

THE FAIRHOPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ART (COPA)

The Committee On Public Art is a committee of the Eastern Shore Art Association. It was started in 2001 to develop and implement a long-range plan to acquire, place and maintain works of art of the highest quality and to make visible Fairhope's long-standing interest in and support of the arts. By working with the Mayor and City Council, local businesses, organizations, and individuals, the committee raises funds for public art projects in Fairhope. Jolane Edwards was the initiator of and driving force behind COPA. COPA also receives foundation grants and funding from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Since its inception, COPA has purchased and donated to the City of Fairhope "Elan Vital," by John Medwedeff, "The Dolphin Family," by Jim Sardonis; and "Generating Readers," by Brad Morton. COPA jointly sponsored the fish and alligator sculptures by Bruce Larson at Thomas Hospital; and has contributed funds towards Stephen Spears' sculpture of Fairhope artist Craig Sheldon and John Rezner's art pavers in the Fairhope Museum of History Plaza. The Leonard Cave sculpture, "Diversity," donated to COPA by Don and Meribeth Malton of Fairhope, will be placed near the Fairhope Library in 2010.

The 2006-2007 project, "Art Takes Flight", a temporary art installation in Fairhope featured 70 artistically-decorated pelicans, each sponsored by businesses or individuals. There were over 300 sponsors of the pelicans, ranging from one individual or business to a group of 40 people, over 200 volunteers, and 70 artists, plus dozens of schoolchildren and teachers from the Fairhope schools. Six hundred attended the "Buy, Buy Birdie" auction. It was truly a community project. Money raised from this event paid for the "Mullet Run" fountain by Ameri'ca Jones in the Museum Plaza.

In 2008 and early 2009, COPA worked with the City of Fairhope, the Downtown Merchants Association and the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in funding and developing a new brochure for Fairhope, which includes a map of the arts community and public art. COPA also sponsored a juried show, "Falling Water," to coincide with the dedication of the "Mullet Run" fountain in October 2009.

The 2010-11 project is "Jumpin' Jubilee," similar to the "Art Takes Flight" project, but this time featuring shrimp, flounders, and crabs.

For further information, visit www.FairhopeCopa.com.