

STAFF PHOTO BY LESLIE BARBOUR

Scroggs Elementary fourth-graders Kirsten Macleod, left, Briana Merrigan, center, and Rebecca Macklin add creative touches to the fabric patchwork that will go on display in a school stairway.

ART UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Scroggs' fourth-graders making mural of fabric

BY PATRICK WINN
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — Run your hand along the wall in Scroggs Elementary School's big, sunlit stairway.

That's the feel of a bare wall painted white.

Wait until late March, though. Then you'll feel the warmth of fabric — swaths of linen, velveteen, corduroy and silk all sewn together.

Under the direction of Carrboro artist Peg Gignoux, the elementary school's fourth-graders are painting and piecing together a giant fabric patchwork that will go on display permanently in the high-traffic stairway.

The piece — expected to be about 5 feet tall and 20 feet long — will flood the otherwise drab walls with kaleidoscopic color.

"It'll be like a new school," said fourth-grader Ana Melone.

Gignoux is the first in the Chapel Hill

ONLINE

Fabric artist Peg Gignoux's bio and portfolio can be viewed at www.ingignouxity.com

Public Arts Commission's new education-focused initiative "Artists@Work." The intent is to bring artists into local schools for an extended project, giving students a feel for how a professional artist really works.

All five fourth-grade classes at Scroggs Elementary will have a hand in the finished piece.

Eventually, it will look like "dancing stripes running across the wall," Gignoux said.

But Gignoux and the fourth-graders are still in the process of dyeing, painting, cutting up and sewing together cuts of fabric.

On Tuesday morning, a class of about 20 students in aprons painted free-form circles on fabric already dyed by another class.

A trio of girls set out to adorn their cotton square with neat purple and pink circles.

For the four boys at the other end of the table, quantity was the name of the game.

"Come on, boys, we need more small ones!" said James Stonecypher.

By the time his class was lining up to leave, James and his crew were boasting that they had filled six sheets with circles — more than any other group. This called for high-fives.

Gignoux chose an abstract design because it could be broken down into "manageable fun bites."

"When you do that, it dispels the fears of, 'Oh, I'm not an artist.'"

Gignoux has also done projects with UNC Hospitals, Durham Academy and Meredith College, among other institutions. She is being paid \$2,000 by the Chapel Hill Arts Commission for her two weeks at Scroggs Elementary.

Contact staff writer Patrick Winn at 932-8742 or pwinn@nando.com

CHAPEL HILL
NEWS

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2006



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Local children celebrate their graduation from kindergarten in this photograph circa 1952.

A peek into the past

Black History Month exhibit at Town Hall features old snapshots, school portraits, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia

BY DAVE HART
STAFF WRITER

The 10 graduates stand in three rows on the brick steps in front of what is now the Hargraves Center. Each holds in one hand a rolled-up diploma, and they wear identical robes and mortarboard caps, which perch at all variety of angles. Two boys look off to the side at someone beyond the frame; one or two others smile proudly, and one young boy in the front row gazes into the lens with a look that seems to say, "OK, I've beaten kindergarten. What else you got for me?" Whether that's actually what's going through his mind, we don't know, but he may well have been looking forward to getting out of that robe and into his play clothes. Like all photographs, this one — taken around 1952 — captures the most fleeting of moments. But those moments, collectively over time, portray the history of a community. And for the next six weeks, the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission will display a collection of such images depicting the history of Chapel Hill's black community. The show, celebrating Black History Month, will be on display at Chapel Hill Town Hall

IF YOU GO

The town of Chapel Hill and the Public Arts Commission will present the 2006 Black History Month Exhibition at Chapel Hill Town Hall from Friday through March 17.

An opening reception is scheduled for Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be provided, and a local choir will present live music.

