



## NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

#### Wheat Ridge Dedicates New Art Installation at Anderson Park

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Oct. 25, 2019** – As part of the renovation of Anderson Park at 4355 Field St. that was completed this summer, the Wheat Ridge Cultural Commission is planning to install and dedicate “Sweet Grass Dance”. Western slope artist Nancy Lovendahl will install the piece this week and the dedication is planned for Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, at 4 p.m.

This public art commission was chosen unanimously by the City of Wheat Ridge’s Public Art Committee last January. The artwork is made of natural limestone and measures 25’ x 18’ x 11’. It is hand cut and finished to look like oversized “sweet grass” blowing in the breeze as it grows wild along Clear Creek. “I was so impressed by how this community responded to the town slogan ‘Life is Sweet in Wheat Ridge’, said sculptor Nancy Lovendahl. “The recordings touched my heart about how deeply citizens love their community and being in this beautiful town. Since this is The Anderson Park Renewal Project, I felt that this love of place should be reflected in the artwork.” This is a one percent-for-art project approved by the City Council of Wheat Ridge and owned by the people of Wheat Ridge.

“We are thrilled to install yet another stunning work of public art for our community to enjoy,” stated Diane Robb, chair of the Cultural Commission. “We are so fortunate to have places throughout the community where we can all experience public art and celebrate the talent of those who create it.”

Lovendahl was born and raised in the Chicago area and “escaped what I anticipated would be a confining future to the vast open space of Colorado”. Following studies at the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana in ceramics, Lovendahl has expanded to making work for both inside and outside environments in ceramic, stone, metal and mixed media exploring issues of gender, social roles and perception. Her artwork can be found in private and public collections and museums such as The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.; The Keramikmuseum in Westerwald, Germany; and The National Gallery in Tbilisi, Georgia. She has won numerous monumental Art in Public Places awards nationally in cities such as Dallas and Denver. Lovendahl teaches and lectures in institutions such as The Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing, China; Anderson Ranch Art Center; and Nebraska Wesleyan University. She exhibits internationally and nationally with recent solo exhibitions at The Red Gate Gallery Residency in Beijing, The Colorado Springs Fine Art Center and Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver. Lovendahl lives in Old Snowmass, Colo. with her husband, jewelry designer Scott Keating, their dog and cat. She works in studios in Old Snowmass and Denver, Colo.

#### About the City of Wheat Ridge

The City of Wheat Ridge, located west of Denver with a population of 31,000 residents, is home to a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods. Wheat Ridge is a vibrant community in a prime location, providing easy access to the Denver metro area and to recreation west into the mountains. The City was recently ranked Top Smallest City by the Economic Development Council of Colorado. Info about Wheat Ridge [ci.wheatridge.co.us](http://ci.wheatridge.co.us)

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