

Wallenda project expected to take 1 year to complete



Nik Wallenda, in the black T-shirt, stands in front of an artist's rendering of the "Sculpture in the Sky," which will depict his wire walk over Niagara Falls. He is joined by Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, Mayor Robert Restaino, sculptor Susan Geissler and Sen. Rob Ort.

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law in the United States that banned stunting for over 100 years, and something very similar on the Canadian side."

He explained, "We all hear the stories of Charles Blondin, and all these amazing wire walkers. But the truth is, after we did research, none of them ever walked over the precipice of the falls. They walked over the gorge. And there are many reasons why we believe that happened. I believe technology played a role in that, just being able to string the cable up directly over those falls. As it advanced, it made that easier."

"I remember talking with another great wire walker, Jay Cochrane, who has since passed away, but he did many walks over on the Canadian side; always his dream to walk over the falls. An incredible mentor and somebody I always looked up to. But I remember Jay saying it was impossible to walk directly over the precipice of the falls, where I did, because he felt the wind and the conditions ... I would not be able to make it across. So, there are many reasons why no one did, but it was a dream of mine."

Wallenda said it's his hope

that "people are encouraged to continue to look forward. Don't look back, but continue to look forward – and chase your dreams and your goals and your ambitions. I've lived my life that way."

He shared how, once he crossed into Canada, he was asked to present his passport and reason for visiting.

"What I said was my goal is to inspire people to pursue their dreams – no matter what challenges they face. And to be inspired that nothing is impossible, if you set your mind to it and keep God No. 1," Wallenda said. "And that really has been my life's journey. It's really been my life. My family's life's journey is to inspire others. I think that we're all on a tightrope, and we're all trying to make it from one side to the other. And it's so important that we continue to face the other side."

Wallenda added, "This place is special to me. Niagara Falls will always be. It was *the* walk. I had broken a couple world records prior to that; I had a TV series on the Discovery Channel; but it was this walk, here, that really put the 'Nik' part of the Wallenda name on the map."

Though he was tight-lipped on

his next big adventure, Wallenda, 43, suggested a different Niagara Falls walk would be a fitting capstone to his career – sometime around the age of 55.

"One of my dreams is to actually pick the balancing pole up on the Canadian side and walk back to the United States over Niagara Falls and put that balancing pole down in history," he said. "The goal is to do that untethered, though. As most of you know that know me, it is always my desire to not wear a tether. The only time I wear a tether is if my (TV) network partner requires it (as they did 10 years ago). But that is a dream of mine."

"And I would love nothing more than to be able to walk back from Canada to the United States, to say, 'Thank you. It's been an amazing career.'"

Wallenda noted, "When Canada changed their legislation (allowing him to walk the wire), it was once-in-a-generation, which is considered 20 years. So therefore, I have to wait another 10 years before I'm able to make that walk anyways – in order to get permission. Which will be a process – and I get it. It's going to be a big process, but I live for that stuff. I live for those challenges."

Artpark 'Wine & Wheels' returns for 2022

Artpark's "Wine & Wheels" returns for the 2022 summer season after selling out in 2021.

Artpark will offer a total of 14 "Wine & Wheels" classes, to be held in the Artpark clay studio on Fridays, July 1-29, Aug. 5 and 12. Each date will include classes at 4 and 6 p.m.

Registration is \$55 per person and class. Capacity is limited to 10 people, ages 21 and older, per session. Advance registration is required.

Participants will learn the basic techniques of the potter's wheel and throw their own cup, bowl, saucer, or their own creation. Each session includes two single-serve bottles of wine; one bottle of water; 90 minutes of unlimited throwing on the

wheel with a clay instructor; and two best pieces of pottery to be glazed and fired. Pottery can be picked up at Artpark in two weeks, or can be shipped for an added fee.

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