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First-Ever Public Art Installation for Wells Fargo Golf Championship Planned

Winthrop University

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First-Ever Public Art Installation for Wells Fargo Golf Championship Planned

Quick Facts

- Wells Fargo Bank has commissioned a series of eight sculpture installations for display at the 2012 Wells Fargo Championship, a PGA TOUR golf tournament that will tee off April 30 through May 6 at Charlotte's Quail Hollow Club.
- This collaboration marks the first time in the championship's 10-year history, and one of the few instances nationally, that public art has been incorporated into a major golf event.



Shaun Cassidy

ROCK HILL, S.C. – The creative work of **nine Winthrop University sculpture students** will soon be on display for thousands of area visitors and golf enthusiasts.

Wells Fargo Bank has commissioned a series of eight sculpture installations for display at the **2012 Wells Fargo Championship**, a PGA TOUR golf tournament that will tee off April 30 through May 6 at Charlotte's **Quail Hollow Club**. This collaboration marks the first time in the championship's 10-year history, and one of the few instances nationally, that public art has been incorporated into a major golf event. The project reflects Wells Fargo's longstanding support of education and its commitment to corporate citizenship.

"We are pleased this year to have a partnership with the Winthrop visual arts students as a way to highlight a local project during tournament week," said **Kym Hougham**, executive director of the **Wells Fargo Championship**. "In the past we have had several opportunities to help raise awareness for work done by local groups and the **Winthrop Windows public art project** is certainly a unique and positive program. I am confident this visual experience will be an enhancement for the fans as they enter the grounds of Quail Hollow Club."

Collectively called the **Windows Project**, each vertical sculpture will fit into a white, powder coated steel, arched window frame. These windows create a visual connection to the architecture of the **Quail Hollow Clubhouse** and to the idea of looking at the past, present and future. Each window will rest atop a 10-foot pole, and the completed pieces will be installed sequentially along the championship's entry path, making it a focal point for visitors as they enter Quail Hollow.

Each sculpture will present an important theme: recycling, arts, education, community, Wells Fargo history, Quail Hollow history, tournament history and partnership. Sculpture signage will describe how the students translated their research of assigned themes into the finished pieces.

According to **Shaun Cassidy**, an associate professor of fine arts who is providing faculty guidance throughout the design process, this unique collaboration requires students to consider the context and site into which their sculptures will be placed.

"It allows a student to work within the parameters of a creative public art opportunity that is almost always reserved for a professional artist and not a student. As such, we are excited that the work will be sited at such a prominent location showcasing the Department of Fine Arts' commitment to providing students with unique and exceptional learning experiences," said **Cassidy**.

The **Department of Fine Arts** maintains a longstanding commitment to encouraging students to work

creatively and collaboratively within their communities. The **Windows Project** is only the students' latest partnership effort. They regularly propose, design, fabricate and install public art on campus and in the community. Civic engagement is just one facet of the fine arts program that helps determine student success.

Students involved in this project include: Julie Hydrick, Chris Smalls, Carey Morton, Sarah Cason, Anastasia Netrebine, Jacob Olsen, Sarah Scherini, John C. Williams and Kaitlyn Walters.

For additional information, please contact **Judy Longshaw**, news and media services manager, at 803/323-2236 or e-mail longshawj@winthrop.edu.

About the Wells Fargo Championship:

The Wells Fargo Championship is one of the largest, most prestigious sporting events in the Charlotte region. Champions for Education, a non-profit organization, operates and manages the tournament and has donated over \$13.5 million to local and regional charities since 2003. Now leading up to its 10th anniversary, the tournament is intended as an annual tradition that will bring players and patrons back each year for an unforgettable golf experience. The 2012 tournament will be held April 30-May 6. The national and international golf community has recognized it as one of the top events on the PGA TOUR. A combination of Quail Hollow Club and the spirit of the Charlotte area community are among the reasons the Wells Fargo Championship has and should continue to draw many of the world's top golfers to Charlotte.

What Others Are Saying:

"From Niki De Sante Phalle's Firebird to Thomas Sayre's Furrow, Charlotte is full of examples of public art commemorating the history and celebrating the community. Public art provides citizens and visitors with new and exciting ways to experience this city. Adding work by a public artist and students to the Wells Fargo Championship will enhance the event experience for both Charlotte residents and visitors."

- Kati Stegall
Program Administrator
Art-in-Transit
Charlotte Area Transit System
Charlotte, N.C.

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