

Media Release

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Ophelia Chambliss, local artist, 717-891-0157

Re: Public Art Installation in Olde Towne East

Kill Date: N/A

Public Art Graces Intersection in City Neighborhood

York- On Tuesday, March 25th the Mayor of York and friends will dedicate a new piece of public art installed on the southeast corner of Queen and Princess Streets in the Olde Towne East neighborhood of York, PA. The celebration begins at 2:00 p.m. at the site in front of 200 East Princess Street. Created by York County artist Ophelia Chambliss and funded by the City of York Redevelopment Authority with a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, the artwork will be a lasting testament to the diversity, vibrancy, and vitality of its neighborhood.

The development of the art took place over many months and included multiple public meetings that included the input of neighborhood residents. With funding from the York County Community Foundation, a public art planning process was facilitated by YorkArts. Residents were surveyed to determine what was special about Olde Towne East. Answers included the history, diverse cultures, and beautiful architecture. Ms. Chambliss took these ideas and incorporated them into brightly-colored collages painted on large steel panels.

Organizers of the project expect the art to draw people to the neighborhood as well as strengthen neighborhood pride among current residents. According to Ms. Chambliss; "Improvements like this in the city will have a positive affect on all of York County. It can bring attention to the neighborhood and may even attract more artists to live in the neighborhood. Visitors and residents alike will enjoy this art for years to come."

In 2003, the YWCA of York and the Olde Towne East Neighborhood Association began a comprehensive revitalization project within the neighborhood called the Community Renaissance Project. The art project is part of the transformation of the neighborhood, which includes community-building initiatives, the installation of new sidewalks, rehabilitated homes, a new park and sidewalk planters and benches. The goal of the project is to create a safe, thriving, and attractive place to live. For more information about the Community Renaissance Project, call Jane Conover at 717-845-2631.