



CURRENCY FOR A CAUSE

The national Fundred Dollar Bill Project aims to improve conditions in New Orleans

May 11, 2009, Durham, NC—Instead of Benjamin Franklin, draw your own face, your pet dog, your favorite superhero, the meanest monster you can imagine. Make up a new country, pick your own colors--design your own \$100 bill. The FUNDRED DOLLAR BILL PROJECT is a national art project involving several million students' original interpretations of the U.S. one hundred dollar bill. This creative collective action is intended to support OPERATION PAYDIRT— an extraordinary art/science project uniting three million children with educators, scientists, health care professionals, designers, urban planners, engineers and artists. Together they are working to clean up New Orleans' lead polluted soil that puts thousands of children at risk for severe learning disabilities and behavioral problems.

Golden Belt and other area partners are inviting local schoolchildren and members of the community to take part. People can make Fundreds beginning May 15 through June 19 from 10-7 p.m. (12-6 p.m. on Sundays) at Golden Belt, Studio 115. To experience a lively Third Friday evening filled with art and community, bring the whole family to Golden Belt on either May 15 or June 19 to create and view Fundreds made by other children throughout Durham. The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University will invite visitors to make Fundreds at a free Family Day event on May 17 from 12-4 p.m. and local classrooms throughout the area will also provide ample opportunity to engage in Fundred-making fun!

As an official collection site, Golden Belt will display the Triangle's hand-drawn, personalized currency. Once the nationwide goal of three million Fundreds has been reached, an armored truck specially designed to run only on vegetable oil (collected by local schools) will tour the country to collect the Fundreds. The creative bills will ultimately be delivered to Washington, D.C. where on the steps of Congress, artist and Fundred creator Mel Chin will request an even exchange of three million in real dollars from the U.S. government. The money raised will support OPERATION PAYDIRT'S solution for lead-related health and quality-of-life issues for communities in New Orleans.

Juline Chevalier, curator of education at the Nasher Museum, said "I am excited about this opportunity to extend the museum's reach into the community and inspire people to take part in a meaningful art project. For students, personalizing currency helps to personalize the situation in New Orleans, post-hurricane Katrina. I hope that contributions by students will show that their creative actions can make a difference."

Educators at the Nasher Museum will provide resources to area teachers to take part in the Fundred Project and make connections to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Students will learn about the \$100 bill, symbolism, and critical thinking skills in the areas of social studies, science and visual arts.

For more information about the Fundred Dollar Bill Project go to www.fundred.org

About the Nasher Museum of Art

The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University opened its new building designed by architect Rafael Viñoly on October 2, 2005, creating a major new center for the arts on campus. The museum serves the university, Research Triangle area and surrounding region with exhibitions and educational programs that foster multidisciplinary learning. The museum presents an ambitious schedule of traveling exhibitions that reflect an increased focus on modern and

contemporary art.

About Golden Belt

Former home to the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company, the 155,000 square foot, seven-acre, LEED-registered campus in downtown Durham is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes six architecturally-significant buildings that house thirty-seven live/work residential lofts, thirty-five artist studios, a central gallery, a live music venue, event space, boutique retail stores, restaurants, and office space. This urban arts campus is at the epicenter of the growing arts-related critical mass in Durham's downtown. Since its opening in July 2008, Golden Belt has become a go-to, must-have place for creative pursuits, cultural events and a hip lifestyle in the Triangle. Golden Belt is located at 807 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701.

For more information about Golden Belt, visit www.goldenbeltarts.com or contact Marketing Director Allison Polish by e-mail at allison.polish@scientificproperties.com or by phone at 919-967-7700 x155.