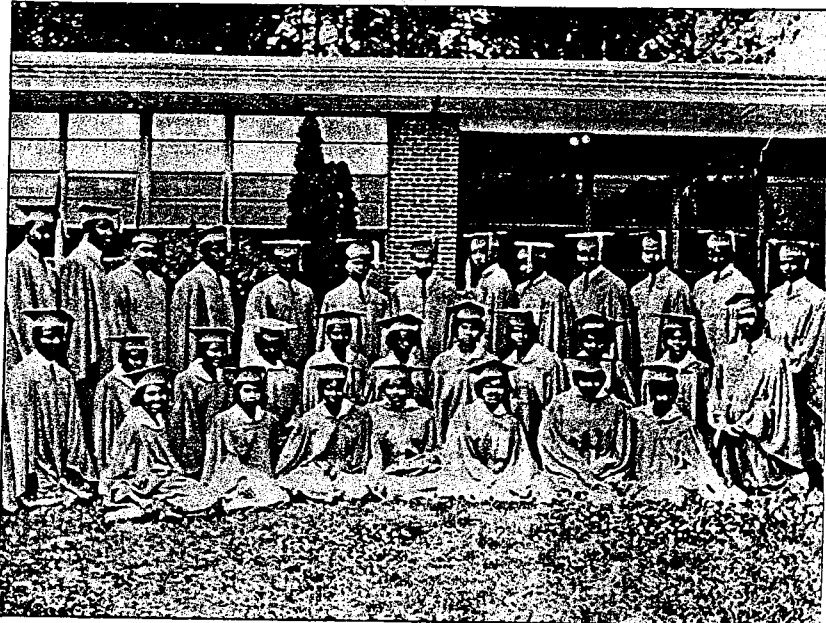
The reception and show are free and open to the public.

through March 17.

An opening reception, with refreshments and music by a local choir, will be Friday at Town Hall from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The reception and show are free and open to the public.

This year's show, like last year's, is built largely on lent and contributed memorabilia from people in the community. Organizers have gathered old photographs, school portraits, newspaper clippings and other materials to create an exhibit that offers a fascinating look

SEE PAST, B3



The students pictured in the 1952 kindergarten photograph grew to become the 1964 graduating class of seniors at Lincoln High School, portrayed here in a group shot taken in front of the school (now the Lincoln Center, housing the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system's administrative offices). Both images are among the materials on display in Town Hall through March 17.

PAST

FROM PAGE B1

into the past.

"People in the community have come up with a lot of really wonderful things," said Kate Flory, head of the Public Arts Commission. "Last year's exhibit was very successful; the Chapel Hill Museum lent some materials, and local photographer Bob Gilgor let us use a bunch of photos from his collection, and we got a lot of great pictures and stories from people in town.

"We did much the same thing this year. We sent out a call for photos and memorabilia, and we got so much back that we formed a committee to sort through and select the pieces for the show."

Some of the old photographs that have come in have little if any identifying information, Flory said. If last year's event is any guide, some of the unidentified people in the pictures will be identified by the time the exhibition wraps up.

"Last year, people kept coming up and looking at pictures and going, 'Oh, my gosh, that's my cousin,'" she said. "So this year whenever we have a picture we don't have IDs for, we're going to give people a way to write that information in if they see a picture of someone they know."

Prominent in the show is Lincoln High School, the local high school (now Lincoln Center, the administrative offices for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district) for black students in the years before integration. From photos, class portraits, school newspapers

and other materials from Lincoln are a reminder of the school's important role in the community in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

Esther McCauley, president of the Lincoln High School Alumni Association, gathered many of the items — some of them from her own family.

"My mother had five children, all of whom went to Lincoln," said McCauley, who was in the Lincoln High class of 1952. "She was proud of us, and she saved everything: report cards, school newspapers, homework, all kinds of things.

"It brings back those days to look at those things. You remember the things and activities you did, your friends and some of your exploits."

There's at least one item you probably won't see in the show.

"I found one report card of mine, and somebody looked at it and said, 'I don't think you want to put that one on display,'" McCauley said with a laugh. "I did pull that grade up, though."

Other images in the show depict church choirs, munitions workers at Carr Mill, local businesses and other people and institutions.

Last year's show, McCauley said, included some stark reminders of the difficult years of the early civil rights movement: copies of arrest reports for people arrested during protests.

"Some of those names were people who had been my friends in school, and I didn't even know that they had been active in the civil rights movement, that they were willing to go through that," she said. "When people see this exhibit, what they will see are people proud of their heritage."

