



Arts of Southern Kentucky Commissions Renowned Sculptor Russ Faxon for Burr Plaza Installation

Large bronze sculpture to be placed on pedestal in front of Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center

Gift from local businessman Joe Davis launches public art project

CONTACT: Makenzie Belcher (270) 904-5007, mbelcher@artsofsky.org

May 23, 2023

BOWLING GREEN, KY – At a press event today, Arts of Southern Kentucky announced that it has commissioned renowned “figurative sculptor” Russ Faxon for a public art installation. Faxon, who was raised in Bowling Green, received a degree in Fine Arts from Western Kentucky University and studied in Italy. He is best known for creating Tennessee’s Korean War Memorial and Opryland sculptures of Roy Acuff and Minnie Pearl. His new work will be installed in Burr Plaza, a public common area in front of the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC). The sculpture is made possible by a \$100,000 gift from local businessman Joe Davis, the current Chair of Arts of Southern Kentucky.

Faxon’s sculpture is the first project to come from the work of Arts of Southern Kentucky’s Public Art Committee. Committee Chairperson Judge Mike Buchanon said, “Great communities are committed to quality of life, celebrating their culture and honoring their history, and public displays of art can do that. As Bowling Green continues to grow, we want to engage regional artists, provide free exposure of art to our citizens, and welcome visitors. A city that shows creativity attracts creative people to visit, live, and work there. I am so proud that the Public Art Committee’s first commissioned sculpture will be by Russ Faxon, a talented artist recognized nationally as one of the best. I am so grateful to my friend Joe Davis for stepping up and offering to contribute his resources to make this possible. The first sculpture commissioned by the Arts of Southern Kentucky Public Arts Committee is beyond my expectations. We’re setting the bar high, and we are off to a great start.”

“SKyPAC, under Jeff Reed’s leadership, has become the focal point for the arts in our community. It is also the hub of arts and culture in our region,” said Joe Davis. “I am excited that the new sculpture in front of SKyPAC will become a symbol of the magic that takes place inside the building.”

“It’s wonderful that SKyPAC will be the home of one of Russ Faxon’s works. Finally, SKyPAC will look like an arts facility,” said Jeff Reed, President and CEO of Arts of Southern Kentucky. “I’m thrilled that we are taking a leadership role in exhibiting public art that everyone can enjoy, free of charge. We are fortunate to have Judge Buchanon’s leadership for our initiative. He has a passion for the arts. Anyone who has

Arts of Southern Kentucky, Inc
601 College St. P.O. Box 748 Bowling Green, KY 42102
Administrative Office 270-904-5000 | Ticket Office 270-904-1880 | www.TheSKyPAC.com

lived in Warren County knows that he's a man who gets things done," said Reed. "A special thank you goes to Joe Davis for his generous gift. When I described the vision for the artwork, he immediately jumped on board. His gift will leave a lasting impact on the arts."

ABOUT RUSS FAXON

Russell Faxon was born in Independence, Missouri in 1951 and was raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He attended Memphis State University on a football scholarship and received a B.A. degree in art education from Western Kentucky University in 1973.

After teaching in the Metropolitan Nashville School System from 1974-1976, Mr. Faxon traveled to Italy pursuing his love of sculpture. For six months, he created sculptures at the Mariani Foundry in Pietrasanta. While in Italy, he was able to study and experience the works of "The Masters" of sculpture and the Arts. He also began to learn the fine art of bronze casting for the development of his sculpture.

Upon returning to the U.S. Mr. Faxon continued his sculpture career with gallery exhibits in Chicago, Philadelphia, Connecticut, and Louisville. He moved to Bell Buckle, Tennessee in 1979 to serve as resident artist at the Webb School. He established his home and business, Selah Studio, in the historic pre-civil war area of the town. There he continues the development of his limited-edition bronze figures through the process known as "Lost Wax." Mr. Faxon's creations range in size from table models, to monumental and are in private and corporate collections across the United States and Europe. His works include Barbara Mandrell, Abilene Christian University, Lloyds of London, Calsonic International, The State of Tennessee, Northern Telecom, Inc., The Korean War Memorial of Tennessee, the City of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Minnie Pearl and Roy Acuff for Opryland, USA, Cracker Barrel Inc., Tullahoma Fine Arts Center, Bank of America and CNL Corporation of Orlando, Florida, and many more.

<https://russfaxon.com>

ABOUT ARTS OF SOUTHERN KENTUCKY

In 2020, with the assistance of the Warren County Fiscal Court and Judge Michael O. Buchanon, Orchestra Kentucky assumed management of the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC). The new organization, which also includes BG Onstage and the Ramsey Theatre Company, is titled Arts of Southern Kentucky, and is led administratively and artistically by Jeffrey Reed.

The Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center is a premier performing arts venue located in downtown Bowling Green, KY. The facility includes the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall, a 1,700-seat state-of-the-art auditorium; the Renshaw Education Center which houses the Carol Wedge Studio Theater - a flexible 2,600 sq. ft. space for intimate productions and gatherings; several multi-functional rehearsal halls/classrooms; a children's art gallery and a main gallery.

#####