

# PUBLIC ART HAPPENINGS

## New Annual Sculpture Exhibition

Moab's new public art program, [www.moabartrails.org](http://www.moabartrails.org). Moab ArTTrails brings an annual rotating sculpture exhibition to the heart of town in order to build the publicly held collection of art for the past, present and future people of the region.

Ten Artists and 16 works have been chosen from a National Call to display sculptures along a walking path through central Moab October 14, 2017. The installation will coincide with the Red Rock Arts Festival, which is scheduled from Oct. 7 to 14. The festival's ongoing events and workshops will culminate in a one-day street fair on Saturday, Oct. 14, when the Moab ArTTrails pieces will be installed. Artists from Moab as well as from New Mexico, Nevada, Virginia, Colorado and Utah will be present for the public to engage with the newly installed works in a walk and talk around the Art Trail located in the heart of Moab. The sculptures will remain in place throughout the year.

It began with a gift of art and lots of civic support at one of the oldest shared pathways in the West, the Moab Crossing at the Colorado River on the pedestrian bridge in the fall of 2015 with the installation of our 9-foot-tall sculptures from local artist Michael Ford Dunton's "Forces at Play." "To have the kind of installation and reception we had on the bridge that freezing November evening with 300 people — it was huge. I've had people I don't know coming up to me, saying 'I love those pieces, I love that it's there.'" That enthusiasm led to the creation of the arts organization and the exhibition program which will present its first show this fall.

As a sculptor, Dunton has participated in many public art shows across the country. He says that the events tend to inspire "ownership and pride" for the community in their public art, and he hopes to generate that same feeling in Moab with the annual rotating sculpture exhibition.

It took a lot of collaboration and long term thinking to make it happen. Moab City and Grand County have committed to purchasing a piece from this exhibition valued up to \$10,000 for the permanent collection. Grand County Community Development Director Zacharia Levine said public art is a significant driver for economic development.

While the event is expected to draw visitors and contribute to a locally vibrant creative economy, Moab ArTTrails founders Michael Ford Dunton and Christy Williams Dunton agree that the program is designed to benefit the residents' daily lives most of all. "It is said that home is a feeling, not a location, and as Moab continues to change and grow, the sense of home, the real soul of a place is important to keep through time. "Many feel connected to the earliest people of this place in part because of the symbols they left for

us to contemplate," "They had connection to this place and it meant something enough to communicate it," Christy Williams Dunton said. "Marking spaces of meaning or interest with art for the public might help us and define and preserve some culture while improving experience in shared spaces. It might even result in a creative spark that fuels innovation or conversation".

Through the duration of the exhibit, residents and visitors will be encouraged to vote. The winner will be the "People's Choice" and will receive a \$1000 award. The ballot for Peoples' Choice will include a narrative section which asks art voters to weigh in on the acquisition and placement of the public collection with a prompt about public spaces that are meaningful connections to community identity and deserving of artistic commemoration.

First opportunities to engage with the art include the Artist Meet and Greet at 2:30pm at the side yard of the Moab Arts and Recreation Center on 1st East and 1st North, followed by a Walk and Talk through the Moab ArTTrail with the sculptors, which embarks from the MARC at 3pm.

Celebrating the artful colors of community that weekend will be easy; in addition to Moab ArTTrails Exhibition, the Red Rock Arts Fest and Street Fair brings the culmination of Plein Aire with live music, food vendors and more, while the second saturday gallery crawl, Art Walk, also occurs that evening.

Mark the dates! To find out more, to get involved in this new public art program in Moab and view the works that just might become part of permanent collection of shared, uncommon beauty that is Moab, go to [www.moabartrails.org](http://www.moabartrails.org).



Moab Art Trails presents:  
the first annual  
**sculpture exhibition**

**saturday, october 14th, 2017**  
**moab, utah**  
**Premier Installation**  
16 sculptures, 11 artists  
People's Choice Competition

Installation 8:00 am-noon  
Red Rock Arts Fest Street Fair  
Artist Meet and Greet 2:30pm  
Walking Tour with the Artists  
Downtown ArTTrail 3:00 pm  
Cool Art Hot Live Music  
Tasty local bites and bevies  
Big time family fun!

**noon to 9pm**  
Moab Arts and Recreation Center  
1st north 1st east, Moab, Utah

[www.moabartrails.org](http://www.moabartrails.org) hc 64 box 1711 castle valley utah 84532  
435-259-2709

### WATER AVAILABILITY AT ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

- Water will not be available at Devils Garden Trailhead or Picnic Area from approximately September 24, 2017 through November 4, 2017 due to replacement of the area's water tank.
- The only location in the park to fill up water bottles during this time period will be at Arches National Park Visitor Center.
- Visitors needing to fill up their water bottles should stop at the visitor center before heading into the park. Park rangers remind everyone to drink at least one gallon of water per day to stay hydrated in order to avoid heat related illnesses.



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**There's Lots to see & do in San Juan County**

OCT 2	MIDWAY SWISS BELL CHOIR [Monticello]
OCT 14	NEWSPAPER ROCK 10K RACE
OCT 20	BLUFF ARTS FESTIVAL [Bluff]
OCT 27	UTAH NAVAJO FAIR [Bluff]
OCT 28	MONTICELLO HARVEST FESTIVAL
NOV 3	BYU VOCAL POINT [Blanding]
NOV 6	UTAH BRASS QUINTET [Monticello]
DEC 8	BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER [Edge of the Seaters, Blanding]

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