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Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Jury Selects BKV Group

Minneapolis, Minnesota — March 8, 2007 — BKV Group, a Minneapolis based architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, engineering, and construction administration firm is pleased to announce that Ian Lamers, Chris Palkowitsch, and Jesse Symynkywicz design *Wind in the Trees* was selected by a panel of judges as one of fifteen installations for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum 'Art to A-Maze Walk' exhibition running from June 16 to September 30.

The fifteen installations of environmental art, sculpture and interactive exhibits will be placed along the walkway between the Arboretum's Oswald Visitor Center and the new Maze Garden. Exploring the theme of human/nature -- the relationship between human beings and the rest of the natural world -- the 'Art to A-Maze Walk' turns the experience of getting to the new permanent garden into an adventure that's as engaging as the Maze Garden itself. Each work of art is designed to inspire visitors to see what surrounds them with fresh eyes and to notice something they didn't see before.

The *Wind in the Trees* sculpture captures drifting wind, bringing awareness of the wind's presence by engaging both visual and auditory senses. Breathless, ceaseless, beautiful in its delicacy and haunting in its force, the wind is an ever-present reminder that the world is never still. To capture this essence the sculpture, placed in a grove of trees, is an interactive and playful abstraction of a tree which challenges senses to focus on the physical nature of wind, creating an acute understanding of differences between the sculpture and the surrounding natural landscape.

The *Wind in the Trees* sculpture intertwines new and old tree growth by wrapping mesh around fallen branches to create a heavy thatch. The thatch form, loosely resembling a cavernous tree trunk, creates a small interior habitable space, suitable for a single person. A soil filled canal of plantings placed within the thatch will foster growth within the upper parts of the sculpture while vines planted around the base grow upwards. As the plantings grow and change throughout the summer they will physically alter the look and feel of the installation. To further enhance the experience of being inside of a tree, mirrors have been placed on the ground plain of the piece. This creates a playful relationship between the tree interior, the viewer, and the sky above. Metallic "leaves," created from household can lids are attached to the mesh with simple fishing swivels, engage both the auditory and visual senses through the wind's rotation of the "leaves".

Founded in 1978, BKV Group is an award winning 80+ person multi-disciplinary firm providing services for a wide range of market segments including Community Development, Corporate, Education and Government. Recent projects include: Pacific Flats, Silver Lake Village Redevelopment, MoZaic Mixed-Use Development, Edina City Hall and Police Station, Plymouth Public Safety, Pine County Government Center.

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