

Enriching Lives



Contacts:

Julie Silliman, Dir. of Civic Arts, L.A. County Arts Commission, 213 974-8584, jsilliman@lacountyarts.org

or

Linda Chiavaroli, Dir. of Communications, L.A. County Arts Commission, 323 871-4554.

lchiavaroli@lacountyarts.org

or

Tony Bell, Assistant Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, 213 974-5555, tbell@lacbos.org

For Release September 27, 2006

Artists Selected for La Crescenta Library Civic Art Projects

Painter **Evan LeGrande Wilson** of Crescenta Valley and the Glendale-based stained glass firm **R.D. Gibbs & Company** have been commissioned to create permanent artworks for the new La Crescenta Library, due to be constructed in 2008. On Wednesday, September 20, 2006, a panel of community members and representatives of Los Angeles County's Public Library, Department of Public Works and the Fifth Supervisorial District Field Office awarded \$57,400 to Wilson and \$15,000 to R.D. Gibbs.

The new 13,000 sq. ft. La Crescenta Library, serving the unincorporated La Crescenta community north of Glendale and east of La Canada-Flintridge, will replace an existing County Library on the same site, at the intersection of La Crescenta Avenue and Foothill Blvd. Carde-Ten Architects of Santa Monica designed the new facility, which includes reading areas for children and adults, a meeting room accommodating 100 people, a formal entrance featuring native stone and an exterior plaza.

"These talented La Crescenta artists will add great beauty and elegance to the library and make it an inviting gathering place for the whole community." said Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor whose Fifth District includes La Crescenta.

Evan LeGrande Wilson, a painter and graduate of UCLA, has executed public and private commissions nationally, including murals for the City of San Gabriel's Auditorium and SPC/Pacific Bell in Newport Beach. Wilson is known for his versatile decorative painting styles, including gilding, trompe d'oeil and scrollwork. He has also restored historic murals at the City of Los Angeles City Hall and the St. Andrews Baptistry in Pasadena, among many others. In May 2006, his sample painting for the dome at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in North Hollywood, *Ascension Scene for the Main Dome*, was selected for exhibit at the M. C. Escher Museum in the Hague, Netherlands.

R. D. Gibbs and Company of Glendale was founded in 1979 by R. Douglas Gibbs, a native of Great Britain who began his career in stained glass at the Canterbury Cathedral. The company,

now co-directed with son Timothy, specializes in original, custom stained, leaded and faceted glass. Their commissions include both new work and restorations at churches through California, including St. James the Less Catholic Church in La Crescenta and a chapel window at Loyola Marymount College. Their leaded glass windows are featured at the Agoura Hills Library in Agoura Hills.

The selection panel included community members, Sharon Hales and Sharon Raghavachary President and Vice President, respectively, of La Crescenta Town Council; Elaine Silvestro, Friends of the Library; Eleanor Wacker, La Crescenta Chamber of Commerce; County Librarian Margaret Todd; architects Eric Mar and Scott Carde of Carde-Ten Architects; Senior Field Deputy Sussy Nemer from the Fifth District Field Office; and County Arts Commission's Civic Art Program staff.

In accordance with the Civic Art Policy adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 2004, one percent of the library's construction costs are allocated for the incorporation of civic art. The Los Angeles County Art Commission's Civic Art Program administers all aspects of the civic art allocation in concert with County constituents and community stakeholders.

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to coordinating the Civic Art program, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2006-2007 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.