



THE ARTIST

R.T. "Skip" Wallen was born and grew up in Manitowoc. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1960, he attended UW-Madison. During his college summers, he worked on archeological excavations in the Aleutian Islands. He moved to Alaska permanently after graduation to become a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He later was appointed staff artist for the department, eventually leaving to become a professional freelance artist. Working in charcoal, watercolors, and original printmaking, he became best known for his stone lithographs of Alaskan wildlife and native people. He turned to sculpture in 1984. His first bronze was Windfall Fisherman, a life-size Alaskan brown bear that stands near the Alaska Capitol in Juneau. Twenty five years later, Wallen was chosen to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alaskan statehood by creating a life-size humpback whale in bronze for the capital city. Wallen's monumental bronze sculptures are located around the world in such places as the World Bank, the Carter Presidential Center, and the World Health Organization.

THE CONCEPT

The Spirit of the Rivers monument grew out of one local citizen's idea that R.T. Wallen, born and raised in Manitowoc and now an internationally known artist, should return to Manitowoc to create a work of art for his home town. Working together, the two men settled on a theme that commemorates no great battle, no historic discovery or event, just a peaceful scene of bygone days depicting a group of American Indians going about everyday life, portaging their birch bark canoe from a Lake Michigan beach. The elegant construction of a birch bark canoe ties the monument to the Lakeshore Area maritime tradition and to the culture of the first people in the region, whose canoes allowed transport, exploration, and ways of life much as the horse did in the American West.



THE SITE

The site for Spirit of the Rivers is along Mariners Trail, on the lakefront at the boundary between Manitowoc and Two Rivers. The location offers a spectacular Lake Michigan backdrop, with enough open space for proper viewing both on-site and from Memorial Drive. Parking, a picnic area, and restrooms are conveniently available at the nearby Woodland Drive wayside, just south of the sculpture. Forget-Me-Not Creek, located at the sculpture site, would be a fitting name for the monument's park.



DESCRIPTION

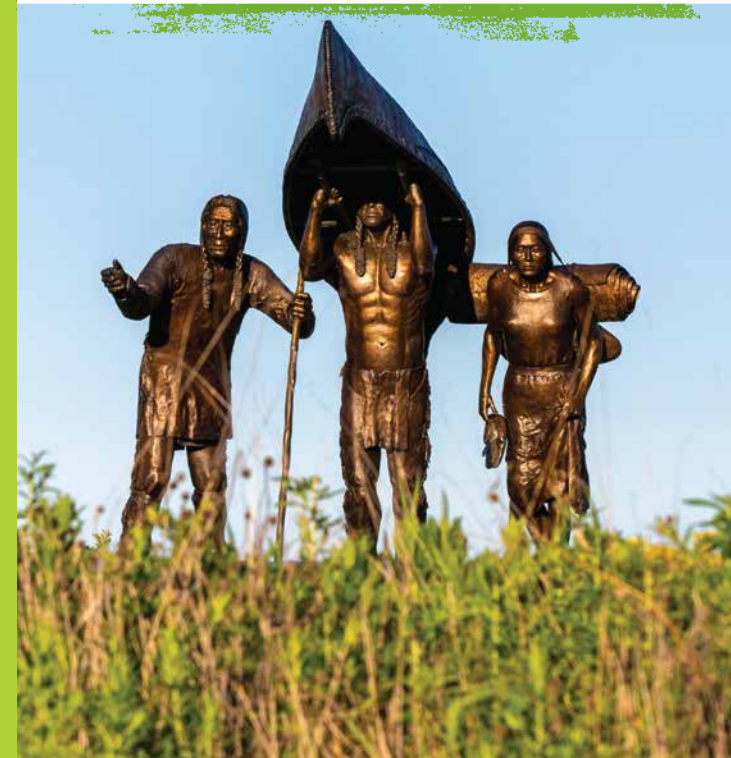
Spirit of the Rivers is a monumental bronze sculpture consisting of three American Indian figures: an elder, a woman, and a young man portaging a canoe. Each figure is approximately ten feet tall and the canoe is about 20 feet long. The monument recognizes thousands of years of habitation by Native Americans along these shores, using tribal designs in both canoe construction and clothing. Sculpting took place in Manitowoc, where the public had the opportunity to visit the studio to see the work in progress. The finished pieces were shipped to a premier fine art foundry in Oregon for mold-making and casting in bronze. The finished sculpture group weighs approximately two and a half tons and was trucked from Oregon to Wisconsin for dedication at the site on September 16, 2018.

An all-volunteer board raised \$1,000,000 of private funding to complete the overall project. This collaborative endeavor between the cities of Manitowoc and Two Rivers will serve as an educational resource for the communities and bring visitors to the area as the monument becomes a regional destination point.

Exterior photos by Lester Public Library
Interior photos by HWT&PM

SPIRIT OF THE RIVERS

SCULPTURE & ENDOWMENT



THE SPIRIT OF HAMILTON ENDOWMENT FUND

The Spirit of the Rivers and Hamilton Museum Boards are pleased to announce they have combined efforts to establish the Spirit of Hamilton Endowment Fund. This fund provides financial support for both long-term care of the Spirit sculpture and educational programs at the museum. The establishment of this partnership helps grow the arts on the Lakeshore and serves as a model for collaboration and innovation for the betterment of the community.

Learn more about the Spirit of the Rivers monument and the significance it holds for the community at <https://spiritoftherivers.org/>.

To make a donation to the endowment fund online, please go to <https://woodtype.charityproud.org/Donate> and click on the drop-down menu to Spirit of Hamilton Endowment Fund.

Donors are welcome to call 920-663-8677 to contribute over the phone or to receive additional information.



HAMILTON WOOD TYPE & PRINTING MUSEUM

As its name implies, the Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum (HWT&PM) is not only a steward of its wood type holdings but is also devoted to understanding them in the context of printing—in historic and contemporary contexts. The museum has a world-class collection of wood type and related historical printing items such as presses, vintage printing blocks, Hamilton Company records, and publications.

We actively use these collections to interpret the past and explore possible futures for a contemporary audience. HWT&PM honors the legacy of an industry that connected Two Rivers to the world through Hamilton. The museum also houses a variety of products produced by Hamilton Manufacturing and the Hamilton Wood Type Manufacturing Company with many items over 100 years old.

**“COLLABORATION
AND INNOVATION FOR
THE BETTERMENT OF
THE COMMUNITY”**

SUPPORT ARTS ON THE LAKESHORE

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of:

▶\$25 ▶\$50 ▶\$100 ▶\$250 ▶\$500 ▶\$1000 ▶\$_____

You may make a donation online, check, cash, or stocks.

Make your check payable to Hamilton Museum Endowment Fund and mail to:

1816 10th Street Two Rivers, WI 54241

Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

This donation will be:

In Memory of **In Honor of**

Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

We will send a recognition letter on your behalf to the the person or family listed above.

For more information on how you can support the museum and Spirit sculpture please contact Joe Metzen at 920-663-8677. We can work with you on setting up a named endowment fund in honor of a loved one, a business or your family.

The Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum Inc. is a charitable 501(3)C that is registered with the IRS.

