



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

**News Release**

[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)

222 West Hargett Street • P.O. Box 590 • Raleigh, NC 27602-0590  
ph.919.996.3100 • TDD.919.996.3107 • fx.919.996.7621

Jayne Kirkpatrick, Director, Public Affairs  
Prepared by: John Boyette Jr., Senior Public Affairs Specialist

For more information: Kim Curry-Evans, Public Art Coordinator, Arts Commission,  
919-996-4688

Dec. 10, 2013

## **City Selects Artist for Public Art at Downtown Remote Operations Facility**

The City of Raleigh's Public Art and Design Board has approved artist Ilan Averbuch to create site-specific public art for the City's Downtown Remote Operations Facility. The sculpture is titled "Communicating Vessels."

Inspired by the tools and instruments of the various activities that take place at the new facility, the artist conceived a Cor-Ten steel and granite curbstone sculpture that will be over 17 feet tall and 31 feet long.

"The title, 'Communicating Vessels,' alludes to the law of communicating vessels, a principle of physics that states that all interconnected vessels filled with water will arrive at the same horizontal height of water, regardless of the forms and volumes," said Mr. Averbuch, who resides in Long Island City, New York. "The departments of the Downtown Remote Operations Facility keep the City moving through their united efforts, not unlike the equilibrium in the law of communicating vessels. The sculpture is at some level a statement about teamwork."

The Public Art and Design Board's artist selection panel selected Mr. Averbuch based on his experience creating transformative site-integrated artwork and working with City agencies. The selection panel was comprised in part by a member of the Public Art and Design Board, a community member, an arts and design professional, and a City staff representative

"Raleigh will be getting a striking and thoughtful sculpture by an internationally known artist," said Clymer Cease, artist selection panel chair and chair of the Public Art and Design Board. "Ilan Averbuch was selected from more than 200 applicants, and we look forward to seeing the artwork installed next year."

For almost 25 years, Mr. Averbuch has created public art sculptures addressing architecture and the neighborhoods around them. One of Mr. Averbuch's best-known works is the "Little Prince" sculpture located at Rose Garden arena in Portland, Ore. His artwork can be seen across the United States and Israel.

The Downtown Remote Operations Facility is a 12-building complex under construction on Westinghouse Boulevard, just east of Capital Boulevard and north of Interstate 440. It will initially house components of the City's Street Maintenance and Vehicle Fleet Services divisions and the City's Traffic Engineering Program. The site also will include public natural areas and walking trails.

Public art at selected City of Raleigh sites is authorized by the Half Percent for Art Ordinance adopted by the City Council in 2009 and implemented by the City's Public Art and Design Board and the City of Raleigh Arts Commission.

The Office of Raleigh Arts supports and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the City's Public Art and Design Board and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma arts centers. The Office of Raleigh Arts is a part of the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

For more information, contact [Kim.Curry-Evans@raleighnc.gov](mailto:Kim.Curry-Evans@raleighnc.gov) or the Office of Raleigh Arts, 919-996-3610, or visit [www.raleighnc.gov/arts](http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts).

{**NOTE:** Attached is an image of a conceptual drawing of Ilan Averbuch's "Communicating Vessels."}