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Group rallies to keep public art in Roswell

Downtown Development Authority donates \$10K, issues matching challenge

Julia Grochowski Aug 23, 2017



Roswell Arts Fund members stand before Sentience, the sculpture that has become a symbol of downtown Roswell. The group plans to buy it with a \$10,000 donation from the Downtown Development Authority. But first, they need to raise another \$10,000 from the community. JULIA GROCHOWSKI/Herald

Picasa

ROSWELL, Ga. — One of the temporary public art pieces currently in Roswell may become a permanent fixture for the city, as long as the community can raise \$10,000.

The Roswell Downtown Development Authority recently donated \$10,000 in funding toward keeping Sentience in the Heart of Roswell Park on Canton Street. It is one of 10 new sculptures featured in this year's ArtRound Roswell Sculpture Tour.

The nine-month tour features 13 sculptures in each of Roswell's parks, including two permanent sculptures which were bought last year – Smoke and Oak Leaf Triptych. The remaining pieces will disappear, unless someone opts to buy them.



The Roswell Arts Fund, which created ArtAround Roswell, has been raising funds to purchase some of the current sculptures through its Keep the Art! campaign. Now, the Downtown Development Authority has stepped up to the plate to aid in the effort.

Downtown Development Authority Chairman Randy Schultz said the donation is in part a way to create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for the downtown business district.

“We are committed to creating inviting gathering spaces and enriching social experiences,” Schultz said. “Sentience, as the focal point of the Heart of Roswell Park, mirrors the optimism, hospitality and charm of the city, and we would like to see this work of art remain permanently in this location.”

Sentience, a large and reflective stainless steel model of a bloodroot flower, was created by Atlanta-based artist David Landis. He chose the native bloodroot flower because it has a “wonderful, dynamic quality, like a firework exploding.”

The Downtown Development Authority is now challenging individuals, businesses and organizations to match its donation. The Keep the Art! fundraising campaign is hoping to collect at least \$60,000 this year, with the first funds raised used to purchase Sentience.

Roswell Arts Fund Board Chair Rochelle Mucha said she was thrilled by the Downtown Development Authority's initiative and hopes the community will respond in kind.

“Public art helps activate spaces and drive economic vitality, while creating a unique sense of place and identity for our city,” Mucha said. “Most great cities are known for their public art – just look at Chicago, New York and San Francisco. We’re not there yet, but you have got to start somewhere.”



The sculptures will remain in Roswell through December. Visitors can learn about the artists and their works through the free audio tour guide app Otocast. The app also allows visitors to vote for their favorite works and contribute funds to help the city buy and keep the art.

To learn more about the tour and its upcoming events or to donate, visit artaroundroswell.com.