

7-1-2014

News - Athens-Clarke County Library

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Recommended Citation

Eades, Rhiannon (2014) "News - Athens-Clarke County Library," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 51 : Iss. 3 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol51/iss3/11>

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Public Art @ Your Library

The Athens-Clarke County Library recently celebrated the installation of two works of public art at its Baxter Street location.

The Athens-Clarke County Library received the first work, a mural by Nick Napoletano, in November 2013. The 60-foot mural runs along a retaining wall facing Baxter Street and colorfully depicts a diverse crowd headed to the library.

A second piece, a metal sculpture by Athens artist Bob Clements, was installed earlier this spring. This 15-foot-tall sculpture, titled “The Muse of Learning,” features brightly colored, stylized silhouettes of a winged figure overseeing a mother and children enjoying books.

Both works were celebrated with Family Fun & Art Day on Saturday, May 24. Sponsored by the Friends of Athens-Clarke County Library, Family Fun Day traditionally kicks off the summer reading program. This year, however, the Friends partnered with the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, and local arts-centric businesses TreeHouse Kid & Craft, Arrow and ATHICA to create a morning full of fun art and science-themed activities at the library.

In addition to the art and science activities, families enjoyed visiting with animals from Sam’s Path Petting Zoo and Sandy Creek Nature Center, played with sidewalk chalk and bubbles outside, and finished the day with a puppet show by Peter Hart of Atlanta Puppet. Local acoustic duo Hawk-Proof Rooster provided music for the event. The celebration also included an official ribbon cutting of both works of public art.

The Athens Cultural Affairs Commission, whose goal is to initiate community participation in the building of public spaces and encourage citizen to take pride in public cultural expression, worked with the Library and the Athens-Clarke County government to select and coordinate the works.

Both works were paid for by Athens Cultural Affairs Commission Capital Funds. For more information, visit www.athensculturalaffairs.org.

Cutlines for photos:

(Sculpture ribbon cutting) Left to Right: Marilyn Wolf-Ragatz, Artist Bob Clements, Athens-Clarke County Mayor Nancy Denson and Athens-Clarke County Library Director Kathryn Ames celebrate the ribbon cutting for Clements’ sculpture, “The Muse of Learning,” at Athens-Clarke County Library on Saturday, May 24. Clements’ sculpture and mural by artist Nick Napoletano were celebrated with Family Fun & Art Day at the library.

(ACCLmural) Nick Napoletano painted this mural on a retaining wall that runs along Baxter Street. The colorful mural depicts a diverse crowd headed to the library.

(Clements Install 8) “The Muse of Learning,” by Athens artist Bob Clements, stands 15 feet tall and welcomes all to the Athens-Clarke County Library.