

# "Sky Ride" sculpture in Cass Park to be dedicated this week



by **Guest Contributor**  
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***This is a Community Announcement. It was not written by The Ithaca Voice. To submit community announcements, please send them to Matt Butler at [mbutler@ithacavoice.org](mailto:mbutler@ithacavoice.org).***

On Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup> representatives from the City of Ithaca, Community Arts Partnership, Bike Walk Tompkins, and supporters will gather at the Black Diamond Trail trailhead in Cass Park to dedicate 'Sky Ride,' a new kinetic sculpture by artist Patricia Vader. The 20-foot-high sculpture features cutouts of six bicycle riders, circling upwards on bikes towards a group of clouds formed by re-used bicycle wheels at the top. The bike wheels act as windmills that turn in the wind and create an effect of motion. The sculpture was commissioned by the City of Ithaca's Public Art Program and the Community Arts Partnership and is intended to celebrate Ithaca's bike culture.







“Sky Ride shows how the sky is the limit. Just break through the clouds, all wheels spinning and, voilà, the world is your oyster while the breeze tickles your cheeks. May this art of the ride be an inspiration,” said the artist.

Tom Knipe, Deputy Director for Economic Development for the City of Ithaca, said, “With our partners, we sought a public art project that would communicate an inclusive and exciting vision for the future of active transportation in Ithaca, as well as help further identify this area of Cass Park as a hub of Ithaca cycling. Hopefully, the project does that and helps inspire all types of people to hop on a bike and enjoy the Cayuga Waterfront Trail and Black Diamond Trail.”

The project was privately funded through grants to the Community Arts Partnership and Bike Walk Tompkins from the Park Foundation and Visions Federal Credit Union. Community Arts Partnership Director Megan Barber said, “beyond adding interest and beauty to the landscape, public art at its best builds community and is a window into our collective values. This sculpture is such a great example of that. Thank you to everyone who made this project happen, especially the City and funders for supporting this vision.”

“People in Ithaca use bikes for daily transportation, for exercise and for pure fun. We hope that when people look at this sculpture, they feel like Ithaca is a community that celebrates bicycling and what it adds to our City in terms of health, sustainability, equity and culture,” said Niki Friske, Associate Director of Bike Walk Tompkins.

The foundation for the sculpture was designed by engineers Peter Novelli and Andy Sciarabba and installed by Jerry Stevenson of Macpherson Builders. The engineers also designed the support system and defined the material specifications. Ithaca-based Accufab fabricated and installed the sculpture while volunteers with Bike Walk Tompkins worked with the artist to build the windmills. Rich John donated use of a garage space on Taber Street for the artist and volunteers to assemble some of the materials.

Media and members of the public are invited to attend a short dedication ceremony on Thursday, July 6 at 4:30 p.m. at the Black Diamond Trail trailhead behind the Ithaca Children’s Garden where partners and supporters will be recognized for their contributions. Following the dedication, attendees are invited to join a short informal group ride on the Cayuga Waterfront Trail.



# NEWPORT BEACH 2021

## Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park - Phase V



Hula-hooping in front of artist Patricia Vader's "The Unbearable Lightness of Being." Photo by Christine Nunez

