



For Immediate Release

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DCCA Resident Artist works with Challenge Program and The Buccini/Pollin Group to create public art and aid in the revitalization of downtown Wilmington

Artists Richard Saxton and the municipalWORKSHOP work with at-risk youth and local developer to build a bus shelter for the city of Wilmington

Wilmington, Del. – ___ June 2008 – As part of the DCCA *Art & Community Visual Arts Residency Program*, artists Richard Saxton and the municipalWORKSHOP are working with the Challenge Program, a Wilmington-based nonprofit, vocational training program serving at-risk youth aged 18-21 to design and create a new bus shelter for downtown Wilmington. Led by Saxton, trainees from the Challenge Program will research the architecture of Wilmington, photograph the local landscape, create architectural drawings and models, and finally, build a bus shelter that will be used in the Market Street area of Wilmington. **There will be an exhibition of project drawings and photos at the DCCA, 200 S. Madison St. Wilmington, DE 19801, on Tuesday, July 29 from 5 – 6:30 p.m., followed by an unveiling of the structure and reception at the Challenge Program facility, Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard 124 E. 7th St. Wilmington, DE 19801, from 6:30 – 8 p.m.**

Initiated by the DCCA, the project is a partnership between the DCCA, the Challenge Program, and The Buccini/Pollin Group—a local developer revitalizing Market Street, the City of Wilmington’s most historic corridor. Saxton will lead the group in creating a bus shelter that reflects Wilmington’s past and present while alluding to its future—a design idea that instantly interested Jackie Ivy, Vice President, Market Street Initiative, The Buccini/Pollin Group.

Saxton combines recycled and new materials to create art that illustrates a “dialogue between a reconfigured vision of the built landscape and a celebration of the future environment built of hybrid structures”— a philosophy that corresponds with Ivy’s vision for the redevelopment of Market Street in Wilmington. In revitalizing Market Street, Ivy hopes to “maintain and accentuate the unique architectural character of Market Street while looking towards the area’s future as a green district that is home to ‘creative economies’ like design and architecture firms.”

For the Challenge Program, the DCCA artist-in-residence project offers the trainees an opportunity to combine their construction skills with a creative design process and make a lasting contribution to the revitalization of Wilmington. Says Andrew McKnight, Executive Director of the Challenge Program, “We are excited to work with an artist like Saxton, whose creativity will give the trainees a new idea of what construction can be. The DCCA project will allow them to use creativity in the built environment and see that construction skills can be used to express themselves.”

The project concludes with an exhibition of project drawings and photos at the DCCA, 200 S. Madison St. Wilmington, DE 19801, on Tuesday, July 29 from 5 – 6:30 p.m., followed by an unveiling of the structure and reception at the Challenge Program facility, Kalmar

Nyckel Shipyard 124 E. 7th St. Wilmington, DE 19801, from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Special thanks to The Buccini/Pollin Group, DelDot and the City of Wilmington for their enthusiasm and support of the project. The *DCCA Art & Community Visual Arts Residency Program* is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, JP Morgan Chase, the Wilmington Flower Market, and the Gilliam Foundation. General operating support for the DCCA Education Program is provided by Bank of America, Delaware Division of the Arts, and ING Direct. For more information about the *DCCA Art & Community Visual Arts Residency Program* and Saxton's work with The Challenge Program, contact Victoria Eastburn at (302) 656-6466 x7106.

About artist Richard Saxton

Richard Saxton is a contemporary artist working in the fields of sculpture, architecture, design, and public art. Saxton has many years of experience creating design/build projects with community groups. His work has been exhibited internationally with recent exhibitions at the Ewing Gallery of Art and Architecture at the University of Tennessee; the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore, Maryland; the Soap Factory in Minneapolis, Minnesota; the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin; and Wall House #2 in Groningen, the Netherlands. Saxton's permanent projects are located at the Center for Land Use Interpretation in Wendover, Utah; at the Kohler Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; and in the City of York, Alabama. His work has been published in the books *Engaging Communities*, *Rural Studio: Community Architecture*; the *2004 Whitney Biennial Catalog*; *Proceed and Be Bold*; and in many professional journals including *Dialogue*, *Crit*, *artUS*, *API*, and *Sculpture Magazine*.

In 2002, Saxton founded the municipalWORKSHOP, an independent public art laboratory. Through a collective art-making model, the municipalWORKSHOP creates unique public art projects with municipalities, community-based organizations and community members. Saxton is also the Principal Projects Director for the interdisciplinary art firm, M12, and currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Sculpture at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

About the DCCA Art & Community Visual Arts Residency Program

For over twenty years, the *DCCA Visual Arts Residency Program* has forged relationships between nationally recognized artists and the Wilmington community - providing innovative artists with the opportunity to both develop professionally and to collaborate with underserved community groups to create unique works of art that are relevant to the participants' lives. The *DCCA Visual Arts Residency* program has hosted over 40 artists, partnered with over 50 local community organizations, and brought art into the lives of hundreds of participants.

Visual Arts Residents are selected through a competitive, juried review process. Each artist submits work samples, critical reviews, and a proposal for art they will create with a Wilmington community group. Proposals are judged by the strength and innovation of the artists' work, the artists' experience with community work, and the impact the project will have on the Wilmington community. Selected artists live at the DCCA while working intensively for six to eight weeks with a community group.

About the DCCA

The DCCA, a non-collecting art museum founded in 1979, presents more than 30 exhibitions annually in its seven galleries of regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized artists that explore topical issues in contemporary art and society, as well as symposia, lectures and tours. The DCCA facility also contains 27 individual studios for working artists, who exhibit regularly within its galleries and throughout the region. The DCCA offers a variety of educational and outreach programs.

DCCA gallery hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and

noon-5 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 students and senior citizens (age 65 and up), children under 12 admitted free. Admission is pay as you like on Wednesday and free until 1 p.m. Saturday. The DCCA is wheelchair-accessible; visitors with special needs are urged to call in advance. DCCA exhibitions and programs are made possible, in part, through individual contributions, members' support, and major grants from Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Delaware Division of the Arts, and the Welfare Foundation.
