The Cultural Commons is a gift to the people of Stevens Point from our donors and supporters in the hope that as a community we continue to find common ground in our differences and strength in our multicultural heritage and outreach.

The Cultural Commons Gardens



Collaboration

- The Cultural Commons is a collaboration, begun in 2013, of four groups:
- The Russian Sister City
 Project
- The Polish Sister City
- The Nicaragua Partner City
- The Rotary Club of Stevens
 Point

Peace through friendship and understanding: Stevens Point reaching out with people-to-people relationships for over 30 years.





The Russian Sister City was begun in 1983 during the Cold War.

People-to-people exchanges were begun in education, medicine, and the arts. Here Mayor Wiza is welcoming in 2015 an Open World group, funded through the US Library of Congress and focused on the environment, the fourth such visit since 2008. Among the visitors was Mayor Konstantin, the high school principal of the Gymnasium, and the director of utilities in Rostov. In 2017 Mayor Wiza and his wife led an exchange visit to Rostov Veliky with Maia Reck Johnson of the Sister City Project, Ron and Donna Zimmerman, and Joel Lemke.





Educational exchanges have taken place between Rostov Veliky and Stevens Point since the early 1990s. In 2019 Sara Neuwirth went to Rostov Veliky in June to teach English conversation classes in Rostov Veliky, and on September 15 Leonid arrived in Stevens Point, greeted by his host family, to begin a semester of study at SPASH.













Stevens Point – Gulcz, Poland; Annual celebration of Dozynki Harvest Festival here.











Dedication of plaque honoring the Polish American Army, September 14, 2019.







Nicaragua Partner City

Artist Johnny Garcia at the Cultural Commons with members of the board of the Wisconsin - Nicaragua Partners of the Americas. Johnny is here to design a sculpture representing Esteli, Nicaragua called "Diamond of the Segovias." September 21, 2019.



The carvings of Alberto Gutierrez, Nicaragua

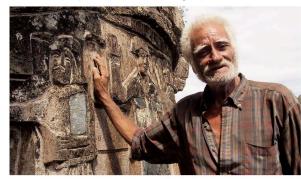
Why indeed

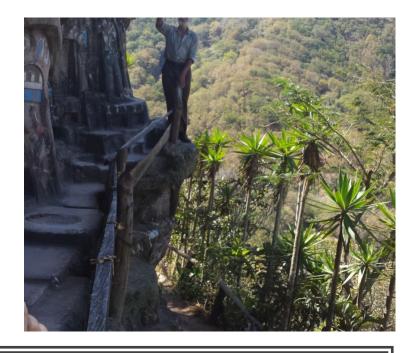
Legend has it Alberto was once an alcoholic. When the alcoholism started to go out of control, he went to a priest for guidance and was told that he should pick up a hobby. So he picked up a chisel and started carving.



Alberto Gutierrez, an 80 year old sculptor/hermit, might be one of the most interesting characters Γve met during my travels.

Alberto spent 3 hours each day carving the cliffside on his farm. Since the carvings are etched onto the mountainside in his farm, it's not that he could sell them. Why would he do this?







Nicaraguan artist,
Alberto Guttierrez's gift
to the Cultural Commons









Getting the stone from the village to Stevens Point...