[\[back\]](#)



Heart for art

By ROB SHAPARD, The Herald-Sun
December 18, 2005 9:11 pm

CHAPEL HILL -- If any place could use some good public art, surely a leading candidate is the concrete and asphalt landscape of two of Chapel Hill's downtown parking areas.

If you're a local or a visitor from Durham or beyond, you won't exactly find much reason to linger around your car once parked in those areas. People tend to walk away fairly briskly, heading to the restaurants, shops and other destinations on Franklin and Rosemary streets.

The town of Chapel Hill wants to change that experience dramatically for residents and visitors, with public art as a key piece of the effort. A well-established landscape architect and public artist, who has done work from Connecticut to Korea, will oversee the effort.

It figures to be the town's biggest public-art undertaking by far, in terms of money and visibility. The project also reinforces the town's position among the leaders in public art in North Carolina in a couple of ways.

For one, Chapel Hill is among only three local governments in the state with a "percent-for-art" requirement, mandating a specific level of funding for public-arts projects, said Jeff York, director of public art and community design for the N.C. Arts Council in Raleigh. He cited Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Asheville as the others.

Chapel Hill's ordinance calls for the town's own capital projects to include 1 percent of the project's total cost to be devoted to public art.

"For a town the size of Chapel Hill to have a percent-for-art program is remarkable, for the people and government to recognize public art is an important part of developing the community [and] giving Chapel Hill that identity that maybe some other communities don't have," said York.

"They are definitely on the leading edge of that, taking the bold step of going with these larger-scale projects," he said.

In Durham, public art has its supporters, but the funding has come mainly from private sources. It figures in projects such as the park that the nonprofit Durham Central Park Inc. is developing along with the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

"Durham is certainly interested in public art," said Margaret DeMott of the Durham Arts Council. "It does happen here, both permanent and temporary installations. On the whole, they're private efforts."

The idea of pushing for a similar percent-for-art requirement is getting some discussion, but it's not clear

where that might lead, she said.

"It's pretty much impossible to talk about public art without talking about all the arts and cultural assets of the community, from the marching bands in the high schools, to the church choirs, the symphony and our historic architecture," DeMott argued. "My first wish would be that we look at that whole constellation of assets, and that public art is part of that but not singled out as a separate initiative."

Chapel Hill has also drawn kudos from arts advocates such as York for signing up artists relatively early in the design process for building projects. The notion of "integrating the public art" in the overall design is the catch phrase -- rather than completing the design first, and then picking some of the remaining space for the artworks.

"[The town] is really making art a part of the aesthetic design of Chapel Hill," York said. "They're not just talking afterthoughts."

The two downtown parking areas getting major attention in Chapel Hill are a parking lot along West Franklin, Church and West Rosemary streets, and a deck along the eastern stretch of Rosemary.

The town and a private partner, Ram Development, are crafting plans to build condos, retail shops and public gathering space on the lot. Over on East Rosemary, the plan is to keep the deck intact, while building residential units on and around the deck, and some retail space near Henderson Street as well.

Recent, but tentative, development totals have been in the range of \$75 million to \$80 million. That could push the public-art funding that Ram will provide to as high as \$800,000.

By comparison, the percent-for-art funding for the town's new public works and transit center is about \$421,000. State and federal transit grants are covering slightly more than a third of that cost.

The town's other percent-for-art works completed so far include a sculpture at a fire station (\$9,000), benches along Franklin Street (\$9,900), a tile mosaic at the town's old town hall, currently the location of the IFC homeless shelter and kitchen (\$4,500), and murals at the Hargraves Community Center (\$23,000).

For the downtown redevelopment projects, the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission recently chose Mikiyoung Kim as the lead artist. Kim immediately took a seat with Ram's team working on the designs, and her first job will be to help paint the broad strokes of the public art within the projects.

As part of that job, she will recommend some general parameters for two to four public artworks in the projects.

The plan is for Kim then to get the commission for one of those works, while the arts commission would find artists for the other one to three works, said Janet Kagan, head of the arts commission's percent-for-art program.

Kim was in town last week from her firm's base in Brookline, Mass. She has a master's degree in landscape architecture from Harvard's design school, and she also chairs the Urban Design and Landscape Architecture department at the Rhode Island School of Design.

