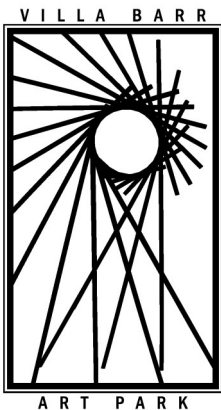


# Villa Barr Strategic Plan Progress Report



**August 2022**

**Since the last progress report in August 2021, a number of action steps and have been addressed by City staff, contractors and volunteers. These include:**

### **Educational Resources**

A current EMU student is inventorying boxes of books and other items that have been in storage since 2018. Once completed, PRCS staff and the Friends of Villa Barr will determine what items to return to the house, what items to offer to the Novi Public Library and what items to digitize and/or archive. These items are in addition to those selected for donation to the Walter Reuther Library (WRL) at Wayne State University. To date, items at the WRL have not been archived by their staff.

### **Means of Connecting**

Writer, Translator, and Educator Cindy OK resided at Villa Barr in fall 2021. During her residency she collaborated with the Novi Public Library to taught a series of multi-genre writing workshops that brought participants together through generative prompts and feedback. Writers were able to share their experiences, fragments, and ruminations, some of which revolved around the space of the city.

Photographer Dawn Roe was in residence in spring 2022. While at Villa Barr Art Park, she conducted a public workshop using organic materials found in the pond to create durational, camera-less photographic prints using the light of the sun. Her stay was part of a larger project that incorporates the water ways in Michigan, including the Rouge River.

Dancer and choreographer Abby Marchesseault is in residence through the end of August. She is researching Beth Barr and choreographing a dance that captures her personal story. Abby will return in 2023 to perform the piece for an audience. In addition to her work about Beth, she will connect with our youth dance students to create an activity dancing among the art at Villa Barr.

### **Community Convener and Preserving the Legacy**

Artist John Sauve sandblasted and repainted Isiah and Koan (the largest sculpture at the park) for visual appeal and to retain their integrity.

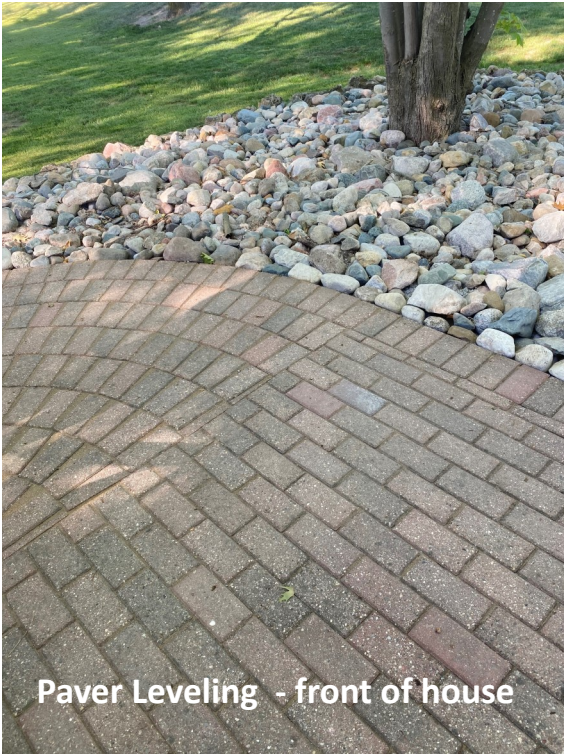
The ornamental garden was restored last summer using mostly low-maintenance native plants and following a plan put forth by the city's landscape architect. Planting in the garden continues and it is currently being maintained by a contractor.

The pavers near the front of the house were repaired and leveled to prevent drainage towards the house and for safer accessibility.

### **Sustainable Funding Sources**

PRCS applied for a Consumers Energy Foundation Prosperity Award in the amount of \$150,000 for the enhancement of the art and dance studio to be accessible and compliant. Although we weren't a recipient, we will continue to seek and apply for funding for this purpose.





Paver Leveling - front of house



Garden restoration progress



Koan Restoration



Resident Artist Cindy Ok



Resident Artist Abby Marchesseault



Resident Artist Dawn Roe