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JACKSON PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE ‘SUMMER NIGHT TREE’ SCULPTURE

JACKSON, MI - After receiving a \$20,000 matching grant from the Weatherwax Foundation and \$2,000 grant award from the Camp Foundation, the Jackson Public Arts Commission officials are launching a public campaign to garner the necessary funds to restore the “Summer Night Tree” sculpture in downtown Jackson.

Since its installation in 1978, the sculpture has truly become a cultural asset to the city of Jackson, JPAC Chairwoman Stacy Harrison said. “The restoration of the 10 ton, 30-foot steel sculpture by famed artist Louise Nevelson is a high priority for JPAC,” she said.

Former arts commission chairwoman Janet Meyer-Jackman, who spearheaded the campaign to garner restoration funds, said she expects the work to cost roughly \$40,000.

“Our first step was to have it appraised,” she said, “which came in at \$4 million from the Pace Gallery in New York City. We then moved to restore the asset since it has been 24 years since the last restoration efforts. McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Laboratory completed the inspection for the restoration.”

The restoration includes removal of all previous paint coatings and corrosion, application of layers of new protective coatings which are expected to maintain the sculpture for at least three decades, despite its current location outdoors.

“Our past cultural leaders had a vision that has been passed down to us,” Meyer-Jackman said. “We are the current keepers of the Summer Night Tree. To assure the artwork will be here for generations to come, we are working to restore the sculpture to Nevelson’s original specifications this spring.”

Donations for the restoration project can be made through the Ella Sharp Museum’s website, www.ellasharpmuseum.org, or by checks mailed to the museum. For more information, email Janet Meyer at jmeyer@cityofjackson.org or Diane Gutenkauf, executive direction of the Ella Sharp Museum, at dianeg@ellasharp.org.

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