



GROUND S F O R S C U L P T U R E

IN MEMORIAM

Brian Carey

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Brian Carey on September 6 at the age of 83.

Brian was an architect, landscape designer, sculptor, and member of the Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) Founding Team. His keen ability to find creative ways to adaptively reuse everything - from broken bricks from the old fairgrounds to specimens discarded from plant nurseries - and turn that material into something magical, can be seen throughout the grounds, from the design of the Sculpture Court to the Maple Allée. Alongside Bruce Daniels and the late Brooke Barrie, he worked to make Seward Johnson's extraordinary ideas and dreams tangible when we first opened our doors thirty years ago, in 1992.

GFS Executive Director, Gary Garrido Schneider, said: "This is a monumental loss to Grounds For Sculpture, which is a tremendous legacy to his immense talent and personal dedication. It cannot be overstated how central Brian's design aesthetic and horticultural passion are to the park we know and love today. The initial plan of the park and the adaptive reuse of the former fairground buildings as light-filled galleries sheathed in glass, as well as the realization of the Welcome Center in The Seward Johnson Center for the Arts building, Rat's Restaurant, and the gazebo are all projects he designed. His love of horticulture, nature, and garden design are experienced viscerally at GFS as our visitors follow the meandering paths through the park. Brian will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with longtime partner, Valerie Tomaselli, his family, and many friends."

Former colleague Bruce Daniels recalls: "I worked with Brian for over 30 years at Grounds For Sculpture - from before it had a name through a time when it was proclaimed 'one of the most intriguing and provocative sites' in the State. The American Institute of Architects could have been describing Brian himself. He was a brilliant designer of buildings and landscapes, a fabulous teller of tales, and a true friend. Brian seemed to know almost everything, and to have been just about everywhere. I will miss him, but his spirit will always be present in this place."

Brian Carey/ACBC won a competition for the design of Grounds For Sculpture in 1985 and developed virtually all the buildings and the landscape since then. *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air*, his sculpture in the Grounds For Sculpture collection, was designed to present a duality between the monumentally solid base stones and the elevated slabs of granite lifted above it, as if weightless and floating.

In addition to his work at GFS, he also designed several healing gardens at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, creating spaces that promote wellness through the combination of art and nature. His work has been exhibited at OK Harris and Kamikaze Gallery in New York City, the Elena Zang Gallery in Woodstock, NY, and the University of Northumbria, UK, and can also be found in private collections. He served on the board of Metro Hort Group and the Queens Botanical Garden, where he was a member of the Advisory Committee and Horticultural Committee. He was also a long-time member of the Explorers Club and the American Alpine Club.

Brian Carey's life and legacy are celebrated [here](#) in the New York Times (September 15, 2022).

Grounds For Sculpture

Johnson Atelier

The Atlantic Foundation