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## Reception Celebrates Five Years of Public Art in Reston

RESTON, VA—When the Initiative for Public Art-Reston (IPAR) holds its annual reception on Thursday, Nov. 14, there will be five years of accomplishments to celebrate.

IPAR was founded when a group of Reston civic and community organizations and leaders joined together to develop a vision and plan for cultivating a new generation of public artworks throughout that community. The result was the adoption of a Public Art Master Plan for Reston in December 2008--the first in the country for a non-incorporated community.

Highlights, since that adoption, include: the Glade Drive Underpass mosaic created by artist Valerie Theberge in conjunction with students from Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and created through a partnership with Reston Association (RA) and Reston Community Center (RCC); the interactive and mosaic-clad fountain, also a Theberge work, at the newly renovated Dogwood Pool, created through a partnership with RA and RCC; a public art film series, presented in conjunction with RCC; and an exhibition and film, made in collaboration with the Reston Historic Trust, about Reston's long public art history.

Following highly successful runs at the Reston Museum and the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, the exhibition is now on view at Dulles International Airport. Its accompanying film, "Fun, Beauty, Fantasy: Reston's Public Art" by Peabody Award-winning filmmaker and Reston resident, Rebekah Wingert-Jabi, also was shown to enthusiastic audiences at Bow Tie Cinemas during the recent Reston Homes Tour.

In addition, two engaging temporary public art projects resulted from collaborations: Working with the Greater Reston Arts Center and the Washington Sculptors Group, IPAR co-sponsored the exhibition "Gaps," which included the installation of sculptures by Mike Shaffer in Town Square Park in Reston Town Center. "Out of Place," a performance and temporary installation at Lake Anne Village Center by Ronit Eisenbach and Sharon Mansur, was a partnership with RCC, Reston Museum, and Friends of Lake Anne.

IPAR, which received the Arts Council of Fairfax County's 2012 Arts Impact Award, also is looking forward to an equally active future -- a future where fruitful partnerships again will play key roles.

Among the exciting upcoming initiatives that will be celebrated at the reception—6 to 8 p.m. in the elegant resident lounge of Midtown Reston Town Center—are: the installation at Hyatt Park of a much anticipated abstract sculpture by Baltimore artist Mary Ann Mears, done in partnership with the Hyatt Regency Reston, the Reston Town Center Association, and RCC; and two special collaborations with South Lakes High School and community partners.

Also just announced is a call-for-artists for a public artwork for the new Reston District Police Station and Governmental Center sponsored by Fairfax County Government. And ongoing are long-range plans to create a Memorial Garden of Reflection in Reston.

The reception also will celebrate two of the people whose talents and donated time help make all these IPAR successes happen—IPAR treasurer Brian Lester and Communication Committee Co-chair Donielle Scherff.

Join the celebration, which also will include entertainment and catering by South Lakes High School music and culinary students and silent and live auctions.

Tickets start at \$50 per person and go up to \$2,500 for a corporate sponsor. All ticket levels and benefits are available on the IPAR website at [www.publicartreston.org](http://www.publicartreston.org). Tickets may be purchased on PayPal or by sending a check to Initiative for Public Art - Reston, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston, VA 20190.

For ticket and other information, including becoming a corporate sponsor, contact Anne Delaney, IPAR executive director, at 703-467-9797.

IPAR, which is dedicated to inspiring an ongoing commitment to public art and creating a new generation of artworks in Reston, also works to stimulate a community-wide discussion about the role that public art can play in urban places and community life.

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