May 27, 2010

Mayor and Members of City Council,

The FY11 Public Art Work Plan was on the Council Dinner Briefing Agenda for Monday, May 24th, but time did not permit the presentation. The Arts & Science Council and Public Art Commission would like to share three categories of information related to the City Public Art: 1) projects completed in FY10, 2) projects in progress during FY11, and 3) projects resulting from the recommended FY11 public art allocation.

Projects Completed in FY10

- Beatties Ford Road Metro Police Station - Artist Chandra Cox created the stainless sculptural lanterns, marking the entrance of the new station. The repeated surface pattern as well as the copper medallions on the bases were designed by the artist and inspired neighborhood resident Mattie Marshall to suggest the title for the artwork, "Protect and Lift Up the People." The artist's budget was $38,682.

- South Corridor Infrastructure Program (SCIP) 2 - The plaza of the Trolley Museum serves as a pedestrian connector from the Camden Road business district to the LYNX Light Rail. Given the museum and the area's historic relationship to Charlotte's earlier streetcars and current linkage to the modern Light Rail, artist Norie Sato tried to capture both the history and the future momentum of rail travel with her sculptures entitled "Branch Lines." The artist's budget was $89,000.

- Rozzelles Ferry Road Corridor - Jeff Hackney's research on the Lakewood neighborhood and the history of Rozzelles Ferry Road revealed many changes over 80 years, yet the dominant spirit of the small community prevailed. His colorful abstract sculpture marks a busy entry point to the Rozzelles Ferry corridor at Idaho Avenue. While assembling the separate steel components, Hackney looked at aerial street maps of sections of the neighborhood, and those linear patterns are reflected on the concrete sculpture pad and surrounding landscape. The artist's budget was $56,440.

Projects in Progress During FY11

- NASCAR Hall of Fame - Two important light artists, Norman Coates, Director of Lighting Design at the NC School of the Arts, and Erwin Redl, nationally recognized for his lighting designs for major buildings in the US and abroad, presented their programming concepts for the NASCAR light ribbon to the Public Art Commission on May 26th. The artists' budget is $30,000 ($15,000 each).

- Airport – Wilkinson Boulevard – Recognizing the ongoing planning for a modified roadway system, and a major entrance off Wilkinson Boulevard, the Airport staff and Public Art Commission have begun planning for a new artwork at the intersection of Wilkinson Boulevard and Little Rock Road. In mid June, the Public Art Commission and Airport staff will review the design concepts by three finalists: Ed Carpenter, the team of Andrew Ginzel and Kristin Jones, and Barbara Grygutis. All of these artists are nationally recognized for their work of monumental scale. The artist's budget will be $381,000.

- Eastland Fire Station #42 - For the new station, the Fire Department has requested that iron gates be commissioned for the facility. Applications have been received from 11 regional artists, and the Public Art Commission will review and select a finalist on June 3rd. The artist's budget will be $50,000.

- West Trade Street/Beatties Ford Road Corridor - One of the priorities for Business Corridor development is West Trade Street and the I-77 Underpass. The Public Art Commission is working with the City's Neighborhood and Business Development team, and our regional NC DOT office to get permission to work within the state controlled interstate corridor at this location. A state-wide policy allowing public art enhancements within these corridors is being drafted for approval. Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) is collaborating and willing to assist with funding, once we receive state approval to move forward. The artist's budget will be $125,000, with an additional $75,000 contribution from JCSU.

FY 11 Public Art Allocation

This chart below lists the proposed General Fund public art projects for FY11 and the total allocation of $307,000. Upon approval, Arts & Science Council, Public Art Commission, and City staff will work during the coming months to develop these projects. The sites for the public art will be selected according to Council's guidelines: highly visible, on City property, on property of funding source, geographically distributed, and with use of pooled dollars if needed to create maximum impact of the public art project.

FY11 Proposed Pooling Opportunities	Public Art Allocation
Business Corridors	$75,000
North Tryon	$95,000
Fire Headquarters	$100,000
Providence Station	$37,000
Total General CIP-Public Art	$307,000

Next Steps

The Arts & Science Council and Public Art Commission will work with City staff during FY11 to complete the aforementioned Public Art projects. In accordance with Council Policy, Council will receive a mid-year update on the status of these Public Art projects at a November 2010 Dinner Briefing.

Sincerely,

Jean Greer
Vice President, Public Art, Arts & Science Council