



Athens Area Arts Council
You, Me and the Bus
An Art in Transit Initiative in Partnership with
the Unified Government of Athens Clarke County

LOCATION-ATHENS, GA: Athens is a rapidly growing university town with a population of 110,000, located in Northeast Georgia. A spirited and energetic community, the town offers visitors and residents a unique blend of Southern heritage along with avant-garde entertainment. Athens boasts a wide array of award-winning restaurants, historic districts, innovative local artist initiatives, as well as world-renowned art and music. For more information about Athens-Clarke County, visit: www.athensclarkecounty.com.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT- YOU, ME AND THE BUS- In 2005, Athens Area Arts Council (AAAC) partnered with the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County and the Athens Transit System to launch "YOU, ME AND THE BUS" a national design competition for artist designed bus shelters. The project aimed to enhance the public transportation system and improve quality of life in Athens by integrating utilitarian public services with artistic ingenuity and inspiration. AAAC sought design proposals that served as both functional shelters for Athens bus riders and quality works of public art. Round 1 designs conveyed themes of movement, transportation and people. Round 2 designs honored the musical heritage of Athens. Both rounds focused on bus and riders' activity, incorporating site context and serving to define the areas in which they were located. Shelters had to hold a minimum of 3 people as well as provide enough space for a wheelchair. The competition was open to designers, artists, architects, and art students who reside in the United States. Winners were selected by a jury of 13 people composed of bus riders, bus drivers, artists, citizens, engineers, architects and members of the Athens Clarke County Commission and the Manager's office. Exhibitions of the winning designs were held in May of 2006 and April 2009 at the county art gallery in the historic Lyndon House Arts Center in downtown Athens.

FUNDING- The project was funded through Athens-Clarke County SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Taxes) as well as contributions raised by AAAC from grants, corporations and private citizens. The city contributed the cost of a manufactured shelter (\$9,160) and the Council raised the artists' fees and additional fabrication costs (\$5,000) per shelter.

GOALS AND OUTCOME-YOU, ME AND THE BUS was originally conceived as a small project of four shelters to perk up the profile of the Transit System and enhance bus ridership. Now in its 5th year, there will be a total of twelve bus shelters, installed along major transportation arteries in Athens and in or near neighborhoods dependent upon public transportation. To date, nine shelters have been installed. Public response has been overwhelmingly positive and the Transit System reports that bus ridership is up and the bus shelters are well cared for by users. In addition, the process of mingling artists, volunteers and county workers has also resulted in additional art collaborations across the city and the launching of a formal public art program for Athens.



For immediate release
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You, Me and the Bus II Design Competition

The Athens Area Arts Council, in partnership with the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County and Athens Transit Service, is proud to announce the winners of the second installment of the You Me and the Bus Design Competition.

You Me and the Bus aims to enhance the public transportation system and improve quality of life in Athens by integrating utilitarian public services with artistic ingenuity and inspiration. The overall theme of the competition this year was Art Rocks! A Public Art Tribute to the Athens Music Scene.

A jury composed of community leaders and Athens Transit bus drivers and riders chose 8 winning designs and 4 alternates. Many of the winning designs were created by local artists.

Hannah Goldberg, Lucy Marshall, Km Hicks, Meghan Just, and Kate Hardman, a student group from the Lamar Dodd School of Art, created the Murmur Trestle, inspired by the old railroad trestle in Dudley Park found on the back cover of R.E.M.'s debut album, Murmur.

Dana Jo Cooley created a scene right out of the B52's song "Love Shack" with her bus shelter donning the same name. Dawn Gonzalez shared the same inspiration in her "Funky Little Shack."

Another local winner came from the design team of David Matheny, Breckyn Alexander, Lisa Jennings, James Blythe, and Josh Bass from Armentrout Roebuck Matheny, who collaborated to create "Amped," a bus shelter made of amplifiers.

Davison Architecture's "Beat A Drum," featuring drums embedded in the side of the shelter; Y Rosemary Fivian and Michelle Wheatley's "Shadow Stop", complete with famous Athens' musicians song lyrics; and Rebecca Durr, Danica Macy, Dale Prior, and Steve Shilman's "Bus Stop #11" which highlights the guitar. The winning designs are currently on display at the Lyndon House Arts Center.

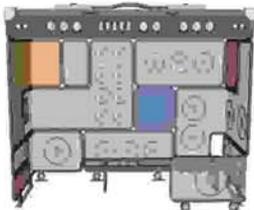
Installation of the first 4 bus shelters is set to begin in the fall. Public donations to help support this project can be made online at www.athensarts.org and are greatly appreciated.



1. Funky Little Shack
 Dawn Gonzalez
 Pelham, GA



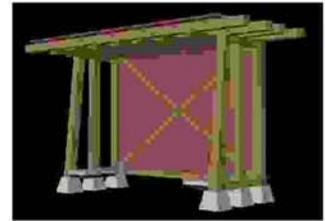
2. Beat A Drum
 Dominique Davison
 Kansas City, MO



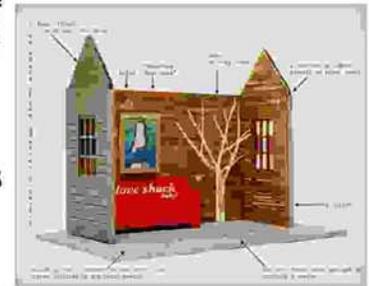
3. Amped
 Armentrout Roebuck
 Matheny Design Firm
 Athens, GA



4. A Bus Shelter That Rocks
 Justin DiPietro and
 Anthony Maisano
 Philadelphia, PA



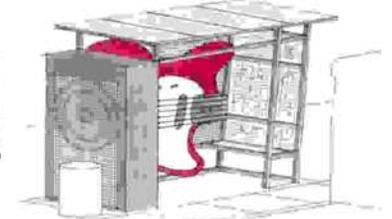
5. The Murmur Trestle
 Hannah Goldberg, Lucy Marshall,
 Kim Hicks, Meghan Just,
 Kate Hardman
 Athens, GA



6. Love Shack Bus Stop
 Dana Jo Cooley
 Athens, GA



7. Shadow Stop
 Y. Rosemary Fivian and
 Michelle Wheatley



8. Bus Stop #11
 Rebecca Durr, Danica Macy, Dale
 Prior, and Steve Shilman
 Bellevue, WA