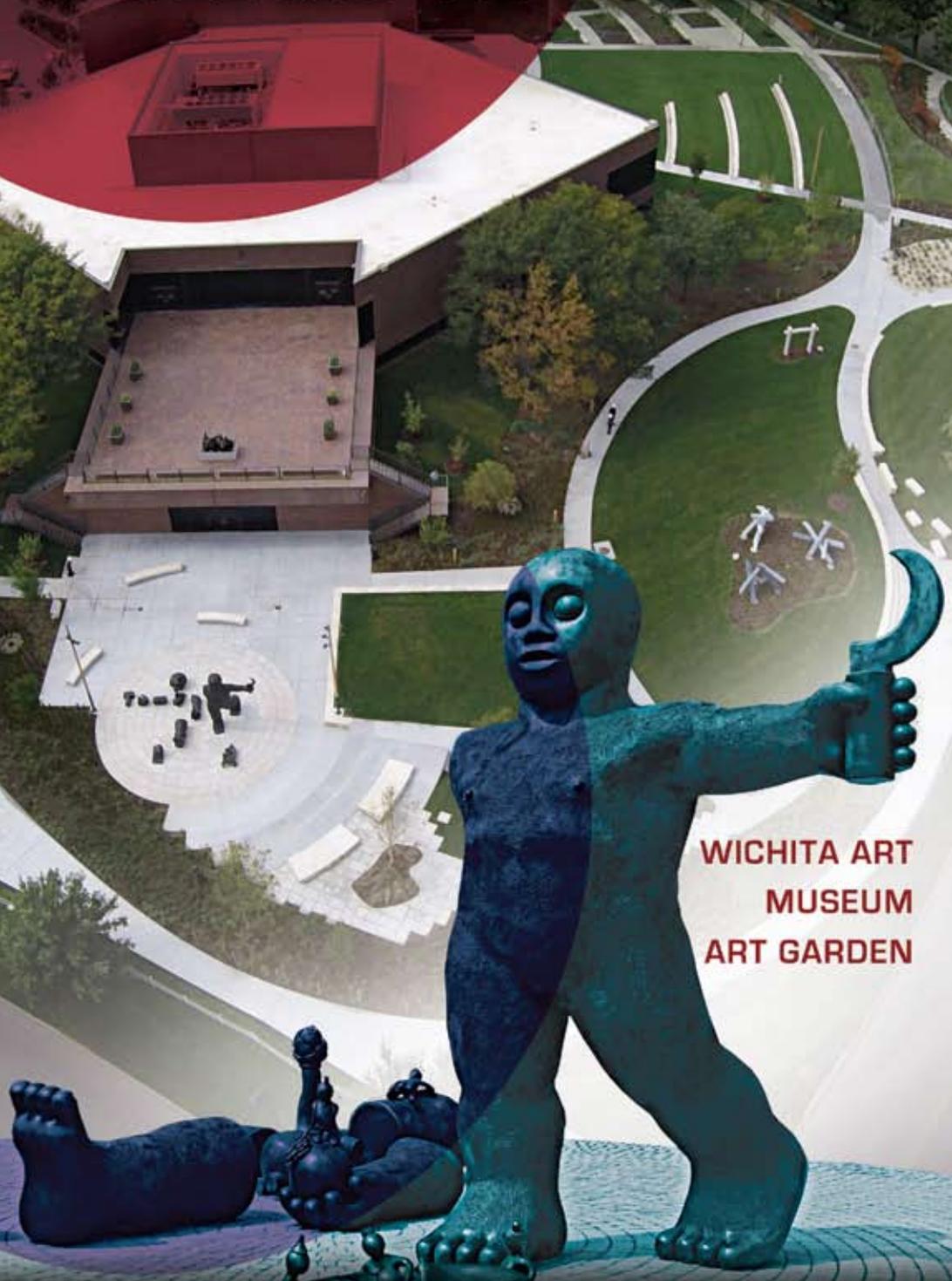


Collaborations



**WICHITA ART
MUSEUM
ART GARDEN**

NATURE & ART COMBINE AT WICHITA ART MUSEUM'S ART GARDEN

Art, nature and community come together stunningly at the Wichita Art Museum (WAM) Art Garden, eight acres of undulating landscape crowned by public art works. Donors, dignitaries and members of the public celebrated WAM's new offering at its day-long grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Simpson Construction Services had the experience of working with WAM Director Dr. Patricia McDonnell, and board of trustees to bring their vision to life.

