



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

News Release

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City Selects Artist Consultants for Public Art at Market and Exchange Plazas

The City of Raleigh's Public Art and Design Board has approved artists David McConnell and Matt McConnell to work as public art consultants for the Market and Exchange Plazas renovations.

The Public Art and Design Board's artist selection panel recommended the artists based on their holistic approach to integrating functional art elements that will enhance the sites. The two artists, who are not related, also were recommended because of their experience in providing inexpensive solutions that maximize the opportunities available.

"We are honored to be selected as consulting artists," David McConnell said. "We look forward to bringing our experience and vision to the project. It's exciting to be part of a talented and experienced team of professionals who embrace the role of art in the community, and who are committed to the enhancement of the public experience downtown."

David McConnell lives and works in Raleigh and Asheville. He is a visual artist with a focus on painting and sound installation. He is also a musician, noted for his involvement as collaborator, producer and engineer for Elliott Smith's final album, "From a Basement on the Hill." He has extensive collaborative experience with a wide range of art and design professionals.

Matt McConnell's experience with architectural integration and collaboration spans 18 years and includes direct work with engineers, architects, industrial designers, landscape architects and other professionals. Currently, he is managing a public art project for the Town of Cary. The project is a movie marquee designed with Chicago artist Lynn Basa in collaboration with Quinn Evans Architects in Washington, D.C. and the Town of Cary.

The City of Raleigh is planning to redesign Market and Exchange plazas, both located in the heart of Downtown. The two pedestrian plazas are outdated. The project will address but is not limited to plaza design, drainage and storm water mitigation design, and landscape and lighting plans. The objective is to create dynamic and flexible plazas that mitigate storm water issues and fulfill today's needs as Downtown destinations. Redevelopment of the plazas is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2015.

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.

For more information, email Kim.curry-evans@raleighnc.gov; contact the Office of Raleigh Arts, 919-996-3610; or visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov/arts.

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.