

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nick Weerts Memorial Phone Booth Brings Memories, Music and a Little Unexpected Joy to Madison's East Side

Public invited to ribbon cutting September 13 at 209 Corry Street

MADISON, Wis. — On Sunday, September 13, the public is invited to **209 Corry Street on Madison's East Side** for the unveiling of the **Nick Weerts Memorial Phone Booth**, an interactive community art installation created in memory of Nicholas Bennett Weerts, who died unexpectedly on February 1, 2017.

Nick had an odd fascination with payphones. Nearly a decade after his death, that fascination has inspired a living, evolving piece of public art designed not simply as a memorial, but as something for the entire community to visit, experience and enjoy.

Pick up the receiver and the phone comes to life, randomly selecting from more than ten hours of audio. Hang up and pick it up again, and you may hear something entirely different. Hidden inside are conversations among friends and family, parties, music, holiday gatherings, everyday moments, full-length films and timeless comedy from Nick's favorite comedians.

The installation shares some spirit with the Japanese concept of the **wind phone**—an unconnected telephone where people can speak to loved ones who are no longer with them. The Nick Weerts Memorial Phone Booth works somewhat in reverse: rather than speaking into the phone and sending words outward, you pick up the receiver and listen. Voices, sounds, music and moments from the past come back through the line, creating an unexpected connection between memory, place and the person holding the phone.

But the phone booth is intended to become more than an archive of Nick's life. The installation belongs to the neighborhood and is **open for anyone to visit and enjoy**. Members of the public will also be encouraged to contribute their own audio. As the collection grows, the phone booth will gradually become a reflection not only of one person and one family, but of the community around it.

The hope is simple: that someone walking through the neighborhood might stop, pick up a telephone and discover something they weren't expecting—a voice, a song, a laugh, a memory—and leave with a little more joy in their day.

Visitors are encouraged to take their time, explore what is hidden inside and **listen to the soul of 209 Corry Street**.

RIBBON CUTTING

Sunday, September 13, 2026 · 5:00 p.m. CDT
209 Corry Street · Madison, Wisconsin

The event is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

MEDIA CONTACT

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