METRO ARTS
Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission
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Jennifer Cole, Executive Director
Karl F. Dean, Mayor

Bellevue Branch Library Public Artwork

About the Artist: Beverly Precious is a sculptor specializing in large-scale public, corporate and private commissions. As president of Precious Design Studios, Inc., she has guided the design, fabrication and installation of major works of art since 1987. Experienced in all facets of exterior, interior, wall and suspended sculpture, she specializes in the use of dichroic glass.

Great Beginnings

Beverly Stucker Precious

Steel and dichroic glass

Metro Arts commissioned Beverly Stucker Precious to create an exterior public artwork for the Bellevue Branch Library. *Great Beginnings* provides an iconic backdrop to the many activities that will take place in the library's outdoor gathering space. Inspired by the idea of a "learning tree," the title of the sculpture refers to bands of text interwoven through the branches and leaves. The text contains fragments of opening sentences from literature suggested by the community. The sculpture's dichroic glass is a reflective surface that changes color with the angle of the light and the perspective of the viewer.

About the Artist: Brenda Stein is a Nashville-based studio artist. Many of her commissioned pieces are made from trees that have special meaning to their owners. In 2011, Stein participated in a Metro Arts workshop designed to help studio artists transition into public art. *Rise Above* is her first large-scale public artwork. *Above photos by Stacey Irvin.*

Rise Above

Brenda Stein

Hackberry wood

Metro Arts commissioned woodturner and Nashville resident Brenda Stein to create an interior public artwork using wood from hackberry trees removed from the library construction site. Stein's suspended wood sculpture, *Rise Above*, is inspired by the Bellevue community's resiliency and the limitless possibilities of books and learning. Above the circulation desk and the tech commons, nearly ninety birds gracefully soar together past the clerestory windows. In the children's area, a colorful mobile of heart-shaped leaves provides a playful canopy above the seating area.

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Bellevue Public Artwork: Locally Sourced

Public art is created by professional artists through a community input process. The Bellevue public art projects involved the community in several significant ways.

Beverly Precious, based in Indianapolis, was one of five artists short-listed for the exterior commission. The call to artists was limited to artists living within 350 miles of Nashville. For *Great Beginnings*, Precious invited the Bellevue community to make suggestions of first lines from favorite books and poems. She received forty-seven suggestions and was able to include twenty -four sentence fragments in the artwork.

Nashville-based artist Brenda Stein knows the Bellevue Library well. It has been her neighborhood library for twenty-six years. When it became clear that the hackberry trees on the construction site would have to be removed, Metro Arts approached Stein about creating an interior public artwork using that wood. To execute her design for *Rise Abo*ve, Stein contracted with MadeFirst, a creative design and fabrication company based in East Nashville's Inglewood neighborhood.

Artist Brenda Stein and the team from MadeFirst with some of the rough bird forms for Rise Above*. Photo by MadeFirst.*

For More Information: Contact Anne-Leslie Owens, Public Art Project Coordinator at **anne-leslie.owens@nashville.gov** for additional information and hi-resolution images.

Metro Arts Public Art Fund These projects are part of a larger initiative designed to build Nashville's public art collection and to enrich the lives of all Nashvillians. In 2000, a Metro ordinance was passed that earmarks one percent of the net proceeds from general obligation bonds issued for new or major renovation construction of Metro facilities to be set aside for the creation of new public art projects. For more information on the public art collection, go to **publicart.nashville.gov**. When you are on the go, point your smartphone or tablet to **explorenashvilleart.com** to access public artworks, cultural sites, and tours.

Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission The Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission is the city's designated leader in arts and cultural programming. Through grants, public art and direct programs, Metro Arts aims to: Expand the Creative Workforce, Increase Participation in Cultural Activities, and Improve Artistic Quality and Innovation. Metro Arts receives operational support from Metro Council and the Tennessee Arts Commission.