

Created in memory, by memory

Bolles School installs “Flukes” sculpture donated by artist and philanthropist Gordon Gund



Gordon Gund donated his sculpture, “Flukes,” to The Bolles School in memory of his late wife, a '58 Bartram alumna.

Artist and philanthropist Gordon Gund donated a sculpture inspired by his late wife, Llura “Lulie” Liggett Gund (Bartram, class of '58) — titled “Flukes” — to The Bolles School. The sculpture, a recreation in cast bronze of a whale’s tail, now stands in the Bolles Reflection Garden on the Upper School San Jose Campus.

Gund created the sculpture using only his hands and his memory as he lost his sight more than 50 years ago.

According to a Bolles School press release, “Flukes” was installed

the Bolles garden on Dec. 7 “via a large crane and many expert hands.”

The sculpture was inspired by a “powerful experience” Gund shared with his sons one Fourth of July weekend when they and their friends worked alongside Nantucket fishermen and neighbors to rescue a pod of pilot whales that had gotten beached on an exposed sandbar with their alpha, also beached and dying. Thanks to the group’s efforts, many of the whales survived.

“The sculpture has so many facades of inspiration for our Bolles Community, whether drawing from the history of the artist (Mr. Gund), the partnership between Mr. and Mrs. Gund in relation to the art and life, the story of what inspired the sculpture, or the exposure our students have to seeing a piece of art on campus that is part of a collection that has been celebrated at a multitude of private and prestigious public institutions,” said Carol Nimitz, Bolles chief advancement officer in the release. “It is a tremendous gift that will serve as a reminder to students that no matter where they roam, they always have a home to return to here at Bolles.”