



T H E  
**S H E L D O N**  
Arts Without Borders

Chris Peimann  
Director of Marketing & Publicity  
[cpeimann@TheSheldon.org](mailto:cpeimann@TheSheldon.org)  
314.533.9900 ext. 19

Sarah Samples  
Marketing & Group Sales Manager  
[ssamples@TheSheldon.org](mailto:ssamples@TheSheldon.org)

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## **“GOLF THE GALLERIES” 2021 DESIGN WINNERS CHOSEN, COURSE OPENS JULY 2**

ST. LOUIS - The Sheldon Art Galleries is pleased to announce the winners of the 4th annual ***Golf the Galleries*** Call to Artists competition. The playable, artist-designed, nine-hole mini golf installation, scheduled to open on July 2, 2021, will again be situated in the beautiful Sheldon Art Galleries space, and is designed to be inclusive, family-friendly and accessible. The nine unique mini golf holes are designed by St. Louis area artists, architects and other creatives and will be open through September 6, 2021. Tickets are \$10 adults / \$7 children 12 and under; Sheldon members: \$8 adult / \$5 children 12 and under. **Tickets go on sale June 1 at 10 a.m. through MetroTix at 314-534-1111 or at [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).**

The course begins with a colorful “pop” and “bang” as golfers enter a life-sized pinball game that pays tribute to some of St. Louis’ cultural icons including the St. Louis Aquarium, City Museum and Laumeier Sculpture Park. In **“Pinball St. Louis,”** by architects and designers **Philip and Kelsey Jordan**, the excitement and unpredictability of pinball is combined with a pop art motif to create four possible routes to two different holes. Players of all ages are reminded of the importance of play in our everyday lives – no matter what path you take!

The **World Chess Hall of Fame** (WCHOF) returns for the 4th consecutive year with **“Check, Please!”** Inspired by the WCHOF’s upcoming exhibition, which will highlight food and drink-themed chess sets and imagery from their permanent collection. This fun-filled hole will ask golfers to sink their ball on a giant chessboard, with large-scale pieces adding an element of difficulty, while surrounded by images from Kingside Diner, the museum’s chess-themed restaurant. All golfers will get access to a QR code for a free beverage at a Kingside Diner location!

**“Arcade,”** by **students of Grand Center Arts Academy Makerspace and Theater Department**, immerses players in their favorite retro video games, with obstacles including Pac-Man’s antagonistic ghosts, Donkey Kong’s disruptive barrels and Ryu’s Street Fighter-style hurricane kick. This trip through classic ‘80s video games ends with a Pac-Man selfie station.

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In “**Heads of Wash U Shops**” by **Mathew Branham, Gregory Cuddihee and Bryce Robinson**, the managers of Washington University’s shops and making spaces create humorous casts of their own heads on pedestals.

Returning artist **Martha Valenta** evokes feelings of home, comfort and family with “**Nest**,” an interactive installation that invites golfers to help create a nest with yarn and other materials, supplied along with their putters and balls. Mom and Dad bird stand watch from above as their fledglings venture out into the wider world in this adorable hole inspired by Valenta’s grown children, away at college and working across town during the pandemic. Wooden cutouts offer playful photo-ops for all ages.

“**Flyover Country**,” by multi-media artist **Tim Meehan**, highlights the beauty of the Midwest from above. Looking down over a quilt-like patchwork of fields, crops, forests and rivers, and surrounded by a video projection of a beautiful blue sky, golfers will be immersed in Missouri’s great outdoors while navigating undulating hills, rivers, weather vanes and tractors to get their ball into the hole.

In a project led by **Dr. Kendall Ware**, and created by **2019 and 2020 alumni of East St. Louis High School**, “**GEAR UP**” (Gaining Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) celebrates a federally funded program of the same name that prepares students to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. Created in the shape of the letters “GU,” the hole includes three sand traps, strategically placed blocks to help golfers reach the hole more quickly, and a brick wall obstacle in orange and blue, the colors of the East St. Louis Flyers mascot. Designed to express gratitude for the opportunity this program gave them, the “GEAR UP” artists also want to challenge stereotypes about East St. Louis and its students.

Inspired by the “double-slit experiment” in physics, that demonstrates that light and matter can exhibit characteristics of both waves and particles, “**P.U.t-Perceptions of Uncertain-tees**,” by artists and theatrical designers **Laura and Philip Skroska**, puts a fun spin on this idea with the installation of a vertical wall between the tee and the hole, with two apparent openings through which the player must hit their ball. Optical illusions, blinds and shadows add further obstacles, introducing an element of chance to the game play.

The course ends with the hilarious “**Tee Hee-Hee**” by furniture maker and designer **Tiffany Mulligan** (whose last name makes her a natural mini-golf aficionado). A lover of practical jokes and pranks, Mulligan pulls out all the stops with “Tee Hee-Hee,” including banana peels, silly string, finger cuffs, joy buzzers, whoopie cushions and more distracting players from their goal of reaching the final hole.

Hole sponsorships are still available! Call The Sheldon’s Development Department at 314-533-9900 for more information.

For more information about **Golf the Galleries** call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

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