



# Family Participation Guide

*COMPAS presents:*

*Garden Creatures*

*with Anne McFaul Reid*

Today you are experiencing an arts education program presented by COMPAS! Artists—like scientists—explore the world ... start your exploration here:

## About the Residency:

Students experience the creative process for themselves when they create garden sculpture inspired by nature. Anne guides students in planning, sketching and revising their ideas. Students work with strips of cured, flexible paint and metal wire to assemble their final structure—a creature—each one with specific, imaginary requirements for life. As they work, students discuss life forms in all of varied shapes and sizes, consider what requirements are needed to keep different organisms alive, integrate concepts of life science, physical science, measurement, weight and balance. Students' work culminates in a public outdoor display of their garden creatures.

## About Anne McFaul Reid:

An artist, teacher and mother, Anne has developed a unique process that makes the art of sculpture come alive for students in a fun and vibrant way. Anne's talents spring from her experience teaching at the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Walker Art Center, public schools throughout the Twin Cities, and from her work as a practicing sculpture artist. Experimenting with color, layering, mixing and making an idea come alive are what really interests her in her art. The sculptural forms and colors of her work are inspired from nature.

## Vocabulary:

**Organism:** a living thing, e.g. a plant, animal, virus, or bacterium

**Symmetry:** balanced proportions on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane or around a central point

**Asymmetry:** not symmetrical

*\*Definitions derived from merriamwebster.com*

## Suggested family discussion questions:

- What inspired your idea for your sculpture? Explain the process.
- What are examples of different organisms? What do they require to stay alive? What does your imaginary creature require to stay alive?
- Did you run into any challenges while creating your sculpture? How did you work around them?
- How does an artist move from invention to creation?

## A few places to search for answers:

- *Alexander Calder: Meet the Artist* / by Patricia Geis.
- *Deborah Butterfield* / by Robert Gordon.
- *Calder at Home: The Joyous Environment of Alexander Calder* / by Pedro Guerrero.
- *Monumental Minnesota: A Guide to Outdoor Sculpture* / by Moira Harris.



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