

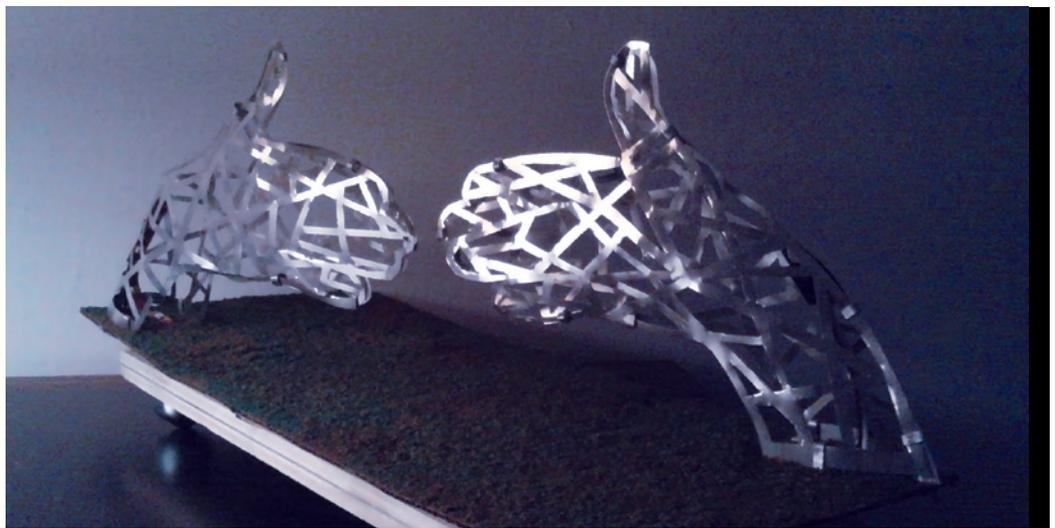
Mutual Respect/Mutual Understanding

BY CATHY HUDGINS ■ PHOTO BY MATTHEW DUFFY

It takes a lot of commitment and human interaction to build almost anything, and I speak from experience. Over the last several years, the building which had housed the Hunter Mill District office and the police department has morphed into brand spanking new, spacious, attractive professional workspace and community space. Complete with a marvelous public art feature, which I specifically requested during the concept phase.

As with any creation, there have been challenges. On the building side, there has been the complicated phasing of destruction and construction, the unexpected issues and the surprise weather conditions, all of which affected the completion of the artwork as well. Happily, great progress has been made on the construction of this project, which allows us to focus on *Mutual Respect/Mutual Understanding*, the title of the sculpture recently installed on the Welcome Terrace of the new building.

From the onset, this outdoor public sculpture has been a wonderful example of collaboration. The Initiative for Public Art Reston (IPAR) generously shared aesthetic counsel with design engineers, county staff, and my office to guide our decision-making. IPAR is a community organization that seeks to inspire the community, remain true to Reston's commitment to public art, and engage the mind by incorporating creative, innovative, high-quality works of art in our everyday life. IPAR served as the model for a



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Fairfax county policy on public art.

The IPAR Public Art Committee offered comments and advice on virtually all aspects of this sculpture, including the initial call for artists, selection of the artist, design concept,

site selection, materials used and for the public interpretation and visual impact.

I find that the name of the piece, *Mutual Respect/Mutual Understanding*, captures the essence of my 16-plus years as your supervisor. As Matthew Duffy, the creator of the piece, explains, “Stainless steel is strong yet flexible. It provides an excellent foundation for design. While the sculpture may be viewed as abstract, the message is recognizable: two open hands extending to each other — traditional, universal sign of peace.”

Rising out of the ground, it is a welcoming greeting to those who enter the building to do business; it is a farewell gesture to those who leave. To those who gather in community service, as well as to those who exit to serve, the community, the hands connect the purpose of the building to its surroundings

and provide a physical symbol of the message I have promoted when serving the community.

The hands are a reminder that community offers us support, goods and services that we cannot achieve as individuals, and that individual quality of life is inseparable from the success of the community.

In closing, I invite you to join the Reston District Police and Hunter Mill District office on June 18 for our joint Hunter Mill District Governmental Center Open House and sculpture unveiling and installation. As details are finalized, we will make more information public.



Cathy Hudgins has represented the Hunter Mill District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2000. As a long-time Restonian, she has been involved with local, county and state politics for over 30 years.