



Celebrate
Greensboro

Art. Culture. Entertainment.

The Community Foundation

Unique Public Art Endowment provides art to everyone and helps Greensboro begin to forge its new identity

“I once asked three little boys what they thought of a very offbeat sculpture,” recalls Jane Levy, a Greensboro art collector and philanthropist. “The first said it looked like a dinosaur. The second said it looked like an airplane. The third thought it looked like a piece of junk.

Although the mom was a bit embarrassed, I was thrilled that the art had opened up a world of imagination and engagement. And this certainly taught me to look at things differently. We need more conversations like this on the streets of Greensboro.”

And that’s why The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro created the Public Art Endowment in 2008. Like Levy, the foundation believes that art is closely tied to a city’s identity and its people. Through the generous contributions of endowment trustees, such as Levy and her husband Richard, new and significant pieces of art are installed in public places, breathing fresh life into Greensboro’s streets and parks.

The Public Art Endowment is a new model for public art programs nationally — one funded solely through private support and overseen by noted art professionals.

“[The endowment] is a very positive thing.



Billy Lee's *Guardian II* stands watch on the grounds of the Old Guilford County Courthouse.



Entrance to a Garden by Dennis Oppenheim, unveiled in September 2010, provides a touch of whimsy on the front lawn of the VF/Wrangler Corp. building downtown.

I wish we had them in every city,” said the late internationally renowned sculptor Dennis Oppenheim. Just months before he died in January, Oppenheim unveiled his *Entrance to a Garden* in Greensboro to great fanfare. “It’s got a very interesting role here,” he said of the endowment. “It’s unique. I’ve never come across anything quite like it. Anything that helps art operate in the public has got to be applauded, so I’m very grateful that they could make this happen.”

Each year, a selection committee of art experts and professionals vets pieces and appropriate prospective sites to put before trustees for a vote. The winning piece is then brought to Greensboro.

“When you stop and think how art has already changed your life as an individual, just think what it can do collectively for this entire community,” says Lauren Worth, who with her husband, David, co-chaired the endowment’s launch and recently contributed \$100,000. “We can’t do this alone. We need your support, we need your help.”

By design, endowment participation is

quite accessible. While full trustee membership is possible with gifts of \$25,000 or more, others can participate in “trustee groups” for as little as \$80 a month over five years. “Wealthy residents aren’t the only ones who appreciate art,” says Adeline Talbot, program director. “It was important to us that we shape a program that many, many people can join.”

“I’ve always been interested in art and have spent time educating myself by visiting museums, reading, and talking to artists and collectors,” says Adair Phifer Armfield, an endowment trustee. “However, I really know nothing about public art and am excited to have the opportunity to learn more about it and be part of a process in Greensboro that allows all the citizens to enjoy public art.”

For more information on The Public Art Endowment, visit cfigg.org.



thecommunityfoundation

The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro helps anyone who wants to make a significant impact — for life — on the causes about which they are passionate. As a trusted leader, the foundation brings people together to address issues and needs important to our local community.

For more about The Community Foundation and its role with art, visit cfigg.org.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION