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John David Mooney Foundation

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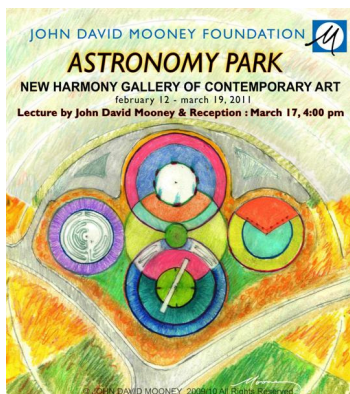
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Art Takes New Harmony, Indiana "Off the Grid"; Harvesting Our Sun

Presentation by Artist John David Mooney at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, 17 March 2011, 4pm



[John David Mooney](#), known for his large-scale public art, has been commissioned to design an Eastern Gateway Entrance Sculpture for New Harmony, Indiana. Mooney's concept for this proposed entrance piece is not only a sculpture, but encompasses an entire area transformed into an approximately 100-acre design which will take "New Harmony off the grid." Art is the centerpiece, the driving force, and symbol for this multi-faceted plan embracing the environment, conservation, science, and education in a unique effort to reinvent ourselves as a "green planet." And the town of historic New Harmony will be preserved from urban sprawl.

Presently there is an [exhibition](#) of the New Harmony project (© John David Mooney 2009-2010 All rights Reserved) at the [New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art](#), with a proposed phased plan for its development. The artist will present a lecture on **March 17 at 4pm at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art**, to be followed by discussion and a reception.

Solar panels ring this park with the four cardinal points demarcated by a Sundial and Solar Observatory to the north; a Lunar Observatory on the east; the [Milky Way Galaxy Sculpture](#) to the south; and a sunken Night Garden Labyrinth/ Assembly Area to the west.

The unifying components of this Astronomy Park will include planting of allées of trees; and particularly, its purpose, and a continuation of land use as farm land, which will include three crops: sunflowers, soybeans, and corn. Sunflowers are of extraordinary significance, as it is their mechanism of heliotropism, that of following the sun, which is to emulated by the solar panels.

Other energy systems will be employed, such as using the energy capacity of the Wabash River and studying the possibility of employing wind turbines. Also planned is the creation of a museum of "green technology. New Harmony will have the possibility of not only supplying its own electricity, but will be able to sell it to others.

For the western gateway entrance of New Harmony, the artist has proposed an iconic sculpture, [For Jane](#), in honor of Jane Blaffer Owen who died at 95 years in 2010, and who, through her own extraordinary efforts and vision, carried on the "Owen legacy", expanding historic New Harmony and reinvigorating a new, New Harmony with art, and architecture such as Philip Johnson's roofless church and Paul Tillich's Memorial Park, to name a few.

New Harmony was founded first as a utopian town by George Rapp in 1814, and then was purchased by Robert Owen of New Lanark, Scotland, who bought the town and its surrounding lands in 1825 from George Rapp, in order to create a more perfect society through free education and the abolition of social classes and personal wealth.

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