"I think the role of art is to take a place that's already special and make it even more special, a place where people really want to come together," Kim said.

She said she wasn't ready to give specifics about the art for Chapel Hill, but she described herself as "forward-looking," rather than nostalgic. She said her work is "very contemporary and abstract, but it always has layers of meaning that are grounded in the specific place."

Kim, 38, said Chapel Hill so far had struck her as very similar to Cambridge, Mass., in the architecture and overall feel of the place.

"It's got a lot of strong architecture," Kim said. "The feeling of the town is quite peaceful [and] charming."

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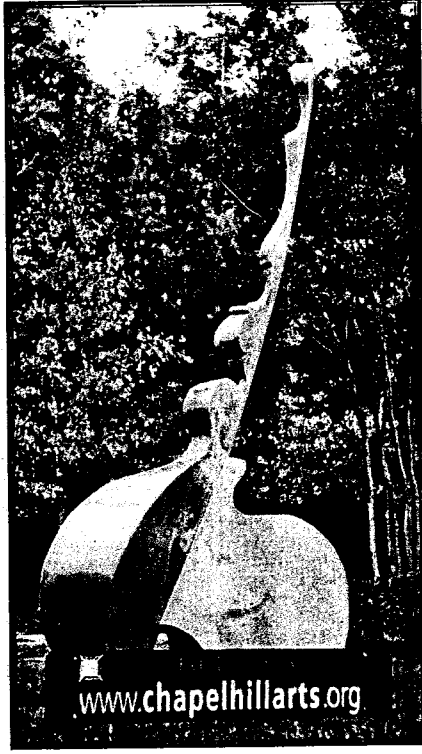
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[\[back\]](#)

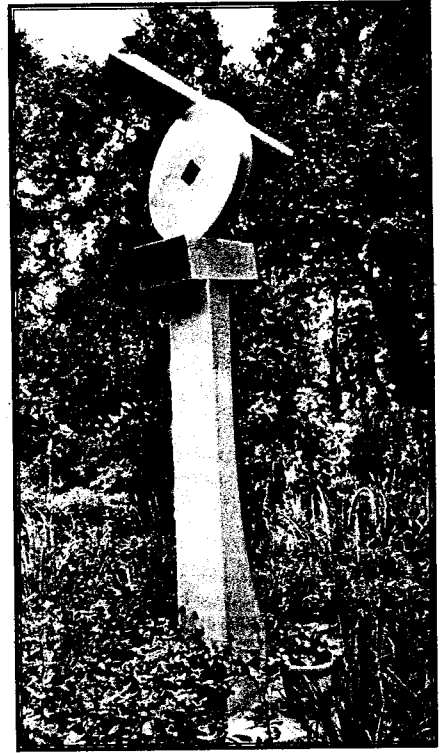
the ART of **COMMUNITY**



DOUG MAKEMSON
CRANE CLIMBER
Hargraves Community Center
Chrome, Steel | 8' x 3' x 4'6"



ROBERT COON
LET THE COASTS DEFEND THEMSELVES
The Chapel Hill Town Library
Painted Aluminum | 12' x 3' x 2"



WAYNE TRAPP
WINDMILL
Private Owner
Powder-Coated Steel | 16' x 4' x 4'

DTH PHOTOS/STEVE ANDRAWES AND SCARLETT MILLER

Chapel Hill resident Terry Barnett (top of page) shows off his sculpture, named "Sun Search," which he purchased from the public art commission's 2004 "Sculpture Visions" exhibition.

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Arts commission calls for new works

BY OLIVIA WEBB
STAFF WRITER
September 09, 2005

The Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission is looking for local artists to submit work for its 2006 exhibition series.

The commission will select original two- and three-dimensional pieces to display in the Chapel Hill Public Library and the town hall.

"The library and the town hall are great venues," said Kate Flory, CHPAC's executive director.

"It may be that people do not expect to find art in these places, and when they discover it by accident, well that's wonderful," she said.

Flory encourages anyone in the local community, as well as students, to apply.

