

Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**City Art Project Completed  
Cordova Library Public Art Open to the Public November 1**

Memphis, TN – The UrbanArt Commission is pleased to announce the completion of the public art project in the new Cordova Library, 8457 Trinity Road. This is the first project to be completed as part of the City of Memphis Percent-for-Art Program, and will be open to the public on November 1. The grand opening event is Thursday, November 11 at 11:00 AM.

The UAC, working in conjunction with the City of Memphis and the City Council-appointed Public Art Oversight Committee, commissioned local artist Pam Cobb to create 3-dimensional wood sculptures and a book sculpture for the interior of the library, and wood and stainless steel benches for the exterior.

The figures represent characters that might be found in a book, such as a pirate, a girl on a magic carpet and a young basketball player. Most of the figures are absorbed in reading or are surrounded by carved wood books, stressing the importance and fun of reading.

The 3-dimensional sculptures are constructed of basswood and enhanced with acrylic paint and various exotic woods---purpleheart, yellowheart, Santos mahogany, cocobolo, sapele, zebrawood, teak, Honduran mahogany, padouk, Spanish mahogany, Spanish cedar, jatoba, ipe, and sassafras. The use of these exotic woods, as well as the variety of ethnic origins represented in the sculptures, all focus on the diverse cultures residing in Cordova.

In the center of the library, four of the figures surround a sculpture representing a large open book on a pedestal, both made of wood, which displays quotes about reading. The quotations featured on the book sculpture are contributions from Cordova Middle School Students on their love of reading. Regarding making the students' quotes a permanent part of the project, Pam has stated, "I appreciate their heartfelt comments which lent so much substance to the installation."

She has titled her project *Bookmarkers*, which, "refers to the impressions that are left with the reader by characters that leave their mark on the story."

Pam Cobb is a native Memphian, former college art instructor, and active artist for more than twenty-five years. She is represented by the Jay Etkin Gallery on South Main in Memphis and The NorDys Gallery in Birmingham, AL. *Bookmarkers* is her third public art project.

The UrbanArt Commission was established in 1997 through the vision of Founding Chair Kristi Jernigan and through the collaborative efforts of the Memphis Arts Council and the Shelby County Government. The mission of the UAC is to create a dynamic, vibrant, nurturing community through art and design. The City of Memphis's Public Art Program was passed by the City Council in March of 2002, and allocates one percent of the total general obligation bond amount included in the CIP budget for construction costs each fiscal year to be set aside for the development of artwork. For more information, contact Carissa Hussong at 901.525.0880. ###