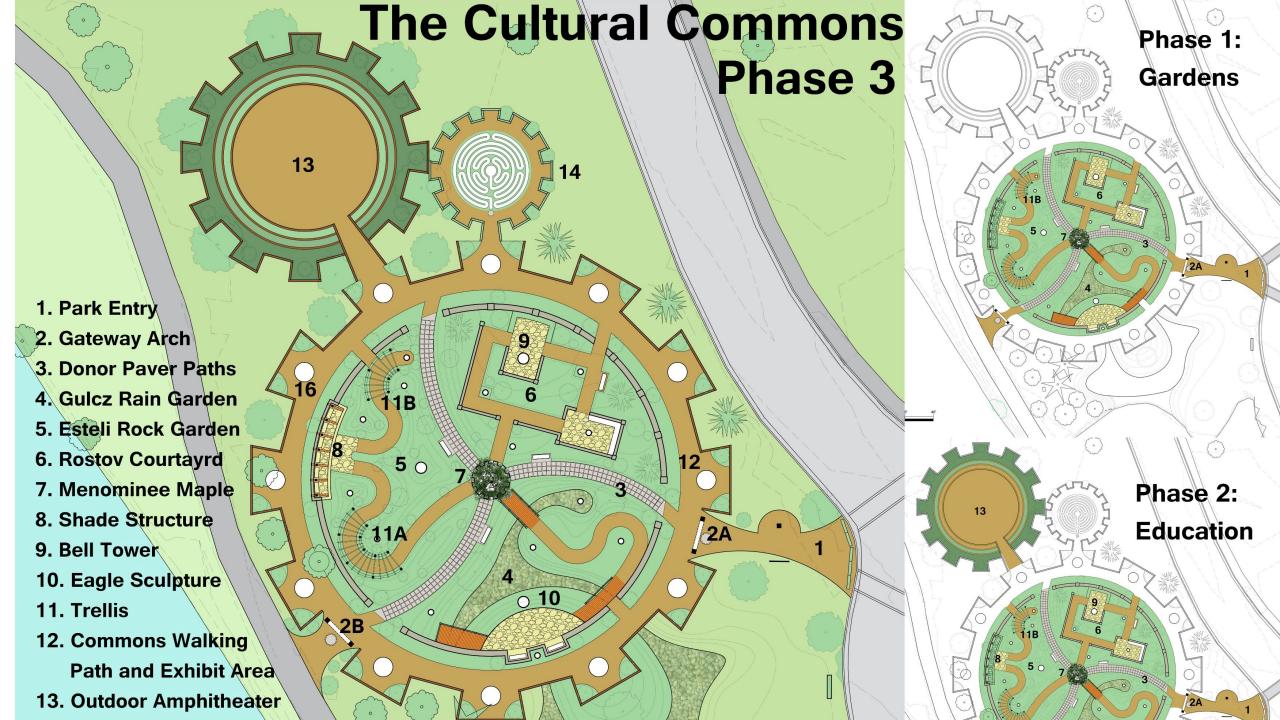




The stone arrives!



Rotary Club of Stevens Point celebrating 100 years!











Site Dedication, May 2017 Rotary Club of Stevens Point





Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners of the Americas





Polish Sister City, Gulcz, Poland

Sister City Project, Rostov Veliky, Russia





Ground Breaking, May 2, 2018







The Cultural Commons
An Interactive Garden and Education Space

In May of last year, the Rotary Club of Stevens Point along with the area's three partner/sister city organizations (Esteli, Nicaragua; Rostov Veliky, Russia; Gulcz, Poland) dedicated an area within Pfiffner Pioneer Park as the future site of The Cultural Commons. The partnering organizations have since raised the necessary funding to launch phase one of the development.









Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 11:00 am

Groundbreaking Event at Pfiffner Pioneer Park 1100 Crosby Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

Reception following ceremony

at Graffiti's Sports Pub

912 Main Street, Stevens Point, WI

For more information on the event, the project and to support the project visit www.spculturalcommons.com





Construction begins, fall 2018



November 2018

Things starting to take shape in the Nicaraguan section...



in the Russian section...









in the Polish section...

Work resumes in the spring and summer - outer stone walls, pergolas and bridge





Main entrance to the gardens – welcome!

























