



**City of Raleigh Arts Commission
Report on January – June 2011 Accomplishments
Submitted by June Guralnick, Executive Director, Raleigh Arts Commission**

The Arts Commission's 2010-2011 overarching goal, to embody "good to great" principles modeling best practices in Arts Commission programs, meetings, and other related operations and activities, was successful on a number of fronts:

ARTS FUNDING: The City of Raleigh Arts Grant Program is the official vehicle for municipal support to the city's arts organizations. The Arts Commission Grants Committee conducted an in-depth review of all grant applications in March and recommended 39 grants/leases be funded. The successful Commissioner and arts agency led advocacy effort to maintain per capita allocation for the arts at \$4.50 per resident will result in a total of \$1,460,000 distributed to local arts groups for the coming fiscal year. (Visit the Arts Commission grant web-pages to learn more about funded organizations and projects.)

PUBLIC ART: Roll-out of third round of successful temporary public art project **Art-On-The-Move** (original art by local artists on the sides of city buses), as well as permanent installation of designs from past **Art-On-The-Move** projects in new City Transit Operations Building. The new **Raleigh Percent for Art** program has two sites already selected for public art, with artwork in final design stage by Vega Metals for Buffalo Road Aquatic Center and artist(s) soon to be selected for Halifax Park Community Center. Downtown Raleigh's **Art on City Plaza's** next exciting (temporary, one year) exhibition has been selected. Artworks by Robert Coon, Adam Walls, and Deborah Marucci will be installed in September. **Public Art Matters**, an ongoing educational/outreach initiative to integrate art into the visual fabric of the city, continues sponsoring events and art happenings. Additionally, the **Public Art & Design Board**, working with representatives from various city commissions and boards, are in the process of developing a new public art policy for the City of Raleigh.

AWARDS: Creative non-fiction author Scott Huler was selected as **2011 Piedmont Laureate** (the program is a state model for regional cultural initiatives) and activities throughout a five county area by the laureate are underway. Scott is the first creative non-fiction laureate selected in the U.S.! Original community laureate project includes **Words On The Move** (provocative interactive questions on the insides of municipal buses). For

more information, visit www.piedmontlaureate.com. 2011 **Artist of Tomorrow** student scholarship recipients selected and award ceremony for students held as part of Wake County school arts celebration. Successful fundraisers in collaboration with local arts galleries to support **Artist of Tomorrow** annual scholarship program for high school seniors pursuing a career in the arts are in planning stage for the fall.

EXHIBITIONS: Well-attended exhibitions at **Block Gallery**, the 2296 square feet municipal building exhibition space in operation for 27 years. The gallery showcases the work of local artists with interdisciplinary events offered at each opening, as well as interviews and commentary by the artists via phone recordings and video interviews. Additionally, **Block2**, the latest venture by the Raleigh Arts Commission to connect artists to community, features innovative videos and films projected on the window of downtown Urban Design Center.

Block/Block2 exhibitions from January-June:

- **National Arts Program Exhibition** in partnership with United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County - featuring artwork by employees and their families;
- **Listenings** - featuring printmaking by Christopher Williams, photography by Jimmy Williams, mixed media by Heather Gordon and video by Ali Coleen Neff;
- **(Un)veiled** - featuring mixed media works by Ann Marie Kennedy, fiber art by Ann Roth, mixed media paintings by Aditya Shringarpure, ceramics by Marina Bosetti, and video by Hidden Voices;
- **Inked: Printmaking 2011** - featuring prints by Daniel Allegrucci, Soni Martin, Susan Martin, Brandon Sanderson, and Mike Sonnichsen, curated by Gretchen Morrisey, and video by Wenhua Shi.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The Arts Commission continues to share cultural information and ideas with the public through expanded web pages on the city's platform and widely distributed e-resources (including bi-weekly **Raleigh Arts Flash**) as well as print materials including exhibition catalogues, posters, postcards and flyers. **Protea Digital** worked with key stakeholders over six months to provide an Electronic Communications Report which proposes various recommendations to integrate social media communication tools into Arts Commission e-platforms. Over the next year, the Arts Commission will be building its social media platforms. The Commission has already created **facebook** pages for Block Gallery and *Art-On-The-Move!*

For more information on these and other City of Raleigh Arts Commission programs, visit www.raleighnc.gov/arts or call 919.996.3610. **THINK ART!**