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Allied Arts Council Donates Money for Stolen Skater

ST. JOSEPH, MO- The Allied Arts Council plans to donate \$500 to the Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline in hopes of obtaining information that leads to the prosecution of the individual/s for the theft of one of the "Catch Me if You Can" skaters.

Absent any leads that result in an arrest, the Allied Arts Council will donate \$1,000 for the repair or replacement of the statue.

Bob Dempster, board treasurer for the Allied Arts Council, said part of St. Joseph's cultural heritage is public art spread throughout St. Joseph for the community's enjoyment.

"Providing public art is an important contribution to the development of St. Joseph," Dempster said. "The skaters enhance the beauty of the Parkway system. Other efforts sponsored by the Allied Arts Council include the St. Joseph Sculpture Walk and the Traffic Box Project. All are a part of supporting the community's identity, culture and history."

The Council believes all public art in the community is valuable and needs to be appreciated.

Melody Smith, board president for the Council, said any contribution to the arts is a contribution to the community.

"The skater is a piece of public art that we all recognize as we follow the Parkway," Smith said. "Making a donation to help return the sculpture is very important to the Allied Arts Council; we feel public art is a vital part of the community. We hope others will make a donation to help in the return or repair of the sculpture. Also, please consider making a donation to support the arts in our community."

One of three skater statues located on the Parkway north of Corby Pond was broken off at the base and stolen. The Council hopes the donation will lead to the recovery of one of the iconic and beloved public art pieces donated by the Bradley family.

If anyone has information regarding the theft, please contact the St. Joseph Police Department at (816)-271-4777 or call the Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline at (816) 238-8477.

To make a donation to public art programs of the Allied Arts Council, please call 816-233-0231.

The Allied Arts Council was organized in 1963 to provide service to St. Joseph area arts organizations, artists, and the general public. The Council has since grown into a federation of sixteen arts agencies and now produces community arts programs, raises funds, promotes public awareness, and provides service and support to its member agencies. The Allied Arts Council seeks to make St. Joseph a better place to live through the arts, and its mission is to provide leadership and support for the arts and to its member organizations.

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