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Mini golf kicks off at DIA

DETROIT — As part of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) special line-up of summer events, “Fore!Fun: Artfully Designed Mini Golf” teed off Sunday and runs through Sept. 2.

The 10-hole mini golf course specially designed for the DIA by Detroit area artists, architects and designers will be located on the north lawn while the museum is closed to complete the final stage of a six-year construction and gallery reinstatement project.

The layout of the one-of-a-kind golf course was designed by Stephen Vogel, Dean of the School of Architecture at University of Detroit Mercy, and DIA board member.

The holes are works of art in themselves, designed and built by the following local talent: One Pure Stroke is a floor plan of the DIA by SmithGroup of Detroit, the architect of record for the museum’s renovation project. The Loop is a challenging water hole by Cass Tech High School student Donald McKinnon of Detroit. Leap Frog features a giant, colorful frog by Daniel Cascardo of Royal Oak. Full Tilt Detroit resembles a pinball machine by Navigating Business Space of Troy, The Brainwerks of Southfield, Primeway, Inc. of

Madison Heights and Interior Partnership Group of Clawson. Matisse Rose is built like a sculpture and represents the museum’s collection with long stripes of color, each representing a well-known artist, covering a sloped platform by Rose Deslover of Farmington Hills.

Construction Site looks like just that; with a shovel, wheel barrow, bricks, barrel and cones for golfers to traverse, by Gillett Associates of Farmington Hills.

Additional creative holes include, What Goes Around, which is a concentric steel band spiral with a 16-inch diameter that allows the golfer to watch the ball go past by Gary Kulak of Birmingham; Gridlock provides a bird’s eye view of Detroit’s freeway system and skyline by Nudell Architects of Farmington Hills; Laughing Trees is based on a “Heidelberg-like” project in Atlanta featuring whimsically painted trees by Andy Malone of Detroit; Devil’s Night is a commentary on this infamous night featuring marionettes on a rotating stage by Andy Malone of Detroit.

Mini golf wouldn’t be complete without a Caddy Shack to purchase tickets, pick up clubs, grab a quick snack or purchase DIA golf hats and other “pro

shop” items. Donated by the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, the DIA Caddy Shack was built using architectural salvage from Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit. Vogel directed the group construction effort along with Dan Pitera, Executive Director of The Detroit Collaborative Design Center, and architectural students from University of Mercy School of Architectural Design.

In addition to hot dogs, light snacks will be available at the Caddy Shack. Café DIA will also remain open throughout the summer, offering crisp salads, hot soup, custom-made deli sandwiches, pizza, burgers, and desserts. Special summer hours through Oct. 19 are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Visitors should use the John R. Street entrance of the museum.

“Fore!Fun: Artfully Designed Mini Golf” at the DIA will be available for play through Sept. 2. Course hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Cost for one round is \$5 for adults, \$4 for DIA members and \$3 for kids 12 and younger. For more information, visit www.dia.org.