"We have had great feedback from the community," she said, "and it has given some artists opportunities to sell their work."

Artists must send ten slides or digital images of their work, as well as a résumé, an image identification sheet that names all of their pieces, a \$10 application fee and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Flory said submitted works will be judged for quality by a panel of local artists and members of the CHPAC sometime in October.

The chosen artists will fill the 2006 exhibition schedule, which will include six shows in the town hall and six in the public library. The shows will last six to eight weeks each, and each venue will hold two to three artists at a time.

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Kathleen Thompson, head librarian, said patrons have responded very positively to the art that is already being displayed at the library: the work of local mother-and-son artists Carol and Alex Nagy.

The Nagys produce mixed-media painting and photography.

"People love it," Thompson said. "We see a lot of people coming into the library to check out books and then staying in the lobby to look at the artwork."

"I'm a firm believer in the rotation of art in public libraries," she said.

Nineteen-year-old Alex Nagy sees artwork like his as a representation of the community as a whole.

"People can get a sense of the kind of people that live in the community by seeing the artwork that is produced here," he said.

"It is positive for the community to see the artwork that is created in this environment so that they can relate to it, comment on it, or just be a part of the viewing process."

The postmark deadline for submissions to the CHPAC is Sept. 26, 2005. More information is available at www.chapelhillarts.org.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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News

Published: Jul 26, 2005

Proposed park art draws rave reviews

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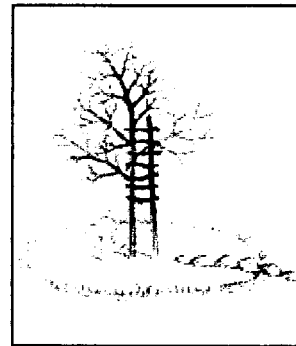
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CHAPEL HILL – Judging by the artwork, Southern Community Park off Dogwood Acres Drive will be as much a natural history museum as a recreation hot spot.



Submitted art

The fire piece is a proposed element of the Southern Community Park.

Natural, because the artwork has elemental themes: earth, air, water, fire, flora and fauna.

Historical, because most of the pieces will tie into some facet of Chapel Hill's past: a water wheel that conjures the old Purefoy mill, a ladder (to heaven) memorializing the churches once on the site, a stone ring marking what once was an iron mine.

The concepts designed by Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan, a husband-wife team from Seattle, won rave reviews at a Monday afternoon meeting of the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission.

But paying for all their ideas will be the trick.

Commission members spent the afternoon deciding which elements were musts and prioritizing the nice-to-haves.

One definite is the large stone ring with a cairn made of local stone excavated from the site of the \$3 million, 74-acre park, expected to be completed by early 2007.

Others are:

- A stone circle surrounded by wild grass that would blow in the wind, symbolizing air.
- Two circular wetlands pools will be built. If money is available, they could be

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accompanied by two shelters featuring, respectively, a water wheel and a "sculptural drainpipe derived from cotton gin screws and distillery coils."

- Stone markers at the north and south entrances of the park, again made from native stone.

Atop the list of add-on items is the fire piece.

A felled tree would be fashioned into rungs and one ladder post, painted red, and then attached to a living tree.

It commemorates not only the historic sites of New Hope Chapel and Mount Carmel Church, but also the slaves who had to meet in the woods to worship.

A big-ticket art project is the gate slated for the three soccer fields on the site. It would feature a tree ring made of steel in the center.

Committee members love it, but aren't sure they can afford it, with an art budget of about \$30,000. The money comes from the town's "1 Percent for Art" program, which earmarks 1 percent of the total construction budget of any town project for public art.

Money also will determine if foot bridges over two creeks and benches that look like dog bones for the dog park will be built.

The money situation won't be resolved for months, said Kate Billings Flory, executive director of the commission.

Officials need to figure out how much of the artwork can be included in the contract for the builder of the park. They'll have a better sense of just how far that \$30,000 will go when bids come in for the project this fall.

Because the art is intended to meld with the landscape, arts leaders are hopeful the contractor can perform many of the art projects.

Some committee members also suggested getting volunteer labor, such as someone pursuing Eagle Scout status, to perform one or more of the projects.

