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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Roanoke Public Art Program dedicates new sculpture at Roanoke Civic Center

Roanoke, VA — The City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Arts Commission (RAC) today “unveils” a new signature sculpture at the Roanoke Civic Center. The sculpture was created by artist Rodney Carroll of Baltimore, Md., to commemorate the city’s 125th anniversary and its theme of “People, Pride, Promise.” The unveiling includes a “meet the artist” reception and music by members of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.

Selected last December from a pool of 89 entries, the sculpture was installed by Carroll and his team next to the Performing Arts Theatre the week of Sept. 22. It stands 30 feet tall and incorporates seating and walkways for public access.

Carroll calls his sculpture, titled “??,” a welcoming gesture with the three supportive elements: people, pride, and promise. “The elements wrap around each other as the sculpture reaches upward toward the sky,” he says. “The polished stainless pipes and sculptural elements bring a feeling of celebration as they shine against the night sky.”

Carroll was chosen by a community-based selection committee from artists located in 26 states and the District of Columbia. He has ties to Virginia, having received a BFA in sculpture from Old Dominion University in Norfolk. He also studied landscape architecture at Virginia Tech.

According to Doug Jackson, chairman of the RAC, Carroll is nationally recognized for the quality of his work and his public sculptures are in numerous major cities. “It’s an honor to know that his newest piece will be in Roanoke,” says Jackson. “We wanted a piece that was very powerful. Carroll’s proposal spoke to the entire selection panel.”

Roanoke’s Public Art Program is funded by a Percent for Art Ordinance, established by the City of Roanoke as a way to fund public art in city neighborhoods and public places, to reflect its vibrancy and heritage. The fund is comprised of 1 percent of the budgets of certain projects in the city’s capital improvement program. Public art policies and decisions are guided by the 15 volunteer members of the Roanoke Arts Commission, with final approval from City Council. More information is available at www.roanokeva.gov/publicart.

For more information about the Public Art Program, please contact Susan Jennings, Public Art Coordinator, at 540-853-5652.

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