

Suwanee Patch
April 20, 2011

Arts, The Neighborhood Files

Suwanee Announces SculpTour Winners

City program emphasizes arts as an economic development tool.

By Steve Burns | Email the author | 5:55am

Suwanee's latest art initiative, SculpTour, is officially unwrapped and will debut in May. But that is also a spoke in the city's economic wheel.

"Art is a part of our economic development strategy," Suwanee Economic Development Director Denise Brinson said Tuesday at a City Hall event to announce winners of the first SculpTour.

As part of the announcement, Suwanee officials invited a cross-section of people from business, government, education and media, including some from nearby cities. Duluth Mayor Nancy Harris and Gwinnett school board member Carol Boyce were among the attendees.

SculpTour involves displaying 15 sculptures at various points around Suwanee; it is set to begin in May and run through March 2012. The city will pay the artists a stipend to lease the works; online voting by residents will be allowed, and a

4-20-11

Sculp Tour Winners

"people's choice" winner will be purchased for permanent display.

The SculpTour winners are: Lori Sturgess, Roswell, "Bright Idea"; Jennifer Freeman, Johns Creek, "Free Spirit" and "Ribbon Dance"; Dylan Mortimer, Kansas City, Mo., "Prayer Booth"; Harry McDaniel, Asheville, N.C., "Intrusion"; Andrew Crawford, Atlanta, "Deconstructed Bolt"; Harry Zmijewski, Buford, "Dreams Of Flying" and "Amne"; Sydney Atkinson, Woodstock, "Sunbeam II"; Dennis Primm, Buford, "Sticks 7"; Damon Lusky, Dawsonville, "Arachnid"; Gregory Johnson, Cumming, "Catching The Wind"; Elusia Altman, Bogota, N.J., "Mother And Child"; Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, Clearwater, Fla., "Magic Rain" and "Sunset."

Keynote speaker Joe Bankoff of Atlanta's Woodruff Arts Center noted that "innovation is our (America's) secret."

In the 1990s, Bankoff noted that "jobs started to move where the people are." If you want to bring a data center to town, for example, you have to have a work force that can do that. The secret is not in tax breaks, he said, but "it's in the quality of life and the work force."

He described how the Woodruff Arts Center, with a \$90 million annual budget, helped to rebuild Atlanta's Midtown area. He said that Suwanee can be "proud of Town Center. ... Arts is not the brick, it's the glue" of economic success.

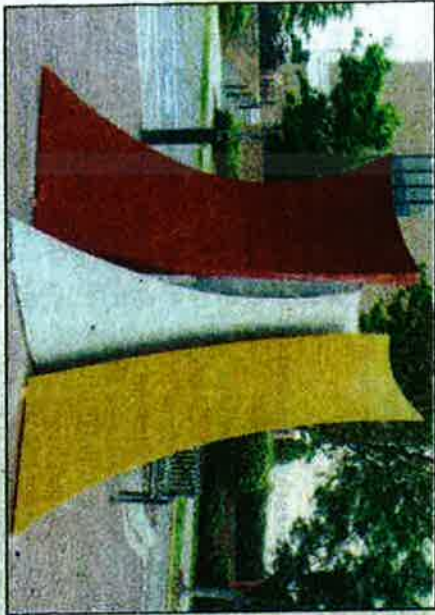
"It infects the schools. ... Every high performing school in Georgia has an arts program."

Suwanee Sculptour to feature work by a dozen artists

By CAROLE TOWNSEND
Staff Correspondent

SUWANEE — City leaders, artists and art lovers came together in Suwanee this week to listen to Joseph Bankoff, president and CEO of Woodruff Arts Center, speak on the benefits and necessity of making art a part of any community. Also announced at that meeting were the dozen artists and more than 15 sculptures that will be on display in and around Town Center through March.

Bankoff encouraged his audience to celebrate art for more than being simply "ornamental, and nice to have," adding that



"Intrusion" by Harry McDaniel of Asheville will be on display as part of the 2011 Suwanee Sculptour art exhibit.

