



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
215 Church Ave., S.W., Room 364
PH: 540-853-2333
FAX: 540-853-1138

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Melinda Mayo
Public Information Officer
540-853-6357

Monday, Aug. 4, 2008

City's first temporary public art exhibit will make its debut in October

Roanoke, VA — The City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Arts Commission announce that the city's first temporary public art installation, titled "AIR: Art in Roanoke," will open in October. Eight pieces will be displayed around the city for an 18-month period.

According to Arts Commission Chair Doug Jackson, "'AIR' will further the goals of bringing visibility to the City of Roanoke's Public Art Program and raising appreciation of public art in the community."



A selection panel of citizens and city representatives reviewed 117 entries from 56 artists to narrow the show down to eight pieces. Sites and works in "AIR" will include:

- Jackson Library – "Rainbow Children," by Polly Branch of Roanoke
- South Roanoke Village – "Starlight," by Thea Lanzisero Monier-Williams of Huntington, N.Y.
- Corner of Campbell Avenue and Third Street – "Urban Trees," by Gary Gresko of Oriental, N.C.
- Wachovia Plaza – "Comma," by Lee Badger of Hedgesville, W.Va.
- Brown Robinson Park/Lick Run Greenway – "Happy Wanderers," by Charlie Brouwer of Willis, Va.
- Wells Avenue Plaza – "Recoil," by Mark Harris of Santa Fe, N.M.
- Fire Station Number 7 on Memorial Avenue – "Second Chances," by Eldon Slick of Tucson, Ariz.
- Williamson Road Library – "Astroterra," by Nicole Beck of Chicago, Ill.

According to City of Roanoke Public Art Coordinator Susan Jennings, installation of the works will be staggered over a three-week period, with all pieces installed by mid October. Several events will be planned so the public can meet the artists. Jennings states: "We are currently working with Downtown Roanoke Inc. to feature an event with the two artists installing works in the downtown area as part of the annual Harvest Festival on Oct. 4. Other events will be planned in the neighborhoods where the pieces will be on display."

- more -



City's first temporary public art exhibit to debut

Monday, August 4, 2008

Page 2

Other methods of community involvement are being planned. A survey tool on the public art Web site will allow citizens to comment on the works. Downloadable podcasts that provide a self-guided tour and feature comments from the artists about their works are also being considered.

The public art program is funded by a Percent for Art Ordinance, established by the City of Roanoke as a way to fund public art in city neighborhoods and public places to reflect its vibrancy and heritage. The fund is comprised of one percent of the budgets of certain projects in the city's capital improvement program. Public art policies and decisions are guided by the 15 volunteer members of the Roanoke Arts Commission, with final approval from City Council. More information is available at www.roanokeva.gov/publicart.

To find out more about this event, or to obtain images of individual works, please contact Susan Jennings, Public Art Coordinator, at 853-5652.

###

News Release