Interpretive Walking Tour, August 19, 2019















On-site planning - Jim Anderson, project manager, Dan Kremer, City Parks Director, Aaron Kadoch, architect, Dave Sether, reviDESIGN August 20, 2019













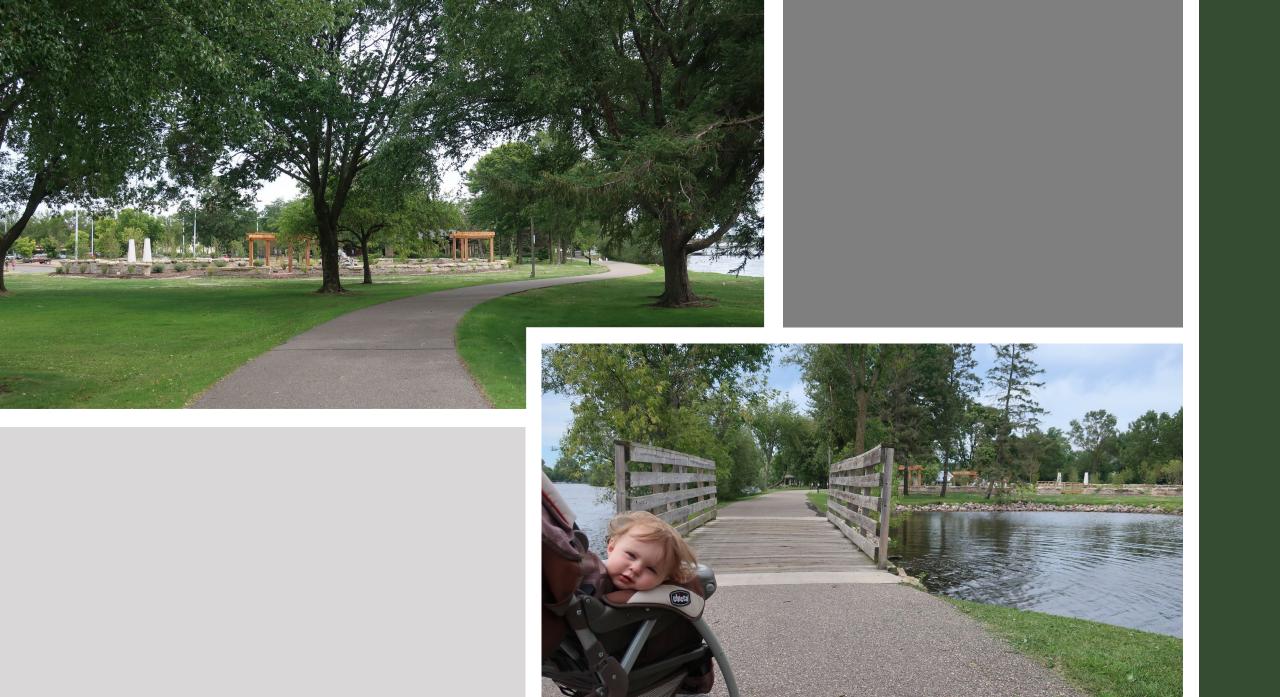


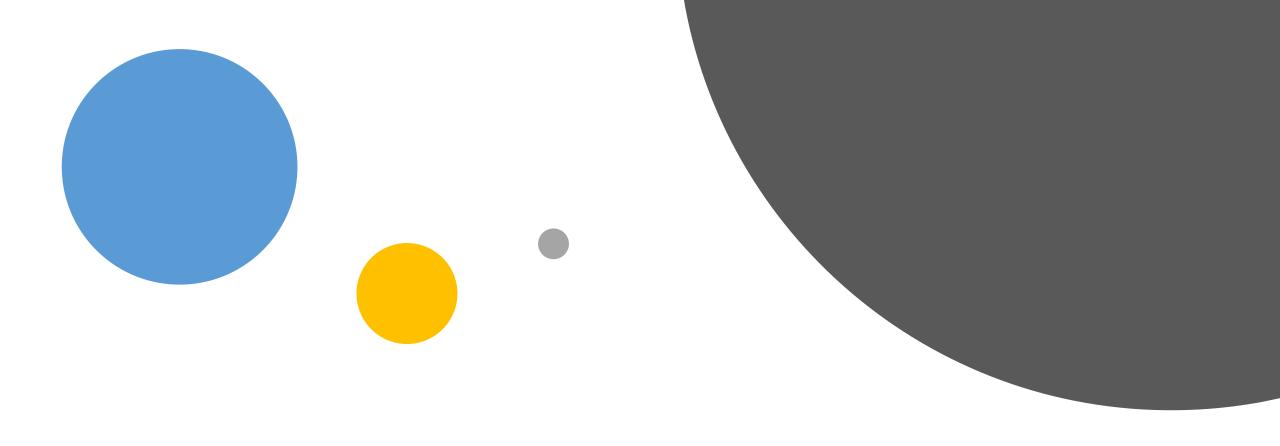






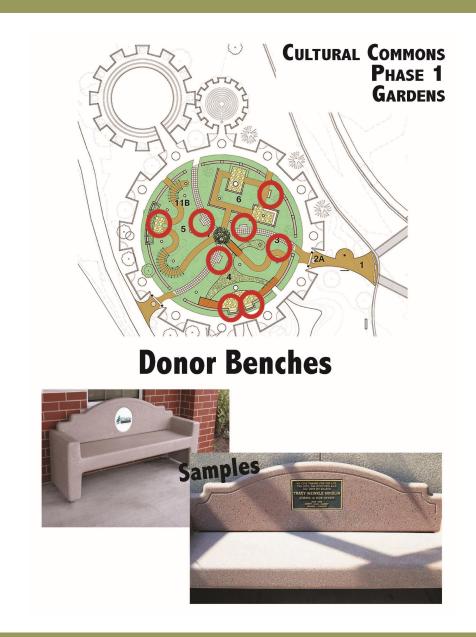






A Work in Progress

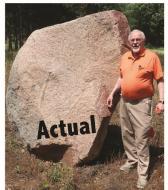
Several projects remain to be completed.





