



NEWS RELEASE

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Functional Art in Old Town: Bike Racks

ROCK HILL – Winthrop University Sculpture students unveiled handmade bike racks on Saturday, May 7 at the Mayor's Ride. The racks were built during the spring, school semester. These art structures are the results of the demand for bicycling facilities throughout Old Town identified in the College Town Action Plan, Bike Rock Hill Initiative, and by special request from citizens in the community.

A year's worth of coordination and planning allowed Associate Professor of Fine Arts, Shaun Cassidy, to engage his students in the design planning and fabrication of the functional art project. It was imperative for the students to follow the criteria of being visually creative or unique, functional and safe. This project provided the art students with an opportunity to interact within the community by publicly presenting their work to officials. It also has given them the opportunity to have their work displayed and used in public settings.

Six bike racks were installed and are in use at the entrances of the following businesses:

Rock Hill City Hall: 155 Johnston Street (2)
McHale's on Main: 122 East Main Street (back)
Dee & Lee Unique Hair Design: 155 East Main Street
Gettys Art Center: 201 East Main Street (back)
Earth Fare: 725 Cherry Road

"This collaboration between the City of Rock Hill, the Rock Hill Bicycle Club and Winthrop's Sculpture Program in the Department of Fine Arts is an excellent example of how creative partnerships can make a visible difference in our community and for our students," stated Winthrop's Chair of Fine Arts, Tom Stanley. Another recent partnership with Winthrop Department of Fine Arts is the Main Street Sculpture Gallery. The seven metal sculptures are located at Main Street and Dave Lyle Boulevard; this exhibit will change regularly.

Funding for the bike rack materials was provided by the Rock Hill Bicycle Club. The student's design and sculpting talent added the artistic value that the City of Rock Hill is proud to make available to the public. Artists are Josiah Blevins, Sarah Gregory, Morgan Kinne, Janet Lasher, Carey Morton, Nikki Patrick, Bryanna Smith, Marshall Sykes, John Williams, and Scott Wilkins.

For more information about public, student art, contact Winthrop's Chair of Fine Arts, Tom Stanley at stanleyt@winthrop.edu. To learn about the many reasons to ride your bicycle to Old Town, visit onlyinoldtown.com.

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