

MEDIA ALERT / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

**For Immediate Release
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Public Art Installation at Former Criminal Courts Building

What: Installation of a new public artwork created by Artist Shan Shan Sheng of San Francisco at 700 E. 4th Street. The project is managed by the Arts & Science Council (ASC), the Public Art Commission, and Mecklenburg County.

Who: Artist Shan Shan Sheng will be available for interviews.

When: Monday, August 17, 2009

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: 700 E. 4th Street (former Criminal Courts Building of Mecklenburg County)

Background:

- Since the opening of the new Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Courthouse in February 2007, the former Criminal Courts Building of Mecklenburg County has been renovated to accommodate the office of the public defender and a consolidated human resources department for both Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte. The new public artwork will be suspended in the entry alcove to the left of the door.
- The artwork, titled *Dogwood*, is inspired by the North Carolina state flower. Viewable from the main entrance, the sculpture is approximately 20 feet long by 7 feet high by 11 feet deep and will be suspended by stainless steel cables. *Dogwood* will consist of approximately 80-100 pieces of cold cast glass panels, in shades of red and blue.
- The artist, Shan Shan Sheng, was born in Shanghai and currently resides in San Francisco. She has completed over 20 large-scale projects in the states of California, Arizona, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas and New Mexico, and the cities of Miami, Chicago, Denver, Shanghai, Beijing, Taipei and Hong Kong.
- The \$108,000 contract for the sculpture was allocated in fiscal year 2009 and funded by Mecklenburg County's one percent public art ordinance. The Arts & Science Council and the Public Art Commission managed the public art project in conjunction with Mecklenburg County.
- Sheng has worked as a professional artist for 20 years, the last 12 of which she has spent working in the public art field. She has artworks installed in four of the world's ten tallest buildings.

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ASC is a non-profit organization that serves and supports Charlotte-Mecklenburg's cultural community through grant-making, planning, programs and services to ensure a vibrant community enriched with arts, science and history.