

NEWS

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WALKER ART CENTER AND THE CURRENT WILL NOT PRESENT ROCK THE GARDEN IN SUMMER 2021



MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 11, 2020 — Due to uncertainties around planning for a large-scale outside event next summer, the Walker and The Current will not present Rock the Garden in 2021. After thoughtful consideration of how Rock the Garden could be coordinated and held in the time of COVID-19, the two organizations determined that the event in its current form could not be done in a way that would guarantee the safety of community members and artists.

The decision to not present Rock the Garden next summer was a difficult one for the organizations to make, as both music fans and members of the Twin Cities community. The Walker and The Current have been teaming up to present the Twin Cities’ unofficial kick off to summer since 2008 and are hopeful that fans will be able to join together again soon.

“This is a very difficult decision for both organizations. Although it may seem premature, the bulk of the planning, including booking bands on tour and securing permits, needs to be completed by the New Year. It is not feasible to do this work given the current situation with COVID-19. We are disappointed to not be able to share the event with our community next summer,” comments Mary Ceruti, Executive Director of the Walker.

“Rock the Garden takes months of planning, and we have a talented team of event experts who know what is required to make it a success. A huge component of that is the safe and enjoyable gathering of our community. With so many unknowns related to COVID-19 in the coming months, we couldn’t guarantee a safe experience for our community members at this point. That was our deciding factor,” said David Safar, Managing Director of The Current. “The only way we get through this challenging time is

together, and we are confident that we will Rock the Garden together again.”

The Walker and the Current sincerely hope to hold the event in summer 2022.

ABOUT ROCK THE GARDEN

Launched by the Walker Art Center in 1998, Rock the Garden has been cosponsored by The Current since 2008. More than a dozen concerts have been staged outside the Walker since the inaugural event featuring the Jayhawks. Rock the Garden presents national and international artists paired with the best in local music. Past performers have included Belle and Sebastian, Bon Iver, David Byrne, Chance the Rapper, De La Soul, Dessa, Doomtree, Father John Misty, Flaming Lips, Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings, Lizzo, Jeremy Messersmith, Metric, MGMT, Modest Mouse, the National, the Revolution, Sonic Youth, Spoon, Stereolab, Trampled by Turtles, Wilco, X, and many more. The 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID.

WALKER ART CENTER / MINNEAPOLIS SCULPTURE GARDEN

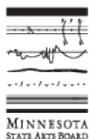
Known for presenting today’s most compelling artists from close to home and around the world, the Walker Art Center features a broad array of contemporary visual arts, music, dance, theater, and moving image works. Ranging from concerts and films to exhibitions and workshops, Walker programs bring us together to examine the questions that shape and inspire us as individuals, cultures, and communities. The adjacent Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, one of the first urban sculpture parks of its kind in the United States, holds at its center the beloved Twin Cities landmark Spoonbridge and Cherry by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen as well as some 60 sculptures on the 19-acre Walker campus. Visit walkerart.org for more information on upcoming events and programs.

THE CURRENT

The Current is an all-music, noncommercial, member-supported station from Minnesota Public Radio. Since it began broadcasting in 2005, the award-winning station has grown into a far-reaching community, boasting members and online listeners from around the world. From local to legendary, indie to influential, the Current plays the best new music next to the artists you already love. Part of the Current’s mission is to champion emerging artists, support civic and cultural organizations, and give a platform to important voices that shape our community and make the Twin Cities a great place to live. Learn more and listen at thecurrent.org.

Acknowledgements

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Thank you, Walker members, for your generous support.