

To Mayor Kevin C. Foy
From Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission
Date 25 July 2003
Re Percent for Art Projects: Creation of Public Art Review Committees (PARC)

The Town of Chapel Hill has approved the list of Capital Improvement Projects for 2003-2004, some of which are eligible for public art funds under the Percent for Public Art Ordinance. Each year, the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission presents its Annual Public Art Plan to the Town Council, which identifies locations for public art based on the current CIP. Considering these recommendations, the Council makes its final decisions regarding authorization of specific public art projects. This year, we will present our Annual Public Art Plan to the Town Council on Monday 25 August 2003, and ask that the Council consider our recommendations for new public art projects.

However, there are other projects cited in the CIP that are anticipated to be funded in future years, some of which may be potential projects for Percent for Art funds. For example, the new Town Operations Center, the proposed expansion of the Public Library, the Homestead Park Aquatic Center, elements of the Greenways Comprehensive Master Plan, and the Southern Community Park, some of which may be approved by the voters in November 2003 through a bond referendum. Currently, these projects are at different levels of analysis and review.

To successfully implement the Percent for Art Program, the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission has two subcommittees that may be convened to facilitate the inclusion of public art in Town projects. The Artist Selection Committee (ASC) is established once funds have been allocated for a particular project and the Commission may officially issue a Call for Artists; the Public Art Review Committee (PARC) may be assembled to either follow the project through completion, or before a final budget is determined in order to provide conceptual development of public art work(s) or public art program options. **Membership in a PARC includes, at a minimum, two members of the Public Arts Commission, the Town Manager or a designee, a representative of the department or organization that will be responsible for the capital project site, a representative of the prime consultant, and a representative of the Town Council.** When possible, a community member and arts professional also participate in this process.

Due to the complexity and size of the five above-mentioned projects, the Commission would like to assemble one PARC for each project in an effort to give preliminary guidance to their respective and prospective public art programs. We are making this request based on our experience participating on the Design Review Committee for the Town Operations Center, which demonstrated that it can be beneficial to a project to consider the inclusion of art during its earliest programming and design. The commitment to serve on a PARC should require no more than two meetings, each lasting approximately 90 minutes.

The Public Arts Commission therefore kindly requests that the Mayor and Council suggest their appointments to each of these Public Art Review Committees.