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## THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES EXTENDS EXHIBITION FEATURING INTERNATIONAL VERTICAL GARDENS AND THEIR DESIGNERS

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Growing Up: International Vertical Gardens*, extended through August 10, 2019 in the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery, as part of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit the galleries' website at [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org). *The exhibition is made possible in part by Growing Green, Inc.*



This exhibition features some of the most important and groundbreaking vertical garden designers in the world, including Biotope (United Kingdom), Patrick Blanc (Paris), Stefano Boeri Architetti (Italy), Growing Green, Inc. (United States), Emilio Llobat - Maqla (Spain), Kengo Kuma Associates (Japan), Atelier Jean Nouvel (France) and Sagegreenlife (United States) and places into context a key feature of The Sheldon's new Steward Family Plaza, a vertical garden on the west side of the Emerson wing of The Sheldon, currently under construction. The Sheldon's vertical garden and the plaza walkway were designed by Benjamin Gilmartin, architect, in collaboration

with Andrew Colopy of Cobalt Office; Michael Ludvik Engineers; Randy Burkett Lighting Design; DLANDstudio; KPFF; Civil Design; Horner & Shifrin; and Powers Bowersox Associates, Architect of Record. Also featured is the work of vertical garden innovator Stanley Hart White, who, in 1938, patented the components for what is considered the first vertical garden design, material which is lent by Richard Hindle, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, University of California Berkeley. Hindle is curator of an exhibit and author of a number of publications on Hart White.

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In the past 10 to 15 years, there has been a rising movement in architecture favoring green, sustainable and environmentally responsible design, and the integration of vegetation is at the center of this movement. In cities where land is scarce and valuable, vertical gardens have become a way to create towers and oases of vegetation in an efficient way. Cities can benefit from increased vegetation, which cleans the air, curbs global warming and creates urban gardens that have a positive impact on the state of mind of the inhabitants.

Vertical gardens, when designed correctly and worked into an overall urban plan, can connect and create greenways both horizontally and vertically. Important building projects have been realized all over the world by architects and landscape designers at a variety of scales, from small green walls in domestic settings and offices to major high-rise complexes from which forests sprout and even a futuristic concept for interplanetary living. These vertical green spaces soak up air pollution and produce oxygen. They filter dust particles, create humidity and absorb CO<sup>2</sup>, and act as a filter for sound and UV rays. Green buildings can have the same effect as 22,000 – 55,000 square yards of forest and green space on relatively small footprints.

From its founding in 1998 to this winter's opening of four new exhibitions, the Sheldon Art Galleries have made their mark on the arts landscape for the past 20 years with some of the most unique, thought-provoking and diverse exhibitions in St. Louis. In this time, the Sheldon Art Galleries has organized or hosted 333 exhibits and presented countless educational programs for young people and adults, which are offered free to the community.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, music art and history and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

Financial Assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Support is provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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**Image caption:** The Steward Family Plaza at the Sheldon designed by Benjamin Gilmartin, in collaboration with Andrew Colopy of Cobalt Office, M. Ludvik Engineering, Randy Burkett Lighting Design, DLANDstudio, and Powers Bowersox Associates.