudson, York Phillips, Steven Marx, John Heintzman, Jeff Heintzman, Kari Schimmel, Tom Boylan

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