



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

News Release

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July 31, 2013

City Selects Artist for Public Art at Tennis Center

The City of Raleigh's Public Art and Design Board has approved artist Jim Gallucci to create site-specific public art for the Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center. One of Mr. Gallucci's best known works is the "Light Towers" sculpture located at City Plaza in Downtown Raleigh.

The Public Art and Design Board's artist selection panel --- comprised of a board member, a community member, an arts and design professional and a City staff representative --- recommended Mr. Gallucci to create artwork at the Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center. The selection was based on Mr. Gallucci's experience creating aesthetically pleasing site-integrated artwork at other athletic facilities and his demonstrated experience working with City agencies.

"We are pleased to select Jim Gallucci to design and fabricate metalwork to be integrated into the new facility," said Rory Parnell, artist selection panel chair and member of the Public Art and Design Board. "He is an excellent choice to create a piece that will excite and engage visitors to the tennis center."

For more than 30 years, Mr. Gallucci has created public art sculptures relating to historic places, people and events. He believes a commissioned work of public art should speak to the public at large and also satisfy those who have commissioned it. He strives to create pieces that are not just accessible but inspiring.

"I'm excited about the tennis center project and looking forward to working in Raleigh again," said Mr. Gallucci, who resides in Greensboro.

Mr. Gallucci received bachelor's and master's degrees in fine art from Syracuse University. His artwork can be seen throughout North Carolina and across the United States.

The Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center will be located on nearly nine acres at the City-owned Barwell Road Park, where a community center has been developed in conjunction with a Wake County elementary school. The planned tennis center, designed by HagerSmith Design PA, will consist of a building of approximately 4,000 square feet, 20-plus outdoor tennis courts, and associated parking and site amenities.

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.

Established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, the City of Raleigh Arts Commission holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Arts Commission's myriad activities foster, support and promote the arts in the Capital City.

For more information, contact Kim.curry-evans@raleighnc.gov or the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, 919-996-3610, or visit www.raleighnc.gov/arts.

{**NOTE:** Attached is an image of Jim Gallucci's "Light Towers" sculpture in Downtown Raleigh.}