"...we can use art as the anchor" that brings a community together. The 2011 Suwanee Sculptour art exhibit is set to open

in late May. Exhibiting artists will receive a small stipend but have basically loaned their creations to the city through March. More than 30 pieces, created from a variety of materials including bronze, steel, aluminum, stone, a car bumper, a phone booth, and even light bulbs caught the eyes and fancies of members of the Suwanee Public Arts Commission. In choosing the 15 pieces for the 2011 Sculptour, commission members considered quality of workmanship, structural soundness, originality, ease of installation and general community appeal. Artists who submitted

works for consideration were from several cities in Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, New Jersey and Missouri. Suwanee residents and visitors will be able to vote online for their favorite sculpture, and the city will purchase the piece winning the most votes for Suwanee's permanent collection. The Suwanee Sculptour is funded entirely by corporate sponsors and private individuals. Local Arts organizations participating in Tuesday's "Art and the Bottom Line" luncheon include the North Gwinnett Arts Association, North Gwinnett High School students (who created paintings outside Tuesday

to give to Bankoff and event sponsors) and the Peachtree Ridge String Quartet, which performed prior to the luncheon.

This year's exhibiting Sculptour artists are: Harry Zaniewski (Buford); Damon Lusky (Dawsonville); Lori Sturgess (Roswell); Gregory Johnson (Cumming); Andrew T. Crawford (Atlanta); Jennifer Freeman (Atlanta); Jennifer Freeman (Johns Creek); Harry McDaniel (Asheville); Gus and Lina Ocampos (Clearwater, Fla.); Elusa Altman (Bogota, N.J.); Dylan Mortimer (Kansas City, Mo.); Dennis Pruitt (Buford); Sydney Atkinson (Woodstock).

The Gwinnett
Daily Post
April 24th, 2011

Suwanee unveils SculpTour artwork

As part of its public art efforts, the city of Suwanee is launching its inaugural Suwanee SculpTour, which will feature 15 sculptures created by a dozen artists. The sculptures, essentially on loan to the city by the artists who were awarded a small stipend, will be installed by the end of May and will remain on exhibit through March 2012. Suwanee residents and visitors will be allowed to vote online for their favorite sculpture, which the city will purchase for its permanent art collection.

More than 30 art pieces were submitted for consideration by Suwanee's Public Arts Commission (PAC). In selecting the pieces, PAC member Linnea Miller said the Commission considered quality of workmanship, originality, structural soundness, ease of installation, and general community appeal.

The Suwanee SculpTour is funded entirely through corporate sponsors and individuals. Granite sponsors for the 2011 SculpTour are Georgia Natural Gas, Peoples Bank & Trust, and Sam's Grill and Café. Bronze sponsors are Ippolito's Italian Restaurant and the Gwinnett County Visitors Bureau.

The SculpTour selections were revealed April 19 at a luncheon where keynote speaker Joe Bankoff, president and CEO of the Woodruffs Arts Center, spoke to local businesspeople, educators and art enthusiasts about the importance of art when building a community. Bankoff encouraged those in the audience to celebrate, nurture, and pass along the arts to "those who dismiss it as ornamental and nice to have." He added, "Art is essential to our future now and to that of our children and grandchildren."



Intrusion by Harry McDaniel



Mother & Child
by Elusia Altman



Deconstructed Bolt
by Andrew T. Crawford

Artwork selected for the inaugural Suwanee SculpTour:

- *Anne and Dreams of Flying* by Harry Zmijewski (Buford, GA)
- *Arachnid* by Damon Lusky (Dawsonville, GA)
- *Bright Idea* by Lori Sturgess (Roswell, GA)
- *Catching the Wind* by Gregory Johnson (Cumming, GA)
- *Deconstructed Bolt* by Andrew T. Crawford (Atlanta, GA)
- *Free Spirit and Ribbon Dance* by Jennifer Freeman (Johns Creek, GA)
- *Intrusion* by Harry McDaniel (Asheville, NC)
- *Magic Rain and Sunset* by Gus and Lina Ocamposilva (Clearwater, FL)
- *Mother & Child* by Elusia Altman (Bogota, NJ)
- *Prayer Booth* by Dylan Mortimer (Kansas City, MO)
- *Sticks 7* by Dennis Primm (Buford, GA)
- *Sunbeam II* by Sydney Atkinson (Woodstock, GA)

For more information on the Suwanee's public art initiative, visit the city's website at www.suwanee.com.

