

# ABOUT SAINT FRANCIS

## SCULPTURE GARDEN

The Saint Francis Sculpture Garden is a walking pathway illustrating the life of beloved St. Francis of Assisi. This garden is a hidden gem consisting of 21 bronze statues located throughout a forested 6-acre parcel of natural beauty. The Sculpture Garden is a Michigan-based nonprofit operated by dedicated volunteers who are responsible for the planning, fundraising, and upkeep of this contemplative place. The Garden is free for all visitors who wish to find peace and healing in this unique setting.

The pathway is ADA-wheelchair accessible. Although inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, we are non-denominational and respectful of all peoples of peace, love and kindness.

With the commitment of dedicated volunteer board members and professional landscape-architects, this garden is supported by kind-hearted donors. The vision continues to grow.

Inspired by events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the beautifully crafted bronze statues, conceived and created by founder/sculptor Mic Carlson, depict St. Francis in postures of prayer, meditation, preaching and interacting with nature. They are placed along the trail in areas conducive to quiet reflection and are accompanied by storyboards sharing the life of this inspirational and much-loved Saint.

We welcome you to come spend time in the Saint Francis Sculpture Garden. Bring the kids for some fresh air, or find a bench for some quiet meditation or enjoy your favorite book (or borrow one from our lending library). No matter the reason or season, your senses will be rewarded. Close your eyes and listen to the birds. Breathe. Count butterflies. Count your blessings. Leave inspired.



Saint Francis Sculpture Garden  
PO Box 140761  
Grand Rapids, MI 49514

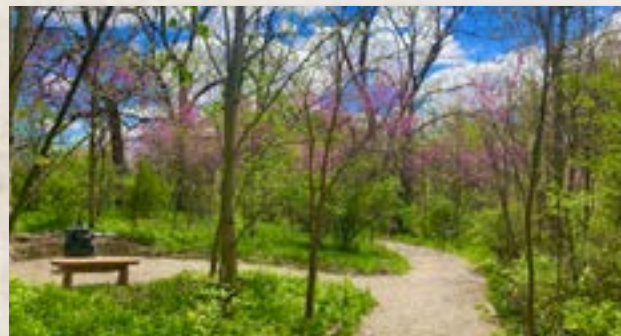
Location  
2023 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI  
49503

Or visit online at:  
[SaintFrancisSculptureGarden.org](http://SaintFrancisSculptureGarden.org)

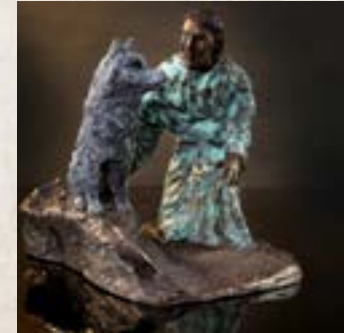
Sculptor/Founder  
**Mic Carlson**

Phone: (616) 443-0376  
Email: [micart@comcast.net](mailto:micart@comcast.net)  
[www.miccarlson.com](http://www.miccarlson.com)  
[www.micasso.com](http://www.micasso.com)

*All donations to the SFSG are tax deductible.  
SFSG is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.  
EIN 20-3489605*



Mic  
MIC CARLSON STUDIO





## ASSISI, ITALY EXHIBITION

In 2004, Mic was invited to the [Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi](#) for an exhibition of his bronze statues depicting St. Francis. The exhibition was presented in the Cloister of Pope Sixtus IV and depicted St. Francis in postures of prayer, meditation, preaching and interacting with nature. Mic was the first American artist to be bestowed with the honor of displaying his sculptures, he was told. The Basilica of St. Francis is over 800 years old and is graced with the incredible frescoes of artist Giotto. Perhaps, Michelangelo visited the magnificent basilica to study these frescoes before painting the Sistine Chapel. Mic was also featured in an interview on Vatican Radio about the exhibition.

Over 30,000 people from all walks of life visited Mic's St. Francis bronze exhibition, from September 18th through October 16th, 2004.

Mic's work resides in Assisi and the Vatican, and he now has over 50 bronze sculptures permanently displayed throughout Grand Rapids.



**Basilica of Saint Francis Exhibition 2004**



**Mic presented a bronze of Francis to Pope Benedict the XVI at the Vatican in 2008**

## LARGE BRONZE SCULPTURES



**Jesus and the Children at the Basilica of Saint Adalbert's Grand Rapids, Michigan**

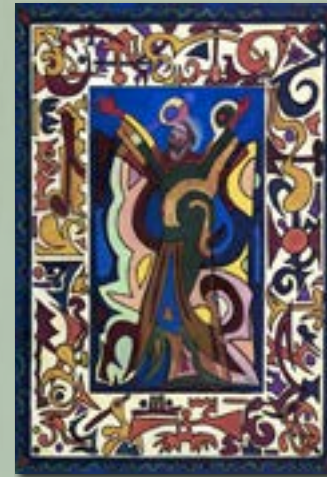


**Madonna of the Streets Grand Rapids, Michigan**



**Christ at the Pillar Jenison, Michigan**

## PAINTINGS OF SAINT FRANCIS



### La Loggie Gallery Assisi, Italy 2002

Mic's first Italian exhibition was in Assisi, at the [Le Loggie Gallery](#) in 2002. Mic captures Francis in a non-traditional way with many mediums including oil, acrylic, watercolor and oil pastel. Mic wanted to show the human side of Francis. different from the expected saint like poses with birds and stigmata.

Mic continues to be inspired by Saint Francis and will continue to paint and sculpt as the inspiration continues to thrive.

For more information or if you are interested in hosting a Saint Francis exhibition please contact Mic. He can also speak to an audience about his journey and some history of the beloved man of peace.