Billings Flory also is hopeful that donors will step forward to pay for some of the items considered extras.

Would-be patrons can contact her at 968-2888, ext. 377.

Contact Matt Dees at 932-8760 or mdees@newsobserver.com



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News

Published: Apr 22, 2005

Foy: IFC shelter mosaic 'makes my day'

Artist Sally Erickson depicts everyday symbols of shelter, Chapel Hill community.



By MARK SCHULTZ, STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — The hands are palms up, fingertips facing each other. You can't tell whether they're giving or receiving, and for artist Sally Erickson, that's just the point.

"The Fine Line Between Giving and Receiving," Erickson's waist-to-ceiling mosaic, now graces the walls of Community House, the Inter-Faith Council's community kitchen and men's homeless shelter at

100 W. Rosemary St.

Local officials unveiled the art, made of broken floor tiles, Wednesday afternoon.

"I love it," Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy said. "To me, it's the embodiment of public art. One of the things we hope to develop in this town is the delight you get when you walk in unexpected and encounter something like this.

"This makes my day."

Erickson, a psychotherapist, created the mosaic with partner Tim Bennett and apprentice Erick Davis.

It contains symbols of everyday routines at the shelter — a coffee cup embedded in the tiles, a stethoscope representing the clinic there. It also has images of the town: trees, a church and other buildings with mirrored windows where people can see their reflections.

"We don't solve problems," Erickson said of artists. "We create things. We create things we want. That's what I've had the privilege of doing here: to create something new."

The mural cost \$4,500, paid for by a town program that dedicates 1 percent of town construction budgets to public art.

Erickson interviewed homeless people and IFC volunteers, and got some of them to help her break the tile during workdays, said Kate Flory, executive director of the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission.

"We really got a bargain," Flory said. "She put in a ton of time, meeting with people, interviewing, just her vision. I really feel as a mosaic artist we got her at a good time in her career. She's becoming well known."

The public art program has drawn criticism. Some residents have questioned spending taxpayer dollars on art at such places as Chapel Hill's new town operations center, being built on Mill House Road. The town has spent \$46,000 on public art since the ordinance was enacted three years ago,

Flory said.

But Foy, who made public art part of his campaign platform when he first ran for mayor more than a decade ago, defended it.

"If you view art as frivolous and unnecessary, then you say let's cut it," Foy said. "But if you view it as integral to the soul of the community, then it's not the first thing you go after."

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Community realizes dreams in art

More than 300 pieces put on display

BY MONA SONI

STAFF WRITER

Two months ago, the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission asked local artists, "What do you dream?"

Now the answers are in, and they range from fire-breathing dragons to time-defiant felines.

The community art project will hold its kickoff reception today from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Museum.

The reception will include live music and refreshments, and it is free and open to the public.

"The theme (dream) was chosen to be very accessible so that people of all ages, as well as artists and nonartists alike, could submit work," said Kate Flory, executive director of the commission.

She added that the commission wanted to select a theme the community could interpret in many different ways.

Cory Oskardmay, a 9-year-old from Chapel Hill, submitted a pencil drawing of dragons.

He said he was inspired by the dragons he drew in art class.

"I drew dragons because I like dragons," said Oskardmay. "I like to think of them flying, breathing fire and flying."

Every piece of artwork submit-

ted is now hanging from the walls of the eight exhibit locations.

"We had about 320 submissions," Flory said, adding that the artists applied a variety of approaches and mediums for their works.

Submissions included drawings, paintings, photography, clay sculptures, fabrics, digitalized pieces and audio pieces.

"We only required that it be able to hang on a wall," Flory said. "But we never said it had to be 2-D, so a lot of sculptures were also submitted."

Barbara Ziff, an artist from Chapel Hill who works primarily with watercolor and mixed media, submitted a piece that used water colors, colored pencils and acrylics on watercolor paper.

"It's a dreamy state of mind, thinking of cats," she said of her selection. "I used mainly greens and blues, and the cats are white."

Ziff said she was inspired by the idea of things not being what they seem and the idea of traveling from one reality to another — which she thinks cats are able to do.

