

Art in the City / Week 10

George Rogers Clark

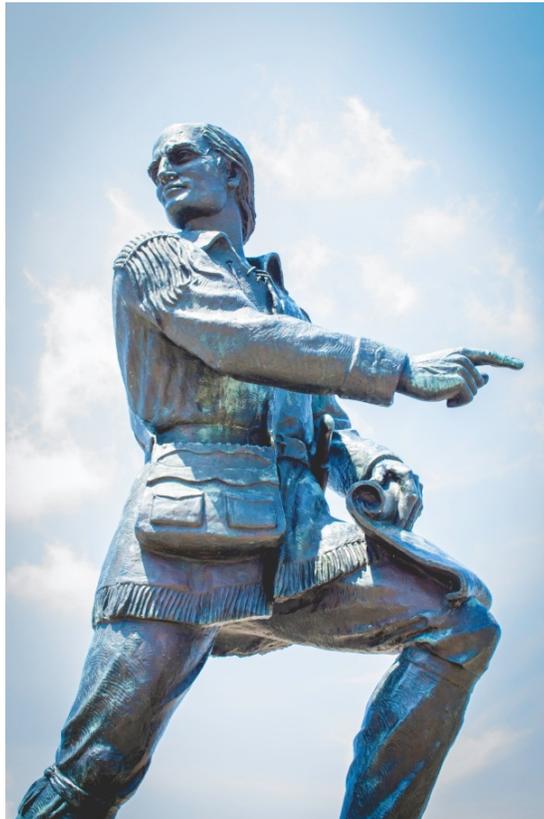


Photo credit: Luke Seward

This week's Friday Feature is George Rogers Clark, in honor of the artist Felix de Weldon's birthdate on April 12. The American sculptor de Weldon was born in Vienna, Austria in 1907 and lived to be 96 years old. According to an article in the New York Times at the time of his death in 2003, he worked in a coat and tie and claimed "my 10 fingers" as his team of sculptors, although he worked with numerous mechanics and laborers to fabricate large-scale sculptures. De Weldon is well known for creating the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington DC.

Standing nearly 12 feet, George Rogers Clark was cast in bronze in 1970, and is inscribed "A Gift to the People of Louisville from the Hillman-Hopkins Family." Surrounding the base of the sculpture are plaques embedded in the brick pavers with the history of his ventures.

In 1804, The Falls of the Ohio were the point of origin for the famous expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase. George Rogers Clark proposed that a canal be built to circumvent the Falls of the Ohio to facilitate trade and commerce. Efforts by civic leaders to finance a canal had begun as early as 1781. The Louisville & Portland Canal Company was chartered in 1825, and the Canal opened in December 1830.

Take advantage of the spring weather this weekend and visit the Belvedere and George Rogers Clark!