11Alive.com
May 30, 2011

Take a stroll thru a unique Suwanee exhibit of 15 sculptures



Submitted by [Marc Richardson](#), Where U Live Producer

Monday, May 30th, 7:51 am

Topics: [Arts & Culture](#)

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Suwanee, GA -- Heads are literally turning as folks who drive or walk through Suwanee's Town Center notice something new. Make that 15 somethings new! Fifteen outdoor sculptures have

05/30/2011 (continued)

been installed throughout Town Center – it's all part of the inaugural Suwanee SculptTour, a public arts initiative that officially opened last week during the Arts in the Park festival.

The sculptures, representing various styles, materials, and sizes, are on loan from a dozen different artists and will be exhibited in Suwanee through March of next year. Citizens will be invited to vote for their favorite sculpture via www.suwanee.com beginning in July; the sculpture with the most votes at the end of the exhibit in March will be the "People's Choice" and purchased as part of the City's permanent art collection.

"The City of Suwanee values public art as a key component in our economic development efforts – great cities, big or small, have public art," says Denise Brinson, economic and community development director. "The SculptTour provides a relatively low-cost way to bring quality public art of various styles and mediums to our community. Our hope is that the art pieces will engage our citizens and bring new visitors to downtown Suwanee."

The 2011 Suwanee SculptTour is funded by generous private sponsors: Georgia Natural Gas, Peoples Bank & Trust, and Ssam's Grill + Café. The Gwinnett Convention & Visitors Bureau and Ippolito's Italian Restaurant also have provided funding support.

The sculptures – and other examples of permanent public art – have been arranged as an approximately one-mile walking tour; a brochure with a map and information about each of the pieces is available at City Hall.

In selecting the 15 sculptures from more than 30 art pieces submitted, Suwanee's Public Arts Commission considered quality of workmanship, originality, structural soundness, ease of installation, and general community appeal. The pieces and artists selected were:

- *Amne and Dreams of Flying* by Harry Zmijewski (Buford, GA)
- *Arachnid* by Damon Lusky (Dawsonville, GA)
- *Bright Idea* by Lori Sturgess (Roswell, GA)
- *Catching the Wind* by Gregory Johnson (Cumming, GA)
- *Deconstructed Bolt* by Andrew T. Crawford (Atlanta, GA)
- *Free Spirit and Ribbon Dance* by Jennifer Freeman (Johns Creek, GA)
- *Intrusion* by Harry McDaniel (Asheville, NC)
- *Magic Rain and Sunset* by Gus and Lina Ocamposilva (Clearwater, FL)
- *Mother & Child* by Elusia Altman (Bogota, NJ)

- *Prayer Booth* by Dylan Mortimer (Kansas City, MO)
- *Sticks 7* by Dennis Primm (Buford, GA)
- *Sunbeam II* by Sydney Atkinson (Woodstock, GA)



SculpTour: Gwinnett's instant outdoor museum

New exhibit/contest starts Suwanee's drive to add art to its center.

By **Jill Vejnoska**
jvejnaska@ajc.com

Artistic inspiration is a plentiful commodity. From Van Gogh to that guy down at the coffee shop who's always rattling on about his great idea for a novel, it seems everyone has visions of masterpiece dancing in their heads. Yet turning that inspired notion into something tangible requires uncommon amounts of dedication and pure hard work. Which explains what half-dozen people were doing recently mus-

ing a 200-pound steel splinter into place in Suwanee's Town Center Park in 90-degree heat. "Do you want it facing this way, or that way?" asked Calvin Dailey, a Public Works Department employee. Let's ask the artist," suggested Denise Brinson, Suwanee's economic and community development manager.

It's not hard finding artists of your work in Suwanee these days. Yesterday's second annual Arts in the Park festival by have come and gone in Gwinnett County city of 16,900 residents, but its Sculpt'r event is here to stay for the next 10 months. A hard-to-cull-off, harder-still-to-rep experiment

in public art, the inaugural Sculpt'r features 15 works ranging in height from 2½ feet to 15 feet, and fashioned out of everything from traditional bronze and stone to fiberglass and galvanized steel.

