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NEWS RELEASE

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ART 4ORMS FOUNDATION TO BREAK GROUND ON FIRST OUTDOOR ART THERAPY COURTYARD IN NORTH TULSA

Tulsa, Okla. — Art 4orms Foundation is excited to break ground on North Tulsa’s first outdoor art therapy courtyard in North Tulsa this month. The courtyard expands on the foundation’s initiative of expanding arts and wellness resources for North Tulsa families to address harmful trends like the school-to-prison pipeline, a system that thrives under the disinvestment of public schools that reverts to a one-size-fits-all behavioral approach. Art 4orms have partnered with Lee Simon Design to bring this courtyard area to life.

“Working with Art 4orms has been a pleasure and discovery into wellness and mental health through the built environment. The site is sculpted with five main features : the pond , the memorial , the playground , the gazebo , the yoga garden. The site is layered to bring the individual into the communal. Starting at the pond , the soundscape of a fountain , coy fish swimming provides solace to the user. As one continues through the site the terminus is both communal in function : both the 24ft cedar gazebo and the yoga garden provide spaces for gathering and shared experience. The materiality from the ground covering to the wood species used in the structures are chosen to further support the wellness and mental health experiences of the site. To the north there is an open site where a community center is to take shape , in a subsequent phase. Community input and ideation will be a design component with that project as well.” - Lee Simon Design

The courtyard reflects Art 4orms Foundation’s preventative holistic approach that all children are capable of accomplishing great things when the proper investment is placed on their creative and social emotional development. Art therapy’s proven methods bolster student success by offering students a safe space to work out problems like home and food insecurity, interpersonal stress, and academic anxiety. While many education structures deem arts enrichment as an “elective” or “extracurricular”, Art4orms Foundation sees the arts as an essential component to the overall development and growth of a students career trajectory.

With the addition of this courtyard, Art 4orms Foundation demonstrates the capacity for this level of critical change needed for the North Tulsa community. This courtyard displays one component included in Art 4orms Art Therapy Behavioral Intervention Initiative that launched April 2023 with the support of Ascension St. John.

ADVANCING ART THERAPY IN NORTH TULSA

Art 4orms Art Therapy Behavioral Intervention Initiative works to remove barriers in socioeconomic and health disparities by partnering with licensed art therapists to serve in North Tulsa public schools and securing state licensure for art therapists, solidifying the profession's ability to deliver these crucial services we need to improve the holistic outcomes for families in North Tulsa.

Art 4orms Foundation knows that with robust community support, art therapy in classrooms and state licensure for art therapists in Oklahoma will become a reality. The foundation is actively seeking volunteers, in conjunction with national advocacy organizations, to escalate the urgency for state licensure legislation. This effort's success depends on a strong backbone of community support, from volunteers, parents, educators, advocates, and mental health professionals. You can learn more about these efforts, and get involved, by emailing Kirk Linam at kirk@art4orms.org

“Through integrative methods, art therapy engages the mind, body, and spirit in ways that are distinct from verbal articulation alone. Kinesthetic, sensory, perceptual, and symbolic opportunities invite alternative modes of receptive and expressive communication, which can circumvent the limitations of language. Visual and symbolic expression gives voice to experience and empowers individual, communal, and societal transformation.”

American Art Therapy Association, Published June 2017

WHO WE ARE

Art 4orms Foundation is Oklahoma's first Arts & Wellness nonprofit organization that provides free art education to public school students in North Tulsa. Our programming and outreach structure is rooted in art therapy philosophies in an effort to promote holistic healing to increase life expectancy, expand career pathways for local black and brown artists, and create a sustainable landscape to provide generational access to free art education for public school students.

Art 4orms Foundation exists to build and sustain generational access to art education for public school students. Art 4orms will utilize art education to expand career pathways and dismantle historical disadvantages placed on communities of color. **To learn about Art 4orms Foundation and to donate visit art4orms.org.**

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