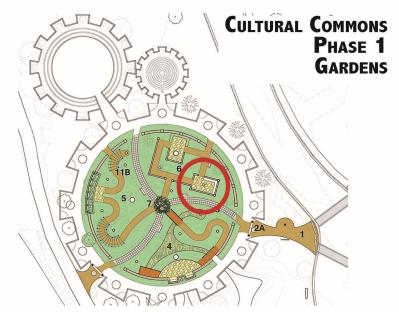
Donor Stones





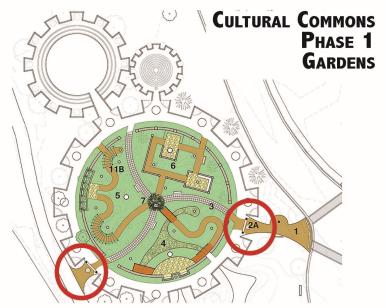
Donor stones will recogonize donors.

The stones will be placed at the entrance of the gardens.



Russian Chess Tables



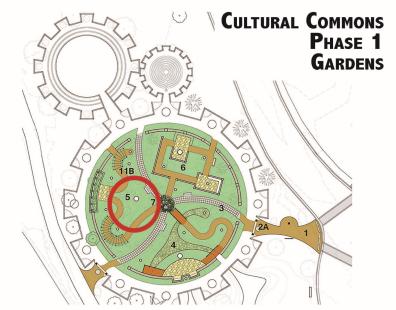


Rotary Recognition Cog

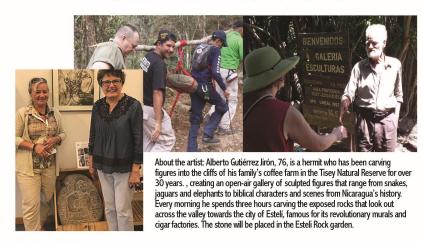
Similar Rotary recognition cogs will be engraved on 5' x 5' concrete slabs and placed at both garden entrances.

