Arts Center to open satellite

New exhibit spaces planned at Clemson City Hall, Little Theater

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CLEMSON — The Arts Center in Clemson has found a way to expand its wall space and bring more art to more people with satellite galleries showcasing work of local artists at Clemson City Hall and Clemson Little Theater.

Inaugural exhibits open at both sites in April.

"We, at the Arts Center, are committed to the philosophy that art appreciation in a community makes it a better place to live," said Tommye Hurst, executive director of the Arts Center.

"Having a high quality, public art program is not only good for the arts but good for business in a community, as well," Hurst said.

In the first of two forays to push beyond its own gallery walls, the Arts Center and the city have created the Arts Center at City Hall, where quarterly exhibits will be displayed in the main entrance lobby, the council chamber lobby and the lobby outside of the Planning & Codes Administration offices.

"I believe art is the lifeblood of a community, especially one as culturally and educationally advanced as Clemson," Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy said.

"To have the artistic community expand into City Hall in not only a dream, but a powerful message to our constituents regarding the city's commitment to the quality of life in our community."

The inaugural show at city hall, "Art Happens in Clemson," opens April 28 with an open house that includes tours of the newly expanded city hall from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

The Arts Center will host a reception the same evening at its home at 212 Butler St. for its Energy X Change exhibit from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

The Arts Center's second new collaboration is with Clemson Little Theater in Pendleton. The Gallery at Cox Hall, in an annex to the main theater, will open during Jubilee weekend, featuring the works of Jamie Davis and Ellen Kochansky from April 2 until April 10 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. daily.

The next exhibit at the Gallery at Cox Hall will feature quilts to accompany the production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" and is scheduled to open April 29.

Clemson Little Theater currently produces four adult performances annually. The Arts Center plans to organize an exhibit to coincide with each of the performances and a fifth exhibit for Jubilee weekend each year.

Exhibitions at the theater will be open to the public during the run of each play, while the city hall exhibits will be open daily during city hall hours.

The Arts Center has appointed a selection committee to organize future exhibits for the city hall and Little Theater venues.

For more information, e-mail the Arts Center at www.explorearts.org.

galleries

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