Welcome to Paliafito Eco-Arts Park

A Project Supported and Maintained by:

About Arts @ Large - www.artsatlargeinc.org

What happens when arts and academics converge? Here at Arts @ Large, we believe that the integration of the arts across all academic content areas transforms the way teachers teach and students learn.

As a young person who had limited access to arts and music education, the mission of Arts @ Large is personal and deeply important to me. As Board President, I’m honored to be part of an organization working to ensure that all K-12 Milwaukee students and their families receive meaningful access to an education that includes the arts. Now, as we enter our 18th year of service, the work of A@L has expanded to serve not only students, but also their families, teachers, artist educators, and the broader community. Join us as we look towards our future - the renovation of our historic building, and the launch of a vibrant community center to further our mission of arts-rich, life-long learning for all!

~ Board President, Rudy Gutierrez

Partners

Special Thanks to the Walker’s Point community and the Paliafito Eco-Arts Park Committee for the ongoing support of activities in the park.
History of Paliafto Eco-Arts Park

The site of Paliafto Eco-Arts Park was once the second home of the Hanover Street Congregational Church. The church dated back to the 1850's in Walkers Point. Dedicated on April 24, 1892, it was constructed in Romanesque style at a cost of $20,000. The church covered 97 feet on South Third Street and 89 feet on Walker Street. The main entrance was located at the corner of both streets and had entrances on each street. The basement was built of stone with the remainder constructed of cream city brick. There was also stone trim with red tile ornamentation.

The Congregational church closed in 1921 and it became the Gospel Lighthouse Church. The following year, the site was purchased by Goodwill Industries for $18,000. It was used as The Goodwill Community Center until 1942. After being used as a Pentecostal church and a publishing company, it became the Sky View Nursing Home from 1952 - 1969. The Sky View Nursing Home was run by the Paliafto family for which the park was named. The building was razed in 1970. The site was abandoned until it was secured for use as a park by Historic Walkers Point Inc. (now Historic Milwaukee Inc.). It was dedicated in 1978.

Stone Bracelet

In 2000, a public artwork titled “Stone Bracelet” by Zoran Moisilov of Minneapolis was installed and dedicated as Milwaukee’s first Neighborhood Millenium Art Initiative installation. The work is a large chiseled stone fitted with stainless steel loop near its top from which smaller rocks are suspended on four sides of the sculpture.

Arts @ Large

In 2014, Arts @ Large, an arts organization located in Walker’s Point, secured a 25 year lease with the City of Milwaukee and community partner, Solutions in the Land to redevelop and operate the park. Working with Reflo Sustainable Water Solutions, a not for profit organization focused on sustainable water use and green infrastructure, community members were invited to share in the design and build out of the park to include a 7,000 gallon underground rain catchment cistern, 1100 sq. ft. of community gardens and a performance stage for community events. Each summer we feature a Music Under the Stars series of performances. Come and join us!

List of New Features

Above left: 7,000 gallon rain catchment cistern, Above Right: Performance stage/catch basin, Below Left: Community Garden