

# urbanArt

Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2004

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## **City Art Project Installed at Peabody Park**

Memphis, TN – The UrbanArt Commission is pleased to announce the installation of a public art project in Peabody Park, in conjunction with renovations by Clark Dixon Associates to the adjacent Raymond Skinner Center. This project was created by local artist Yvonne Bobo as part of the City of Memphis Percent-for-Art Program.

The park, at the corner of Cooper and Higbee, is home to a new arch over the columns that have stood unadorned at the corner entrance. The columns now feature a decorative metal archway encompassing celestial bodies including the sun, stars, planets, comets and asteroids. Some of the elements freely spin when activated by the wind. Made of forged steel, the new arch will be a permanent feature of the park for generations.

"As a mother I am always looking for opportunities to mix education with play. This park will provide that opportunity in a very concrete way, and help kids appreciate the appearance of their public spaces," says nearby resident Shannon Dixon, who also served as the community representative on the artist selection panel.

Yvonne will be doing finishing touches to the installation, including painting the existing columns, on Wednesday, December 1.

This is the first of three installations that will take place in Peabody Park and the Skinner Center. Yvonne has already begun work on a sculpture for the large circular planter in the park. The planter will be the base for an orrery, a three-dimensional depiction of the orbits of the planets around the sun. The orrery will stand approximately 15-feet tall and will be visible from Cooper Street. Yvonne has also created a design for the glass that separates the outdoor spray-ground and the indoor pool.

Yvonne Bobo has worked with several local artists on large community projects and has completed many private commissions. Her own work has been exhibited in unusual places such as Overton Park and the Tennessee Brewery. She has attended schools in Boston, Australia and Waynesboro, TN.

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.

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