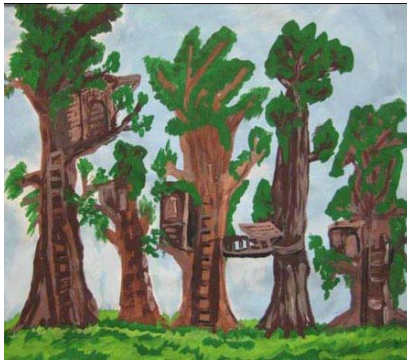




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PUBLIC ART: THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN **Reston Elementary Schools Celebrate Youth Art Month**



RESTON, VA – *Public Art: Through the Eyes of Children*, a diverse and stimulating exhibit featuring artworks from eight Reston Elementary Schools is currently on display at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery through March 30, 2009 in honor of Youth Art Month. All members of the community are invited to a reception to honor the artists on Sunday, March 15 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Gallery. Join students, teachers, and their families and friends to celebrate Reston's outstanding arts instructional program. Special remarks will be made at 2:30 p.m. from representatives of Fairfax County Public Schools and the Initiative for Public Art - Reston (IPAR).

This impressive exhibit consists of over 100 pieces in every imaginable art medium including: oil pastel, mosaic, photography, fabric art, pressed tin, ceramic tiles and collage. Just some of the highlights include: a 3' X 8' painted burlap tapestry, two large three-dimensional installations, sculptures, and ceramics. All artworks represent the best ideas for public art from Reston's imaginative young minds from Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, Dogwood, Hunters Woods, Forest Edge, Lake Anne, Sunrise Valley, and Terraset Elementary Schools.

Joe Jasper, a sixth grader from Armstrong Elementary, would like to see "a forest of tree-houses for children to play in." Many of the playful and bold ideas in the exhibit came to students as they explored what it means to create a *Sense of Place* for Reston. *A Sense of Place* is this year's theme for the elementary art curriculum in Fairfax County Public Schools.

"The Reston Community Center believes in providing opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate in art education and this exhibit is the perfect opportunity for us to spotlight the talents of young Reston art students." Said Cheri Danaher, RCC's Arts Education Director.

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To request this information in an alternate format, call BeBe Nguyen at 703-390-6145

Reston Community Center
2310 Colts Neck Road
Reston, Virginia 20191
www.restoncommunitycenter.com



“The RCC recognizes the value of art education as a viable component in the quality of life for all people living and working in Greater Reston,” said Damian Sinclair, RCC’s Arts and Events Director. “RCC is committed to increase community understanding and interest in the arts through our broad range of programs that include our art exhibits, workshops, theatre performances and numerous collaborations with local schools and community arts organizations.”

In 2008, public art took center stage as Restonians learned about and took part in public art discussions. The Initiative for Public Art - Reston (IPAR) held numerous meetings and forums to gather ideas from the Reston community as well as learn from other communities that have already implemented public art. The year-long dialogue resulted in Reston becoming the first non-incorporated jurisdiction in the United States to create a public art master plan.

Youth Art Month is a national celebration of student art that began in 1961. It is observed each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children and to encourage public support for quality school art programs.

For more information on the Youth Art Month exhibit, contact Ann Erickson, Art Resource Teacher at Armstrong Elementary School, at (703) 375-4838, Ann.Erickson@fcps.edu or Cheri Danaher, Arts Education Director, at (703) 476-4500 X6175, Cheri.Danaher@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information on the Initiative for Public Art - Reston (IPAR), go to their website, www.publicart.reston.org.

The Jo Ann Rose Gallery is located in the Reston Community Center Lake Anne at 1609-A Washington Plaza in the Lake Anne Village Center. RCC Lake Anne is open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. Since the Gallery is closed to the public during some events and classes, please call (703) 476-4500 X 3000 to check on open hours before visiting.

About the Reston Community Center

Each year RCC offers more than 1,800 positive, self-development experiences that enhance the quality of life for all people living and working in Reston. RCC provides a wide range of programs in arts, aquatics, enrichment and life-long learning. We also create and sustain community traditions through special events, outreach activities and facility rentals. To find the programs or events that are right for you, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.org or call 703.476.4500.

Photo: “A Forest of Treehouses for Play,” by Joe Jasper, Grade 6, Armstrong Elementary School.

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Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For further information, contact the Reston Community Center at (703) 476-4500, Virginia Relay (800) 828-1120 (TTY) or visit the website at <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com>. The Reston Community Center is located at 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191. The Reston Community Center is completely accessible to persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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