



Guinness World Record Holder

GROSSE POINTE ARTIST
MICHELLE BOGCESS-
NUNLEY SET THE WORLD
RECORD FOR THE
LARGEST HAND-DRAWN
MAZE

Photos and Story by Phil Eich,
Storyville Social, as part of the
Michigan Main Street Story
Series

I'm an author and illustrator. I've written a few children's books, and I ran a little traveling art studio called 'On The Go Studio'. But during COVID, we weren't doing any classes because schools and senior centers were all shut down during that time. So, I thought, 'You know what? Let's do something good.'

The idea for creating the World Largest Hand Drawn Maze came from some of my first memories of making art: just sitting down with a pad of paper and drawing little doodles and maze-like squiggles.

We had a lot of youth programs in the area and one of them is called Detroit Living Arts. They're a youth program and they do a lot of art programming for children in

the city, but they were underfunded due to COVID. So, I did the maze to help raise funds for them. I drew the maze and people would come in and sponsor square feet of the maze as their donation towards Detroit Living Arts.

Guinness World Records was very strict, and they had all these different guidelines that we didn't know about until we got knee deep into this. I could only work four hours a day and I had to have two witnesses who watched me draw the whole maze, and because I was only allowed to work four hours at a time, it took about three months and 10 days to finish.

I think fatigue is the biggest reason for the time limitation - because people get fatigued watching the maze being

drawn for that long. They want to make sure the artists and witnesses are OK and that everything was done in the way the previous record holders have done it. They've tried to keep it as consistent as possible. Plus, I had to solve it as I went, which took longer than drawing the darn thing.

To draw the maze, I used Sharpie markers and highlighters - I did the whole thing with about 250 Sharpies and about 16 or 17 yellow highlighters.

It took me about a month and a half to figure out how to measure it. Guinness said they couldn't give me the record, because they didn't have a picture of it. But, it was autumn and around October, so we took it to the MAC - the Mack Athletic Complex. They let me take the whole maze, unroll it and then we had someone come with a drone and take a photo.

It's 1,126 square feet, the size of an entire football field!

- Michelle Boggess-Nunley, Artist and Guinness World Record Holder





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