



OLMEC TRAILS

Culture and Legacy

Featuring 33 artists' works painted on sculptures reflecting ancient Mexican culture throughout DuPage County.

June - October 2024

Sculptures inspired by the iconic Mesoamerican Olmec heads will be displayed throughout DuPage County in an expansive exhibition of public art. This ambitious exhibition provides access to the culture of the Olmec civilization in a new artistic and accessible way. College of DuPage will support the Public Art effort with a historic display in the MAC lobby and nine sculptures on the grounds of the College.



With artists provided in support by: Meztli Mexico and Mexican Cultural Arts Alliance

OlmecTrails.com

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Featuring 33 artists' works painted on sculptures reflecting ancient Mexican culture throughout DuPage County. Mexican Cultural Center DuPage in coordination with Meztli Mexico, and partnership with the College of DuPage Public Art Project and the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau is proud to present their newest project: Olmec Trails: Culture and Legacy. The exhibition is planned for the summer of 2024. This new outdoor exhibit will feature hand-painted large-scale renditions of Olmec heads. These iconic Mesoamerican sculptures will be displayed throughout DuPage County in an expansive exhibition of public art. This ambitious exhibition provides access to the culture of Olmec civilization in a fresh and accessible way. The exhibit will bring attention to the importance of public art and muralism, and showcase the immense talent and creativity of the 33 contemporary artists from across North America, while paying tribute to the indigenous roots of Mexican heritage.

The artwork will connect spectators to these one-of-a-kind works in a healthy and enjoyable outdoor setting with both physical and mental benefits. Installations will be located at numerous sites throughout DuPage County including the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the College of DuPage campus, the National Museum of Mexican Art and the City of West Chicago.

Background on the Olmec Heads

The colossal stone heads, crafted by the ancient Olmecs between 1400 BCE to 400 BCE, originated in the southern part of Veracruz, Mexico, the cultural heart of this early Mesoamerican civilization.

Each multi-ton sculpture, chiseled from a single stone using primitive tools, reflects the Olmecs' artistic prowess and their significant influence on subsequent Mesoamerican cultures. Today, these iconic heads are celebrated globally as prime examples of pre-Columbian art and adorn various museums and public spaces. Notably, the Olmecs, Mesoamerica's earliest civilization, left enduring legacies, including the precursor to sports like basketball and soccer. We are eager to begin this new project with the support and partnerships of multiple organizations throughout North America.



Save the Date

Olmec Trails Family Fiesta Kick-Off Party:

Sun, June 30, 2-6p at at McAninch Arts Center Lakeside Pavilion



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