"We wanted people to have different kinds of landscape experiences, and our landscape architects achieved that brilliantly," said McDonnell. "The north garden, the amphitheater, the desert garden, the sculpture garden.... We've been able to extend the museum-goers' experience throughout the eight-acre grounds."

Designed by landscape architecture firm Confluence, the project was first envisioned by community volunteers and WAM supporters Paula Downing and Martha Walker, who provided vital seed funding. Simpson Project Manager Chris Baalman believes its impact on public art experience will be lasting and far-reaching. "It's another one of those projects that will be around forever, and it allows us to put our thumbprint on the culture of the



city," said Chris. "That's been rewarding."

Planning and flexibility are two traits that have been invaluable throughout construction, something Dr. McDonnell has appreciated in Simpson. "Chris Baalman and Howard Thome have been rock stars," she said.

"The whole Simpson team has been spectacular, and those two have been insistent on excellence and such wonderful creative problem-solvers."

The WAM Art Garden features xeriscaping that is indigenous to Kansas, and newly commissioned art by Vicki Scuri and Derek Porter. In addition to extending the museum-goer's experience, the Art Garden frames WAM's impressive building architecture.

WICHITA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL PLAY SPACE IS CHILD-INSPIRED

Wichita Collegiate School's Early Childhood program has long emphasized the developmental approach to early childhood education. They teach students through a literature-based curriculum immersed in sensory learning, with support for a child's social-emotional, physical and cognitive development, says Becky O'Hearn, head of the early childhood program for students aged 2-6 years.

Collegiate's recently completed play space features cabins by a faux river, a giant book that kids can write on, and a bird's nest for climbing. A Mother Goose-inspired garden features planting beds, and a hill best known for its inhabitants...Humpty Dumpty and Jack & Jill. In addition there are five whimsically designed musical instruments.

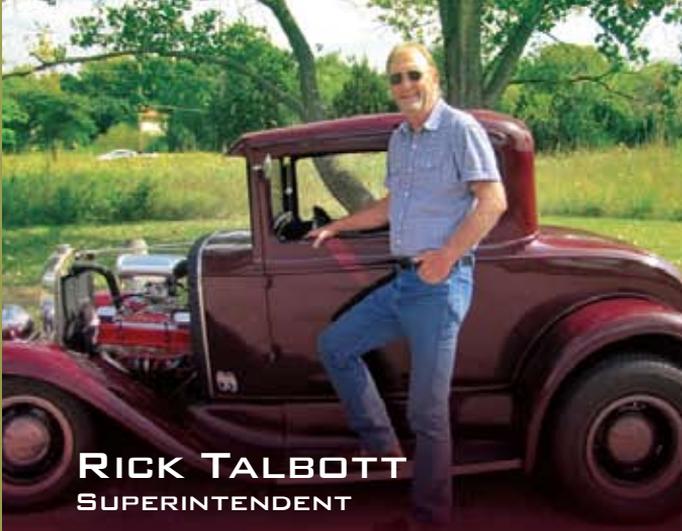
"In early childhood, students learn through their experiences every minute of the day," said O'Hearn. "We wanted it to be a backdrop for good social and emotional support, gross motor elements, and cardiovascular development."



Simpson Project Manager Josh Vogel appreciated the project's unique challenges, created by landscape designer Emmanuel Didier. "We worked from the initial design, molding and shaping to meet the owner's vision," said Vogel. "We coordinated with the staff every step of the way to make sure their goals were met."

O'Hearn noted that the finished product supports the Wichita Collegiate School's early childhood teaching philosophy. "Our teaching faculty have such wisdom and love for the students. They're passionate about helping the young child with all the experiences that build their foundation of learning," said O'Hearn. "The Simpson crew has been phenomenal in embracing the spirit of this project."