Selected through a competitive process by Suwanee's 3-year-old Public Arts Commission, the pieces are located in and around the park, anchored at one end by City Hall, with its dramatic, two-story glass front.

The idea behind the Sculpt'r is easy. Well, easier than building and stocking a museum:

Pay the artists a small stipend (none of it using public funds) to essentially "rent"

SculpTour continued on E7



Artist Sydney Atkinson attaches his sculpture, "Sun Beam II" to a pedestal in Suwanee's Town Center Park to be displayed in the city's SculptTour. Rita Hornivar rshirav@ajc.com

The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution
May 22nd, 2011

The Atlanta Journal - Constitution
May 21st, 2011

Suwanee pursues public art

SculpTour

continued from E1

their works for the duration. Commit to purchasing one of the sculptures at the end of a public voting process, starting in July. Repeat annually until Suwanee — once the site of the Atlanta Falcons' practice facilities — becomes well known as a place where all manner of visually arresting and/or appealing sculptures go to take up permanent outdoor residence.

Oh, and one more thing: Throw open Suwanee's metaphorical doors and invite the whole world in to hang out.



Scott Moretz (far left), Calvin Dalley (second from left) and Gilbert Aldridge (far right), all with Suwanee public works along with James Carnes of Mobile Mender, who made the pedestal, install the sculpture "Prayer Booth" by Dylan Mortimer in Suwanee's Town Center Park. BitzHonarvar@ajc.com

"You can look at Town Center and say, 'Do we really need more people coming here?'" city councilman and Public Arts Commission chairman Dick Goodman said about the restaurant-ringed park, where children play in the public fountain on sunny days. "Well, yeah. We want them here. What's more, we want them to be here, whether they live here or are just visiting for a day."

And how better to do that than to let them mingle with the likes of "Free Spirit," "Ribbon Dance," "Deconstructed Bolt" or the dozen other pieces made by artists in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and Missouri?

Damon Lusky, a Dawsonville sculptor who ingeniously forges large outdoor works out of metal, sounded almost hopeful about the prospect of the public getting up close and personal with his bit of public art.

"Once people find out there's a giant spider in

"We want them here. What's more, we want them to want to be here, whether they live here or are just visiting for a day."

Dick Goodman
City councilman
and Public Arts
Commission Chairman

enough to pull the trigger. We still couldn't buy one at that point, but we could 'rent' at least 10."

Now that total is up to about \$45,000 – Peoples Bank & Trust, Georgia Natural Gas and Ssam's Grill and Cafe each donated \$10,000; Ippolito's Italian Restaurant overlooking the park gave \$3,000, and the Gwinnett County Convention and Visitors Bureau came through with a \$4,000 grant. That allowed for a 15-piece SculpTour (pedestals were purchased for \$600 apiece, but they can be reused in subsequent years) and for the purchase of one of the works at its conclusion.

The public will decide which one it will be.

They'll have a wide range to choose from, whether it's the eye-popping lime green figure of a person aiming a solar panel at City Hall ("Bright Ideas #2" by Lori Sturges of Roswell) or the clever and potentially controversial faith-based take on a phone booth ("Prayer Booth" by Dylan Mortimer of Kansas City, Mo.)

And early evidence suggests the public will come. On the day that Lusky's piece and six others were installed, Payton McCleendon and Kayla Settle checked out "Free Spirit" by Jennifer Freeman of Johns Creek. Sipping from their Planet Smoothie cups, the duo thoughtfully studied the cement and mosaic fig-

ure of a woman from all angles.

"We were all the way over there and we said, 'What's that?'" Payton, 16, said, pointing to where they'd come from the other side of the park.

"Everyone will get something different from it," Kayla said approvingly. "That's so cool."

the park, I fully expect there to be lots of pictures of kids sitting on it," Lusky said last week as his "Arachnid" was bolted into place.

If, to an observer, the multilegged creature looked ready to slink off its pedestal and amble through the park in search of someone's picnic lunch, Lusky likely wouldn't have any problem with that interpretation. "I think that half the people who see it will love it and half will probably be scared to death of it," he laughed about his piece. "But that's OK. That's the whole point of art. Art is what it is to you."

