



The Humboldt Arts Council  
in the Morris Graves Museum of Art

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Headline:** Humboldt Arts Council Announces Major Restoration Project for the Romano Gabriel Sculpture Garden

*Generous grant from the Kohler Foundation paves the way for building repairs and expert conservation of iconic folk art masterpiece.*

**EUREKA, CA** — The Humboldt Arts Council (HAC) is thrilled to announce a major preservation project dedicated to safeguarding one of Humboldt County's most celebrated cultural treasures: the Romano Gabriel Wooden Sculpture Garden. Thanks to generous grant funding from the renowned Kohler Foundation, HAC is initiating vital structural restorations to the dedicated exhibition space housing the artwork.

To allow for these essential building improvements and to ensure the long-term preservation of the artwork, the Romano Gabriel Wooden Sculpture Garden will be temporarily removed from public view.

**Conservation & Care**

During the building construction, the individual carved and painted pieces of Gabriel's iconic collection will undergo professional conservation care. Specialized art conservators will assess, clean, and stabilize the delicate wooden sculptures, ensuring this incredible piece of visionary folk art remains vibrant for generations to come.

"This support from the Kohler Foundation allows us to address critical building needs while giving Romano Gabriel's masterpiece the expert care and preservation it deserves," said Jemima Harr, Executive Director-Curator at Humboldt Arts Council. "While we will miss having the sculpture garden on view during construction, this temporary step is crucial to protecting both the building and the art itself."

**Looking Ahead**

Construction and art conservation efforts are expected to take several months through the Fall of 2026. The Humboldt Arts Council assures community members and visitors that the Romano Gabriel Wooden Sculpture Garden will return to its restored display space at the conclusion of the project, revitalized and ready to welcome the public once again. Updates on the progress of the restoration and plans for a grand re-opening will be shared via the Humboldt Arts Council website and social media channels.

### **About Romano Gabriel's Wooden Sculpture Garden**

Created over three decades by Italian immigrant Romano Gabriel in Eureka, California, the Wooden Sculpture Garden is a brilliant example of self-taught visionary art. Composed of hundreds of brightly painted, hand-carved wooden figures, flowers, and whimsical pop-culture icons, the installation was rescued and preserved by the community and the Humboldt Arts Council is now the organization that oversees its preservation.

### **About the Humboldt Arts Council**

The Humboldt Arts Council is the designated local arts agency for Humboldt County, operating the Morris Graves Museum of Art, the Romano Gabriel Sculpture Garden and overseeing the care of the Fisherman Sculpture in Humboldt Bay. HAC is dedicated to providing leadership in supporting and promoting the arts, heritage, and culture to enrich the lives of all residents and visitors.

### **About the Kohler Foundation, Inc.**

The Kohler Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the arts and education, with a strong emphasis on the preservation of art environments, folk art, and self-taught art collections across the United States.

The Morris Graves Museum of Art, located at 636 F Street, Eureka is open to the public noon-5p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$2 for seniors (age 65 and over), military veterans, and students with ID; children 17 and under free; Families with an EBT Card and valid ID receive free admission through the *Museums for All* initiative, Museum members are free. Admission is always free for everyone on the first Saturday of every month, including First Saturday Night Arts Alive!, 6-9 p.m. and Mini Masters at the MGMA.

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