



## Willy Street 'gateway tree' to break ground June 9



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The [32-foot metal tree](#) that will serve as a welcome to Madison's near east side is set to break ground in the 600 block of Williamson Street on June 9.

Metal artist Erika Koivunen and her husband, Aaron Howard, have been [working on the Williamson Street Gateway Sculpture](#) for more than a year at their Park Street studio.

Koivunen, known for her [work with Dr. Evermor](#) and [bird sculptures on the east side](#) and the top of the [Madison Children's Museum](#), expects the tree will be installed by early July, after Independence Day.

Meanwhile, Bachmann Construction has confirmed to the artists' team that excavation is set for June 9 and the curing of the concrete will take a few days. It will be ready to receive the sculpture about a week after it's been poured.

The Marquette Neighborhood Association is still raising a total of \$100,000 for the tree sculpture as well as other art projects, including [two new murals on the side of Plan B](#), more sidewalk poetry and historical markers (also designed by Koivunen). Those who would like to donate [can do so on the MNA website](#).