

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pulitzer Presents Work by Multidisciplinary Artist and Activist Jordan Weber in Newly Created Space for Art and Community

Jordan Weber: All Our Liberations

Inaugural Artist Project in the transformed Spring Church on View July 16–24,
2022

ST. LOUIS, MO, JUNE 21, 2022—The first artist project to take place at the Spring Church—the Pulitzer’s new space for art and community opening in July—will be a site-specific work by multidisciplinary artist and activist Jordan Weber. Entitled *All Our Liberations*, the week-long installation and accompanying events will serve as a space for community learning, reflection, and healing. *All Our Liberations* will be on view from July 16 to 24, 2022.

All Our Liberations features a three-tiered sculpture inspired by Japanese Zen gardens. Black obsidian stones—used by many cultures to protect the body and practice food security—are placed throughout the garden. Each stone includes a bronze plaque that serves as a monument to community organizations selected by Weber for their important work toward addressing social and environmental injustices in St. Louis. The structure's wooden tiers are painted with a commissioned poem by St. Louis-based poet and storyteller Cheeraz Gormon, who will share a reading at the opening event. Designed to support community gathering, the sculpture will act as the centerpiece for a series of programs with St. Louis collaborators Weber met during his artist residency with the Pulitzer and Washington University’s Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (CRE2) and Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Art in the spring of 2021.



Jordan Weber meets with students from Washington University at the Spring Church, 2021.

Two public events anchor the week-long installation and include poetry, music, remarks by Weber and collaborators, and a farmers market. Organized with Close the Workhouse—a local campaign working to end mass incarceration—InPower Institute’s Black Healers Collective will host a private healing workshop for community members who have been impacted by the St. Louis Medium Security Institution better known locally as the Workhouse.

In April 2023, Weber will expand *All Our Liberations* as a part of Counterpublic, a city-wide arts triennial. Counterpublic will present a permanent sculptural installation that will function as a site of racial and ecological repair curated by Diya Vij, Associate Curator at Creative Time. Visit counterpublic.org for more information.

Public Programs

Opening Celebration

Saturday, July 16, 2022, 5-8pm

Local poet and storyteller Cheeraz Gormon will start off the evening by reading her commissioned poem with opening remarks by Weber at 5:00pm. Inez Bordeaux, Organizer for Close the Workhouse and Manager of Community Collaborations at ArchCity Defenders, will share an update on the Close the Workhouse campaign. Singer-songwriter Katarra Parson will perform to close out the evening.

Farmers Market

Sunday, July 24, 2022, 10am-1pm

Urban farmers from EarthDance Organic Farm School, George Washington Carver Farms, and New Roots Urban Farm will provide free produce and share information on how to get involved with their farms. Multidisciplinary artist Eugenia Alexander will host an indigo dyeing workshop for families in the garden next to the church. This program brings together Weber’s interest in the relationship between healing land and healing the body.

About the artist

Jordan Weber (b. 1984) is a Midwest-based land sculptor and activist. Weber’s work addresses social injustices and environmental racism. In 2020 Weber was commissioned by the Walker Art Center to create an urban farm in North Minneapolis called Prototype for Poetry vs Rhetoric (deep roots). The farm serves as a remediation tactic that addresses the industrial violence that has affected biodiversity within this predominantly Black community. He was a recent resident at Harvard as the inaugural LOEB/ArtLab Fellow and Yale as the inaugural AIR at Beinecke Library of Rare Manuscripts. Awards and fellowships include the 2022 United States Artist Award, Joan Mitchell Award for Sculptors, Creative Capital NYC Award, A Blade of Grass fellowship NYC and the African American Leadership Award.

About the residency

Through a collaborative project of the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and Washington University’s Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (CRE2) and Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Art, Jordan Weber was an artist-in-residence in St. Louis from February through June 2021. His residency centered on social and environmental justice, incarceration, and healing, with a specific focus on the Close the Workhouse campaign—a collaborative project that is dedicated to the closure of St. Louis’ Medium

Security Institute (better known locally as the Workhouse); an end to wealth-based pretrial detention; and the reinvestment of the money used to unjustly incarcerate poor and Black people into rebuilding the most impacted communities in the city. During the residency, Weber conducted field research in St. Louis, meeting with students and faculty at various sites in the city and connecting with community members to build partnerships in support of a public art project.

About the Spring Church

In July of 2022, the Pulitzer opens the Spring Church in a former Gothic-revival-style church built in 1884 and located at 620 North Spring Avenue, in the present-day Grand Center Arts District of St. Louis. The church suffered a catastrophic fire in 2001, leaving behind a ruin and causing the Church's congregation, the National Memorial Church of God in Christ led by Reverend Robert Chatman Williams, to relocate. Since that time, the open-air remaining shell has become a unique and cherished St. Louis landmark. In 2020, the Pulitzer began the initiative to preserve this community landmark to create a safe and welcoming community public space, as well as a site for artist projects. A short walk from the museum, the Spring Church is located on Spring Avenue between Washington Boulevard and Grandel Square and will be open from sunup to sundown.

About the Pulitzer

The Pulitzer Arts Foundation is an art museum that offers meaningful experiences with art and architecture. The Pulitzer campus is located in the Grand Center Arts District of St. Louis, Missouri, and includes the museum, the Park-Like garden, the forthcoming Spring Church, and other outdoor spaces. Since its founding in 2001, the museum has presented art from around the world in its celebrated building by Tadao Ando and its surrounding neighborhood. Offering personal encounters with art, the Pulitzer brings art and people together to explore ideas and inspire new perspectives. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday, 10am–5pm, with evening hours until 8pm on Friday. Admission is free. For more information, visit pulitzerarts.org.

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