



For Immediate Release

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Charlotte Art League Gallery To Unveil Community Mosaic Project Installation in Historic South End

Charlotte Art League (CAL) Gallery will unveil its Community Mosaic Project Installation on Saturday, September 19, 2009, at the Charlotte Art League Gallery, 1517 Camden Road in Charlotte. The unveiling event will start at 5:00 p.m., followed by an inaugural community reception and artist facilities tour.

This vivid mural will be composed of over 20 panels, covering 250 square feet, containing more than 1,125 pounds of material, and is the result of approximately 5,000+ volunteer hours. Based on the Color Wheel, the all-volunteer project began in August of 2007. Two years and more than 300 community members later, the panels will be installed on the front façade of the Charlotte Art League, which is in the heart of South End, at the end of August.

The **Community Mosaic Project Installation** has functioned as a way to bring the community together for one collaborative art project. Volunteers, including the occasional passerby to the participants from the Goodwill Industries, Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Mecklenburg, Charlotte Outdoor Adventures and the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs, have been an integral part in bringing this project to life. As Charlotte Art League continues to grow, it hopes that this project will be an exciting teaching tool for all viewers with its vibrant lesson on color combination and what can be accomplished when the community works as one.

The installation was conceived and directed by CAL member and Ciel Gallery owner Pam Goode & CAL members Joan Vitale, and Diana Arvanites. The concept originally began as a means to bring visual awareness to the Charlotte Art League's building and soon morphed into a large-scale community project.

All panels were designed by artists from the Charlotte area. Initial workshops were held at Earthfare and during the Light Rail Opening festival to allow families to create and glaze original tiles to be integrated into the panels. At subsequent workshops, participants of all ages were invited to assist with each detail of the process from cutting and fitting porcelain tile to mortaring and grouting the panels. Special sessions were held for the young artists using pre-cut stained glass with softened edges, along with glass gems and squiggles. Volunteers later combined the kid-size mosaic works into larger panels.

Charlotte Art League (CAL) was established in 1965, pioneering the art scene in the heart of Charlotte's Historic South End District since 1996. The Charlotte Art League is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the cultural vitality of Charlotte through visual art. In support of emerging and professional regional artists, CAL offers affordable working studios and display space, shared workspace, mentoring, member promotion, exhibition opportunities and workshops in a variety of contemporary and traditional media. In partnership with local organizations, CAL supports the community through free outreach sessions for all ages, free monthly exhibitions and lecture series, and ongoing educational opportunities.

It's important for our community to witness the unveiling of this great piece of art, which will add so much color to the Heart of South End. This is a FREE family event.

CAL's regular Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 704-376-2787 for more information or visit www.charlotteartleague.org <<http://www.charlotteartleague.org>>