

# Williams Park Alliance, Inc.

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Giant Nutcracker Exhibit Extended through January 10, All creations to be auction to raise money for the Williams Park Alliance.**

The 2024 [Brightmoor Lights Holiday Festival](#) kicked off on December 18<sup>th</sup> with a new exhibit. Thirteen giant Nutcracker Soldiers created by artists from around Metro Detroit using repurposed and donated materials. Visitors to the park were asked to vote for their favorite design. The top three most aesthetically pleasing and creative works were awarded cash prizes.

The soldiers varied from the traditional to the Avant Garde' and all things between. What makes these Nutcracker Soldiers unique? First, they are 12' tall and the list goes on from there.

Artists were given creative freedom to complete their sculpture. Twenty-three-year-old [Naomi Sharp](#) of Southfield, created a Sugar Plum Fairy Nutcracker replete with recycled purple carpet, silver duct tape and painted chicken wire. Forty-four-year-old [Dione Tripp](#) of Jackson, Michigan, went all out "Funky" with her creation named Mama Jwuanna. It is a whimsical mixture of Keith Haring, Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso and Jackson Pollack. Seventy-three-year-old [Christopher Columbus Gillam](#) of Novi, centered his two creations around the traditional style, one male and one female while sixty-five-year-old Anna M. Coleman of Taylor created an urban themed piece with real hair, paying homage to her mother. [Amanda Koss](#), age 40 of Clinton Township, crafted a drum major with meticulously placed pieces of cut wood, dominos and leather scraps on it.

During the exhibit, Collene Mitchell drove in from Columbus, Ohio after reading about it online. Carole Anderson, from Phoenix, Arizona came to see it while visiting with their family for the holidays.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday January 6, 2025, the creations will be auctioned to raise money to maintain the parks and build a permanent space for the next batch of sculptures. The online auction will end on Friday January 10, at 8:00 p.m. Interested bidders and those who may have missed their chances, will be able to inspect the work in the park from 10:00 a.m. until dusk each day.

The address is 14300 Burgess Street, corner of Acacia. The online auction can be accessed by click [www.WilliamsPark.org/auction](http://www.WilliamsPark.org/auction)

For additional information please contact:  
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**Here are six of the thirteen creations to be auctioned.**