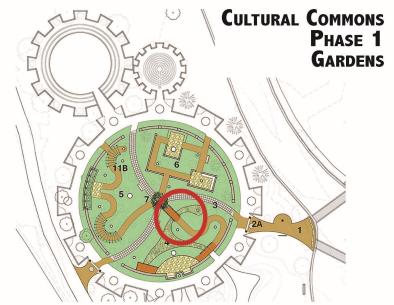
In 2017, The Rotary Club of Stevens Point celebrated their 100-year anniversary as a club. In celebration of the lasting changes the club has made in our community and around the world, the club committed to assisting the sister and partner cities in developing and fundraising for the Cultural Commons project.





Esteli Carved Stone





Menominee Ricing Canoe

This sculpture reflects
the region's Native
American Menominee
people, who for
centuries occupied
seasonal camps along
the shores of the
Wisconsin River at
Pfiffner Pioneer Park.

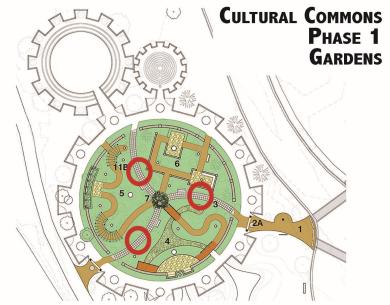




Gulcz Rain Garden

This area honors our Gulcz Poland Sister City relationship.
This relationship is managed locally by the Polish Heritage
Awareness Society, a 501c3 non-profit organization "dedicated to the education, promotion and preservation of Polish American Heritage".

Like Stevens Point, Glucz Poland is located along the Notec River and has similar flora, riverine landscape and habitat.



Donor Paver Paths

Customized pavers honoring family names, heritage, loved ones, military honors, or recognizing

honors, or recognizing
businesses and organizations are for sale
for \$300 or \$600. The 12"x 12" or 12"x 24"
pavers will be engraved with customized text.
The pavers will form the walking
pathway marking the three sections of the
Cultural Commons Gardens.

OLISH HERITAGE
OM MURPHY 1987 - 2000
BELOVED SON,
BROTHER & FRIEND

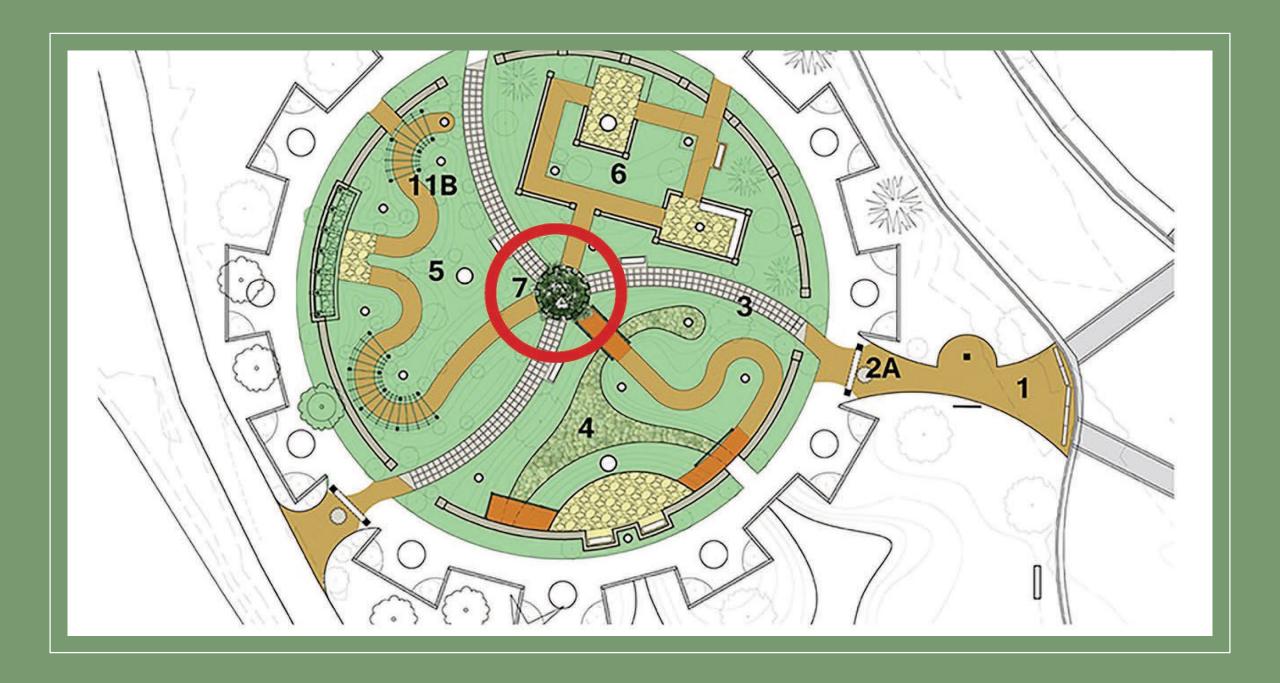
CIFTCI FAMILY AHMET, LAURA KC TAYYIB & TARRIK

