

LIBERTY ARTS NEWS RELEASE

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LIBERTY ART'S GEORGE WATTS HILL PAVILION RECEIVES GOLDEN LEAF AWARD FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Durham, NC - The George Watts Hill Pavilion, located in Durham Central Park and home to Liberty Arts, Inc., received a Golden Leaf Award for Design Excellence in the category of Community Properties – Public Art this past Thursday at American Tobacco Campus. The Golden Leaf Awards are given each year by the Durham City-County Appearance Commission and are awarded in five categories; Community, Commercial, and Residential Properties, Landscaping & Maintenance, and Outstanding Individual Awards. Out of 53 nominations, eight (8) Golden Leaf Awards were awarded and 11 Awards of Merit were given.

The George Watts Hill Pavilion was designed by Frank DePasquale of DTW Architects and Planners and generously funded by Central Carolina Bank (now SunTrust Bank) in honor of art patron and banker, George Watts Hill. "The Pavilion was done in memory of George Watts Hill," states pavilion architect, Frank DePasquale, who had a 40 year relationship with George Watts Hill, "nothing had been done before in his name for his many contributions to Durham." DePasquale was Vice Chairman of Liberty Arts and was on the Founding Board of Directors of

Liberty Arts at the time he pitched the idea for the pavilion. The idea arose from artists and Members of the Founding Board of Directors of Liberty Arts to create a pavilion to house an art casting facility attached to Liberty Warehouse with studio space being housed within Liberty Warehouse. Liberty Arts developed the concept and had the George Watts Hill Pavilion constructed; it has now become the centerpiece of Durham Central Park.

The George Watts Hill Pavilion now houses Liberty Arts, a nonprofit bronze casting facility that makes the space available to artists and teaches classes in mold making and metal casting as well as promoting and creating public and private sculpture. "Liberty Arts is honored to be housed in such a great structure. It's a great source of inspiration. We are especially proud that the pavilion received a Golden Leaf Award since design excellence is also part of Liberty Arts' mission." states Jennifer Collins, Executive Director of Liberty Arts.

The pavilion is a half-round structure made up of steel-cut, fixed panels designed by DePasquale and created by Vega Metals. There are two sets of functioning gates allowing access to the Liberty Arts Casting Facility inside. These gates were designed and created by Andrew Preiss of ARP Design, and Francis Vega and Neal Carlton of Vega Metals, Inc.

A walk through Durham Central Park provided the inspiration for the gates on the east side of the pavilion designed and built by Andrew Preiss of ARP Design Studio. Interpretations of six native plants found in the park are represented in hand built steel and copper. Andrew Preiss states, "I was honored to be given the opportunity to collaborate on this special project. My dad, Jack Preiss, whose non-profit New Directions for Downtown, sponsored my gates, allowed me the freedom to express myself within the context of Frank's (DePasquale) imaginative design. The foundry is now a unique landmark downtown, and I'm proud to be part of such a beautiful building."

The gates on the west side of the pavilion were created by Vega Metals, Inc. Neal Carlton, artist, master blacksmith and partner of Vega Metals Inc. said creating the forged bronze foundry gates and the organic cut gates was a perfect and appropriate opportunity for Vega Metals to give to Liberty Arts and the Durham community. "We truly enjoyed collaborating on the organic cut gates with our dear friend and architect, Frank DePasquale. I've never known anyone so enthusiastic who possessed such a burning desire and energy to get things done as Frank. The forged bronze foundry gates would have never come to fruition without the contribution Bob and Barbara Bell so generously gave. These two people are undeniably the greatest patrons of the arts and the community is blessed to have them."

Bob Bell, Chair of Liberty Arts states, "Liberty Arts is proud of its contribution of the George Watts Hill Pavilion for the Arts to our community. The Founding Board of Directors created a vision for the Pavilion and the art casting facility to transform our community through art, monumental sculpture. *Major*, the Durham Bull, was the first monumental piece of sculpture created in the pavilion by Liberty Arts. *Major* is presently at the Durham Bull baseball Park and will eventually be located in the CCB Plaza. The George Watts Hill Pavilion and *Major* are just two examples of Liberty Arts' plan to further partner with local businesses and civic groups to create many more pieces of sculpture to beautify our outdoor environs."

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Liberty Arts is a nonprofit sculpture studio and bronze casting facility located in downtown Durham's Central Park District serving North Carolina and the Southeast region.