What the SculpTour "is," meanwhile, is testament to many people's dedication and hard work in service of an inspired idea.

No sooner had Suwanee made its first major public art statement in March 2010 – installing "Shimmering Echoes," a \$78,000 "suspended sculpture" by Seattle artist Koryn Rolsstad inside City Hall – than attention turned to the SculpTour. In some ways, it would be more difficult to pull off than getting all 1,900 pieces of Rolsstad's sculpture arranged and hung just right. Having forsworn using any public money, the SculpTour would be totally reliant on private donors to be up and running by this summer.

"It was chicken-and-egg time for a while, like, 'Do we do the [request for artists' proposals] without knowing if we'll have the money to put it on?'" recalled Brinson, who provides staff support to the public arts commission. "When we'd raised \$25,000 by the end of the year [2010], we had

The Atlanta Journal-
Constitution

May 22nd, 2011

Vote for Your Favorite on Suwanee's Sculptour



Will it be the oversized sun at which people are snapping photos with heads peeking through the hollow middle? Could it be the totem pole made of car bumpers, which some think is a subliminal safe driving message? Perhaps it will be the free-spirited lady whose open arms many have imitated. Suwanee residents and visitors now may vote for their favorite art piece among these or one of a dozen other sculptures that comprise the inaugural Suwanee SculpTour. The sculpture with the most votes at the end of the exhibit in March will be deemed the "People's Choice" and purchased for permanent display.

"We're really excited about the conversations that the variety of sculptures is generating," says Suwanee's Economic and Community Development Director Denise Brinson. "People are talking about which ones they like and which they don't. The Public Arts Commission is going to buy one of these sculptures for the City's permanent art collection so we really encourage people to vote for their favorite."

Residents and others may vote for their favorite sculpture in a variety of ways:

- Visit www.suwanee.com/whatsnew.sculptour.php and click on the green "People's Choice Vote for Me" button beside the description of your favorite sculpture. Those viewing the exhibit also may share comments about the sculptures via the same webpage.
- Those with smart phones and, if necessary, a free downloaded application, may access the website and vote via QR codes printed on the signs on each sculpture.

- Paper ballots are available in a box just outside City Hall on Charleston Market Street. The completed ballots should be placed in the adjacent secure silver drop box.

A printed guide/map of the exhibit is available at City Hall as well as in the box on Charleston Market Street and at Ippolito's Italian Restaurant.

Suwanee resident Chris Dolgetta sent an email to the City of Suwanee in June, stating: "I absolutely LOVE seeing all the pieces! I didn't realize what a nice effect the sculptures give – it's a beautiful added dimension to our already amazing Town Center."

City officials are encouraged to note that the SculpTour pieces are indeed getting noticed, provoking reactions, and drawing attention to the Suwanee community.

"It's really cool to see people of all ages going up to the sculptures, studying them, imitating them, and having their picture taken with the art," says Brinson. "Through programs like SculpTour, what we're building is Suwanee's unique tourism draw. Combined with our interactive fountain, community garden, greenway, and Town Center, Suwanee is really becoming a destination, offering fun, educational, outdoorsy, and cultural amenities.

"We've got enough great things going on now that Suwanee makes not just a great place to live or to come for special events but also a great weekend getaway for people in the region."

No City tax funds were expended to bring the 2011 Suwanee SculpTour to the community. The exhibit is funded by generous private sponsors, including Georgia Natural Gas, Law Offices of Richard Yoon, and Peoples Bank & Trust.

The 15 art pieces, created by a dozen artists, in the Suwanee SculpTour include:

- *Amne and Dreams of Flying* by Harry Zmijewski (Buford, GA)
- *Arachnid* by Damon Lusky (Dawsonville, GA)
- *Bright Ideas 2* by Lori Sturgess (Roswell, GA)
- *Catching the Wind* by Gregory Johnson (Cumming, GA)
- *Deconstructed Bolt* by Andrew T. Crawford (Atlanta, GA)
- *Free Spirit and Ribbon Dance* by Jennifer Freeman (Johns Creek, GA)
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- *Sunbeam II* by Sydney Atkinson (Woodstock, GA)

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SuwaneePatch



Editor [Steve Burns](#). Heard some news you want us to check out? Let me know: Steve.Burns@patch.com

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Suwanee SculpTour Program Honored

The outdoor art display is honored by the Georgia Downtown Association.