RICK TALBOTT
SUPERINTENDENT

To see Rick Talbott cruising in one of his vintage hot rods, one might draw conclusions about the man behind the wheel. That he appreciates items of rarity, that he is mechanically gifted, and that he has a passion for restoring items to their former glory. All of these would be correct.

The Simpson superintendent and self-described gearhead has an eclectic array of cars, all lovingly restored, which he enjoys when he's not on the job. These days that list is topped by his 1931 Ford coupe, 1951 Chevy business coupe, and 1960 Cadillac 2-door hardtop.

"I value things that are mechanical and unique and well made," he says. Coincidentally, these attributes describe the projects he oversees for Simpson Construction Services. It is the diversity of his job at Simpson that Rick enjoys, the wide range of projects they work on and the people he comes into contact with. "We have a lot of involvement with our customers and are committed to their best value."

On the job or at home, Rick describes himself as simple, laid back and most of all, patient ... a virtue acquired while raising three daughters.

In addition to his car hobby, Rick has bought, refurbished and sold hundreds of antique clocks, keeping the most treasured ones himself. After all, it is easier to find space at home for a clock than a car. As for his treasured vintage roadsters, he keeps some of them at his Wichita home and others in Pratt where he grew up and where his mother still resides. Rick goes to Pratt almost every weekend to spend time with her, cruise a little and tinker on his cars.

Chalklines

A PARTIAL LIST OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Wichita Art Museum
Confluence
Construction Management
<http://wichitaartgarden.simpsonconst.com>

The VUE Apartments
Butler Rosenbury & Partners
Construction Management

USD 375 Circle High School
DLR Group & Gravity Works Architecture
Construction Management
<http://circleusd375.simpsonconst.com/>

Northwest High School
Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture

The Lord's Diner Addition
SPT Architecture
Construction Management

Shepherd's Crossing, Independent Living
GLMV Architecture
Construction Management

USD 379 Clay County
SPT Architecture
Construction Management
<http://claycountyusd379.simpsonconst.com>

American AgCredit, Wichita Headquarters
SPT Architecture
Design Build

Emprise Bank Renovations
Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture
Construction Management

Building Controls & Services Expansion
SPT Architecture
Construction Management

To see more projects, visit
www.simpsonconst.com

SIMPSON CONSTRUCTION ANNIVERSARIES *Happy anniversary to our dedicated employees!*

28 years	Brad Cragun	8 years	Earl Pauly, Jr.	2 years	Richard J. Myers
19 years	Howard Thome	7 years	Felipe Alba	2 years	Wayne Galliat
14 years	Rigoberto Urbina	5 years	Geronimo Duran	1 year	Hugo Nungaray
14 years	Jorge Salas	5 years	Paul Goates	1 year	Adrian Aleman
10 years	Connie Ellingson	3 years	Seth Maddox		

THE CORNER OFFICE - BOB SIMPSON

EARLY COLLABORATION BRINGS PROJECT SUCCESS

“Building Tomorrow’s Kansas Together” is the theme of this year’s inaugural Kan-Struct, a joint conference focused on bringing Kansas Architectural, Engineering and Construction professionals together.

While the conference is something new, the alliance of these professions is not. In fact, it has been slowly gaining momentum and strength as the industry and owners realize the benefits of delivery methods other than the traditional Hard Bid system.

Negotiated delivery systems, such as Construction Management and Design Build, still focus on value, but they also allow for earlier collaboration of AEC professionals, who can then work together to focus on the owners’ needs as a team. Input from all parties at the right point in the design process can dramatically impact a project. From a construction standpoint, early participation helps us better understand owner expectations, and provide them information necessary to make decisions regarding best construction means, methods and materials. This teamwork extends to the subcontractors and suppliers as well, ultimately providing the owner with the facilities they want, at the best value, in the most efficient manner.

As the trend of early collaboration continues and the more time AEC professionals spend together working through projects, the better the understanding they have of each other and the stronger the relationships going forward. The result is a foundation that will indeed be part of “Building Tomorrow’s Kansas – Better – Together,” a benefit to everyone.

Bob Simpson

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