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Trimpin to Create A Musical Fence at the Seattle Children's PlayGarden

Trimpin, the world-renowned Seattle sculptor, sound artist, musician, composer, engineer and inventor has been commissioned to create a musical fence at the Seattle Children's PlayGarden, announced Liz Bullard, the PlayGarden's director. A grant of \$7,500 was recently awarded by King County 4 Culture to initiate the project; an additional \$7,500 is being sought from private sources to supplement the county grant.

Trimpin's interest in creating a permanent art-music feature stemmed from a 5 day workshop he conducted last summer at the PlayGarden for teenagers with special needs.

He says: "The workshop gave me an understanding of what type of an installation might work best for children with special needs. I imagine a "musical fence" running parallel to the Garden House. The structure would incorporate weather-and-vandal-proof, tuned, colorful, metallic sound objects resembling percussion-like instruments to be played manually or mechanically from both sides of the sculpture. The sounds produced would be subtle so as not to disturb the nearby surroundings while at the same time exciting the curiosity of the children. In addition to having fun playing tunes, the sculpture will also serve as an educational tool to learn the fundamentals of sound. I very much look forward to working on this unique project."

The PlayGarden (www.childrensplaygarden.org) located at Colman Playfield (24th Ave S and S Massachusetts) operates in partnership with the Seattle Parks Department. It's mission is to improve the lives of children with physical or mental disabilities by providing them with full access to a safe indoor/outdoor recreation space and offering inclusive programs that encourage their potential. "Art, music, and drama are important components of our programming," says Bullard. "They are modalities whereby children with cognitive and/or motor impairments can creatively express themselves. That an artist like Trimpin is willing to work with our children, is exciting beyond belief," she said.

Born in southwestern Germany near the Black Forest, Trimpin (no first name) relocated to Seattle in 1979. In 1997, Trimpin received both a MacArthur Genius Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. His work appears in museums and galleries throughout the world. A profile of Trimpin appeared in the May 2006 issue of the New Yorker. His tower of over 700 guitars, called "Roots and Branches" is installed at the Experience Music Project at the Seattle Center.

On Wednesday April 4th from 5:30-7, Trimpin presents a design concept of the musical fence at his studio.

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Photo of Trimpin workshop at PlayGarden, Summer 2011.