October 10, 2011

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SculpTour, the outdoor art display in Suwanee, has received a statewide honor.

SculpTour has received the Downtown Excellence Award for "Best Image-Building Campaign," presented recently at the Georgia Downtown Association conference in Rome, according to a news release. SculpTour is an example of the city's philosophy of using art as an economic development tool.

The inaugural SculpTour was launched in May and runs to March 2012. It features 15 sculptures that are displayed at or near [Town Center Park](#). Online voting is now under way, and the winner will be purchased by the city for permanent display.

Suwanee also wants to develop a [digital smartphone app](#) to serve as a guide for SculpTour patrons.

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GDP
1/8/12

Dancers pose with one of the sculptures featured at Suwanee's "SculpTour."



Special Photo: Richard Calmes

Suwanee's downtown exhibit has podcast

BY FRANK REDDY
STAFF WRITER
frank.reddy@
gwinnettdailypost.com

SUWANEE — A guided audio tour — or podcast — is now available for Suwanee's downtown "SculpTour" exhibit.

The 32-minute podcast provides information about the 15 sculptures in the exhibit as well as insights from the artists. Suwanee Public Information Officer Lynne DeWilde said the audio is designed to be listened to while walking through the exhibit.

City Councilmember and Public Arts Commission Chair Dick Goodman and City of Suwanee Receptionist Annette Phelps serve as tour guides, providing directions and commentary.

The Suwanee "SculpTour," which opened in May, will run through the end of

March 2012. The exhibit is funded through corporate and private donations.

DeWilde said adding podcasts to the exhibit was a "way to tie in innovations and technology." She said it was made possible through a \$3,500 grant from the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau.

To download the podcast, visit iTunes and search "Suwanee sculptour." Click on the "guide to 2011 Suwanee sculptour" link to download it. The audio tour also may be downloaded from the city of Suwanee website by clicking the "listen" link in the right margin of the page.

Sponsors for the 2012 SculpTour are being sought. Call Denise Brinson at 770-945-8996 for more information.

For more information about the exhibit, visit www.suwanee.com.

Suwanee SculpTour now offers an iTunes audio podcast to accompany the tour | Community Spirit

Title

Suwanee SculpTour now offers an iTunes audio podcast to accompany the tour



Submitted by [Marc Richardson](#), Where U Live Producer

Thursday, January 5th, 2012, 3:45pm

Topics: [Community Spirit](#)



Suwanee - According to the Suwanee Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Suwanee is one of the few city governments across the country to have their own podcast on iTunes.

In a news release, they say they have created a, "guided audio tour/podcast of the Suwanee SculpTour exhibit that is now available for download on iTunes."

The release goes on to say that, "the approximately 32-minute podcast – which provides information about the 15 sculptures in the exhibit and some of the City's permanent public art pieces as well as insights from participating artists – is designed to be listened to while walking through the exhibit. With pauses, the guided tour will take approximately an hour to complete."

The Suwanee Sculptures are pieces of art along the walkable parts of Downtown Suwanee. The 2011 Suwanee SculpTour, which opened last May, will run through the end of March. The exhibit includes 15 sculptures of varying sizes, styles, and materials in and around downtown Suwanee.

Residents and others may vote for their favorite sculpture; the sculpture that receives the most votes will be purchased by the Suwanee Public Arts Commission and added to the City's permanent collection. There are a variety of ways to vote:

- Visit www.suwanee.com/whatsnew.sculptour.php and click on the green "People's Choice Vote for Me" button beside the description of your favorite sculpture.
- Those with smart phones and, if necessary, a free downloaded application, may access the website and vote via QR codes printed on the signs on each sculpture.
- Paper ballots are available in a box just outside City Hall on Charleston Market Street. The completed ballots should be placed in the adjacent secure silver drop box.

People who want to download the podcast can visit iTunes and search "Suwanee SculpTour". Click on the link and download the audio file.