The area is displaying the artwork in locations across Chapel Hill and Carrboro, including the museum, East End Gallery at The



DTH/JANIE TARMAN

Livingston Sheets and Elizabeth Hill talk at Jack Sprat Cafe on Wednesday. The cafe is one of many area locations showing pieces of local public art.

ArtsCenter, the South Elliott Road Senior Center, the PTA Thrift Shop on South Elliott Road and Jack Sprat Cafe at 161 E. Franklin St.

"We decided to participate in showcasing artwork because it seemed like a fun and interesting project," said Steve Dorozenski, an owner of Jack Sprat, which opened this fall.

"I'd rather have art on the walls than I don't know what else."

He said having artwork in the cafe creates a great ambiance, and he liked the fact that the artists ranged from 8-year-olds to pro-

fessionals.

"Any time you put something on the wall, it creates a different environment and dialogue," he said.

Barbara Jessie-Black, executive director of the PTA Thrift Shop, said showcasing artwork creates a mini gallery-type look to her shop.

More information about the project, as well as exhibit locations, can be found at <http://www.communityartproject.org/>.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

[\[back\]](#)

Glass artist expects to make the cut

By Robin Roger, The Herald-Sun
February 24, 2005 7:07 pm

CHAPEL HILL -- The Homestead Park Aquatic Center will not open until fall 2006, but an artist in Philadelphia eagerly awaits word on when he can start cutting glass for its entryway.

Ray King, an artist specializing in modern glass creations, said he looks forward to working with the architects once they have updated their plans for the center. The project hit a snag in January and the architects will have to redesign some aspects of the building to make it more energy-efficient.

Since King has integrated the design of his art project with the design of the building, he must wait.

King's design will reflect the nature of the water in the swimming pools at the center, focusing on how the light plays among the ripples, like in a brook. He will use coated glass that reflects the light like a colored mirror. He plans to layer blocks of glass to make what he calls a "parfait" and cut cylinders of the material.

King will then drill shallow holes in the floor of the entryway and set the glass disks in the openings. They will become part of the floor themselves.

"This is a piece that you walk upon like a carpet," he said. "The people who use the aquatic center will experience it and it is something that will grow in them and be different each time they come."

King said he will spend six months making the glass disks and one week installing them. The art project will cost roughly \$55,000. Under the Percent for Art Ordinance, passed by the Town Council in 2002, a portion of the aquatic center's budget will pay for the project.

According to the ordinance, the council decides annually to dedicate 1 percent of the budgets for specific capital improvement plans to public art. Projects chosen this year include public art works at the Town Operations Center, Southern Community Park and the Inter-Faith Council's homeless shelter.

"It may seem like a lot of money to spend on art, but art is one of the things that helps define Chapel Hill and create a more livable community," said Jeffrey Cohen, chairman of the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission.

The commission works with the council in the artist selection process. A committee that includes representatives from the commission, the council, the Parks and Recreation Department and community members choose three finalists, whose plans were exhibited at the public library, along with comment books.

"We got lots of feedback that was all taken into account," said Kate Flory, executive administrator of the commission.

The committee chose King in November. He has exhibited his work at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art in Sapporo, Japan. He refers to the project at the aquatic center as a dance with the architect.

"It's a marriage of art and architecture in that I'm using the floor of the center as a canvas and adding elements to that floor," King said.

Architect Josh Gurlitz said he thinks the art will add much to the building. He said he plans to develop windows and light sources to optimize the reflection of the disks in the floor.

"I'm hoping we'll work together on the patterns of the disks," he said. "I'm pretty excited about it."

Gurlitz added that the floor of the aquatic center will resemble the floor in the front of the library, which his architecture firm also designed. They used a material called terrazzo that consists of marble chips in a mold. The architects will install the material and ground it flat, and King will insert the glass disks in the surface.

King cannot begin work on the disks, however, until he hears from the architects about the most current plans. The architects need to make changes, including altering the position of the building on the property to make it more energy efficient. While the capital costs of building the facility might increase, the cost of operating the building could decrease with the addition of energy-efficient component.

Gurlitz said he did not think the changes would cause much of a delay in the project. He will wait on the council's decision, which he expects in the next month.

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[\[back\]](#)