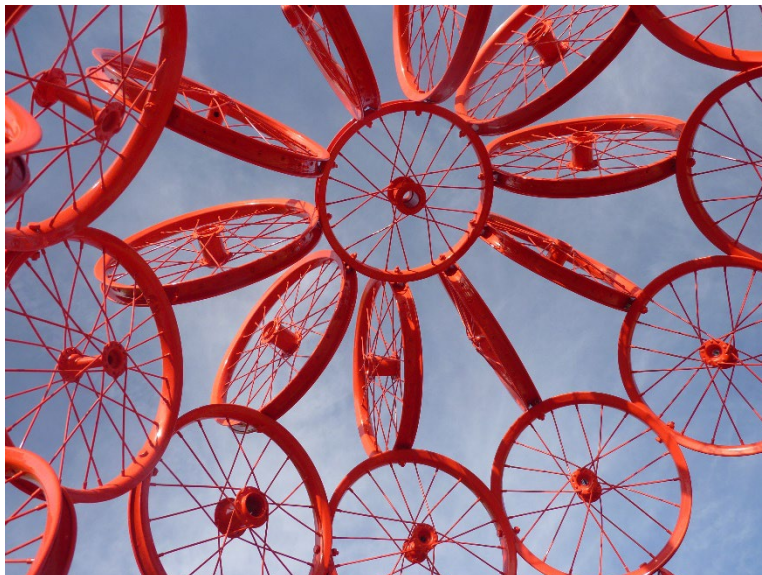


## THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING



### **Newport Beach 2020     Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park - Phase V**

Bicycle wheels, in the imaginative hands of repeat Newport Beach Civic Center contributor Patricia Vader, can both take on a delicate, lace-like form, and strike a dramatic impression in red.





# PALM DESERT



2019/2020 El Paseo Exhibition

RADIANCE is a statement of life, energy, hope and exuberance. A cylindrical structure lifts a sun-like circle of bicycle wheels of three different sizes in the air, a little above eye level. The larger wheels are attached to a central rim while the smaller wheels rotate freely and spin in the wind like windmills.

RADIANCE is currently installed as a permanent sculpture at San Pablo Ave. and Santa Rosa Way, Palm Desert, CA



## GREELEY, Colorado 2019



"Nine Lives," by Patricia Vader, is one of four pieces of art in the Greeley Art Commission's Sculpture on Loan program, at 9th Street and 9th Avenue. (Trevor Reid/treid@greeleytribune.com)



**SIT** is modeled on the artist's huge German shepherd dog who is an entertaining companion on all her sculpture installation trips. Purchased in 2018 by the city of Greeley, the sculpture, invites lots of petting.



## LIVERMORE 2018

## SUNFLOWER

The City of Livermore chose Patrica Vader's "Sunflower" sculpture at First and South K Street, in front of the First Street Ale House.

The piece was installed on April 20, 2018.

This is our tallest sculpture standing at 17 feet tall. It is a whimsical homage to the North American native wildflower that was first domesticated to a single headed plant by the American Indians. As a kinetic sculpture, Sunflower comes to life in the slightest airflow, to the delight of the viewer and creates a joyful spectacle as its heart and petals spin in both clockwise and counter-clockwise directions.



Cleaning Sunflower after installation







The 1,300 pound sculpture was moved into place by a 22-ton crane.



"Dreaming", a giant white horse head with manes (windmills) blowing in the wind, was the winner of the Public Art Competition for Wranglers Range Neighborhood Park - Frisco, Texas





**GREELEY,**

**COLORADO**



*Stay* is modeled on my huge German shepherd dog with a friendly face and big triangular ears, who loves traveling and meeting people. He is an entertaining companion on all my sculpture installation trips. The sculpture, purchased in 2018 by the city of Greeley at the end of a one year exhibit, invites and gets lots of petting.

*Nine Lives* spent 2019 in Greeley and also was a children's favorite.





## "Butterfly" Flies Off With Art on Parade Honor



The Northglenn Arts and Humanities Foundation (NAHF) has announced that California artist Patricia Vader is the recipient of the 2017/2018 People's Choice Award for her sculpture, Butterfly.

The award is part of Northglenn's Art on Parade program. The program features on-loan, outdoor sculpture exhibited at E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park for one year. The public votes for their favorite, and NAHF works toward purchasing the piece for permanent display in the City of Northglenn. NAHF has already secured funding for the piece from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

Butterfly is an eye-catching kinetic sculpture with multi-colored reflectors and aluminum disks that sparkle in the sun. The spinning windmills on the butterfly wings, some of which are mounted on bicycle forks, also gyrate in the wind. The wind-driven motion used in many of Vader's sculptures adds a dimension of interest for the general public. One of Vader's objectives with this work was to show that sculpture can be playful and fun as well as beautiful and stately. This is a large sculpture sitting at more than 18 feet tall with a wing span (no pun) of 13 feet wide. For more information about Ms. Vader, visit [www.PatriciaVader.com](http://www.PatriciaVader.com)

