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BEAVERTON ARTS COMMISSION TO UNVEIL NEW MAJOR PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE AT 28TH ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS SHOWCASE

BEAVERTON, Oregon (January 22, 2010) – The Beaverton Arts Commission will kick off the 28th Annual Visual Arts Showcase unveiling the design of a major sculptural work for the city that will be placed in City Park this fall. A model of the sculpture, will be on display throughout the duration of the 2-week art exhibition. The Visual Art Showcase will take place February 7-20 at the Beaverton City Library and is open to the public during Library hours. There is no charge for admission.

New Public Art Sculpture

The sculptural work entitled “Singing Sky” was created by Wisconsin artist Richard Taylor from a field of 235 applicants throughout the United States and British Columbia. The playful abstract shapes in the work will inspire the imagination of viewers of all ages and reflect the city’s diversity. With its vibrant color and 15’ height, the sculpture is certain to become a prominent landmark for Beaverton.

“I find an excitement and openness in a city such as Beaverton that has a rich blend of people and cultures,” states sculptor, Richard Taylor. “My concept was to suggest the liveliness of diversity in the varying shapes, which makes up the sculpture – to design elements differing from one another in many ways, yet harmonizing as a unified whole. I’m proud to know it will be going to such a wonderful home in the park as it cheerfully overlooks the children who play in the fountain, the shoppers at the Farmer’s Market, and all the residents that congregate in the park for years to come.”

Beaverton Visual Arts Showcase

Taylor’s sculpture model will be presented alongside a collection of 114 works of art in a variety of media created by Oregon artists on display at the Beaverton Arts Commission’s Visual Arts Showcase – the largest collection ever presented in the Library. A panel of judges selected the works for this year’s Visual Arts Showcase from more than 400 submitted. The art exhibition and sale will include sculpture, mixed media, watercolors, oils, acrylics, photography, prints, drawings, pastels and fine craft.

Judges for the 2010 Visual Arts Showcase include:

- *Best of Show* - Shannon Ray, Lawrence Gallery Sales Director and a member of the Art Harvest Studio Tours.
- *Watercolors* - Harold Walkup, Watercolor Society of Oregon and Northwest Watercolor Society
- *Mixed Media, Fine Craft, Sculpture* - Bill Murray, Graystone Gallery and MetalUrges
- *Oils, Acrylics, Prints, Drawings, Pastels* - Stan Beppu, Beppu-Wiarda Gallery
- *Photography* - Sally Schoolmaster, Photography Department Chair, Pacific Northwest College of Art

An Opening Night Gala and Reception will kick off the two-week exhibition and sale on Saturday, February 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. in meeting rooms A and B of the Beaverton City Library. Open to the public, the Gala will provide an opportunity for the community to meet the participating artists, as well as local community leaders, and provide a chance to vote for their favorite work. Awards will be announced at the Gala including four \$200 first place awards, and a \$500 Best of Show award. Professional Violinist, George Shiolas, will perform throughout the evening.

“Beaverton’s Visual Arts Showcase is a celebration of community, creativity and artistic achievement. We are proud to present our largest collection of works in this year’s exhibition,” says Diana Sullivan and Beaverton Arts Commission President. “And, we are so incredibly excited to be unveiling the model of the sculptural work that the Commission will be presenting to the community this fall.”

“Every February Beaverton residents and visitors have an opportunity to experience the impressive artistic talent of our local artists right in our City Library,” states Mayor Denny Doyle. “The Beaverton Visual Arts Showcase has become a cultural tradition that Beaverton families can participate in and enjoy together.”

Major sponsors of Beaverton’s 28th Annual Visual Arts Showcase and Exhibition are the City of Beaverton and Reser’s Fine Foods, Inc.

About the Beaverton Arts Commission (BAC)

The Beaverton Arts Commission contributes significantly to the quality of life in Beaverton by presenting artistic and cultural events, which celebrate community values and help connect residents to their artistic and cultural heritage. In 2009, the Commission developed a public art plan to create a more colorful and vibrant downtown, including outdoor murals, sculptures, and the public art event “Ten Tiny Dances.” For more information, contact the Beaverton Arts Commission at www.beavertonarts.org or call (503) 526-2288.