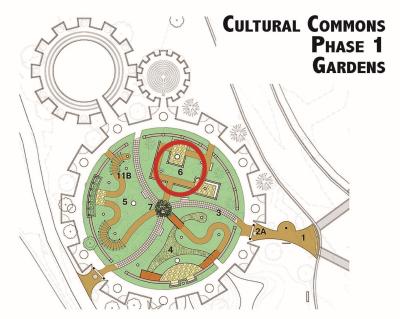
FOREVER MISSED



Esteli Rock Garden

The Esteli rock garden area features a veranda shade structure, two pergolas, and a rock formation, which are very common in the landscape of Nicaragua. This area honors the Esteli Nicaragua Partner City. Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, Inc., (W/NP), a charter member of Partners of the Americas, Inc., is located in Stevens Point, WI. Within the organization, W/NP has a unique Partner City program linking communities in Nicaragua with communities in Wisconsin, and Stevens Point/Estelí Partner City is one of these.

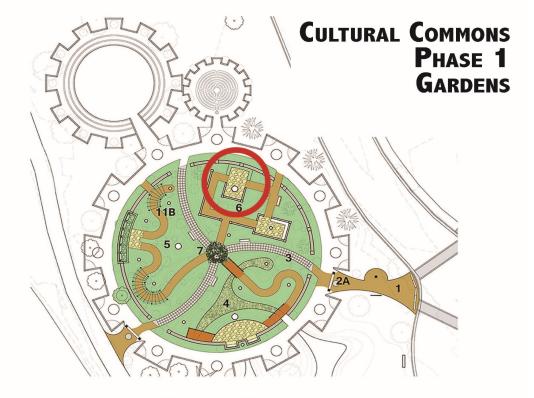




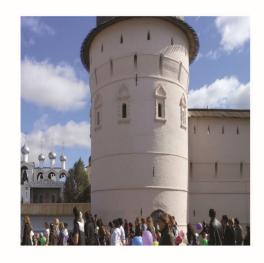
Rostov Courtyard

This area honors our Russian Sister City project with Rostov Veliky (Rostov the Great), Russia. Rostov is a community of 35,000 people, located on the banks of Lake Nero, about 125 miles northeast of Moscow, Russia. This ancient city is over 1,150 years old and attracts many tourists to see its famous Kremlin/walled courtyard including its bell tower, churches and museum.





Bell Tower







Eagle Sculpture



The eagles and spires symbolize the Polish and American national symbols $\ and \ togetherness.$ This metal sculpture has been designed by and will be constructed by local metal artist Boleslaw Kochanowski.

More planting to be done in spring 2020 – any green thumbs?!



The Cultural Commons: Design Information
See Exhibit A "Drawings" for Cross Reference

13: Rostov Garden Plantings:

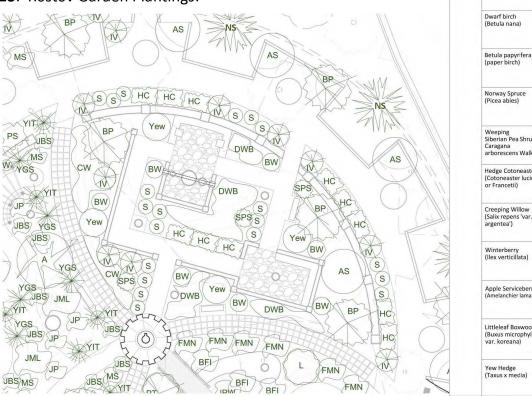
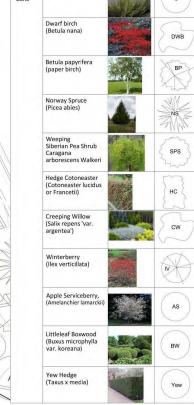


Exhibit B: Project Introduction and Features Descriptions

Project Features

Russian Sage Perovskia atriplicifolia



October 25, 2015 2015 Copyright by OAK Architecture: Office of Aaron Kadoch, AIA

Polish gardens

The Cultural Commons: Design Information See Exhibit A "Drawings" for Cross Reference

13: Gulcz Garden Plantings:

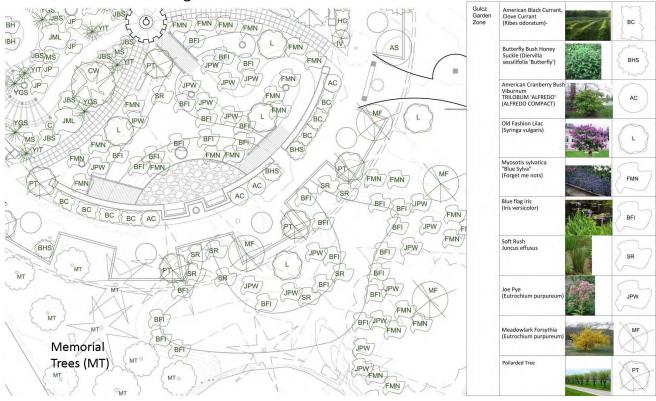


Exhibit B: Project Introduction and Features Descriptions

October 25, 2015 2015 Copyright by OAK Architecture: Office of Aaron Kadoch, AIA

Project Features

Nicaragua gardens

The Cultural Commons: Design Information See Exhibit A "Drawings" for Cross Reference

Project Features



Exhibit B: Project Introduction and Features Descriptions

October 25, 2015 2015 Copyright by OAK Architecture: Office of Aaron Kadoch, AIA

Major Donors

Delta Dental of Wisconsin

Skyward, Inc.

The Worth Company

Robert Bowen

Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin

Reggie Lemke

Marshfield Clinic Health System

Rotary Club of Stevens Point

Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Construction Partners

- * Project Architect: Aaron Kadoch, AIA
- Project General Contractor: Ellis Stone Construction Company
- · Civil Engineering: Rettler Corporation
- Landscape Contractor: revi DESIGN
- Materials: Alchemy Concrete, Inc.
- Chet Biadasz
- County Materials Corporation
- Firkus Masonry
- Haertel Monuments
- Stone Innovations
- Wausau Tile
- Menominee Consultant: Michael Hoffman
- Printing: DigiCOPY
- Spectra Print
- Security Fence
- Thrivent Financial

We are extremely grateful for the in-kind support from many of these companies.

Thank you to all our donors and supporters!

This is your garden...we welcome your continued involvement!

While all funding for the Cultural Commons was raised through donations from individuals, businesses and organizations, the City of Stevens Point has supported our project since we began our planning in 2013.

- Mayor Mike Wiza
- Stevens Point City Council
- City Planning, Michael Ostrowski
- City Parks Committee
- Stevens Point Parks Commission
- Director of Parks and Recreation, Dan Kremer
- Retired Parks Director, Tom Schrader

www.spculturalcommons.com