



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts Announces *Art Garden*, A Community Art Installation**

December 8, 2022 (LITTLE ROCK, Ark.) – *Art Garden*, a community-built art installation at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (AMFA), invites all Arkansans to take part in the creation of an inaugural event. Made through a collaboration with schools, universities, and partner organizations across the state, *Art Garden* is a celebration of the community as it comes together to participate in AMFA’s April 22, 2023, reopening. With an estimated participation of over 11,000 Arkansans and MacArthur Park as its canvas, *Art Garden* honors the museum’s legacy of community engagement and education with an installation comprised of thousands of origami lotuses on the museum grounds.

AMFA’s Director of Community Engagement Chris Revelle stated, “*Art Garden* is an exciting community project to undertake for the museum’s grand opening, but my favorite moment is a quieter one — seeing people of all ages from all over our community connecting with their creativity through this art project. *Art Garden* is bringing the museum to the community and making the community a part of the museum.”

Through professional development and community outreach initiatives, AMFA has invited 67 schools and community partners across the state to take part in activities for *Art Garden*: participants create photograms — or photographic prints — on light-sensitive cyanotype paper, which is then folded into a unique origami lotus that will be included in the *Art Garden* installation. Amy Schleicher, art educator at Dunbar Middle School and Arkansas Art Educators council member, shared, “AMFA has provided an unprecedented opportunity for my public



school students. Not only were we invited to participate in the largest art installation in Little Rock's history, we were also encouraged to explore the cyanotype process and origami technique to create our flowers. This community-oriented and artistic experience would not have been possible without AMFA's vision and dedication to Little Rock and the state of Arkansas."

Every community member is invited to get involved by following along with the tutorial videos on [AMFA's website](#) to create their own origami lotus for display in the spring 2023 *Art Garden* exhibition; participants are encouraged to fold as many flowers as they wish out of any available paper. Drop-off locations for completed origami lotuses include the Argenta Public Library, CALS Main Library, Dee Brown Library, Maumelle Library, and Thompson Library; lotuses may be dropped off through March 24, 2023.

AMFA invites everyone to be a part of *Art Garden*! Find more information on supplies and instructional materials on [AMFA's website](#).

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### **About the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts:**

Founded in 1937, the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts is the largest cultural institution of its kind in the state, offering a unique blend of visual and performing arts experiences. AMFA is committed to featuring diverse media and artistic perspectives within its permanent collection of 14,000 works of art as well as through rotating temporary exhibitions. AMFA's international collection spans seven centuries, with strengths in works on paper and contemporary craft, and includes notable holdings by artists from Arkansas, the Mid-South region, and across the United States and Europe. With a vibrant mix of ideas, cultures, people, and places, AMFA extends this commitment to diversity through its dynamic children's theatre and performing arts program, innovative studio art school, and community-focused educational programs for all ages. Located in Little Rock's oldest urban green space, MacArthur Park, AMFA's landmark building and grounds are designed by Studio Gang and SCAPE, in collaboration with Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects.