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For Immediate Release:

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Mattaponi Indian and River Inspired Desk Sculptures

King and Queen County is known for its river life and is full of beautiful landscapes filled with Native American heritage. Two desk sculptures created by local artists represent these themes for the School Daze Public Art Project by the King and Queen Community Development Corporation. Business sponsorships are available in support of the public art project and include participation as a desk sculpture sponsor and as a table sponsor at the future gala event. Sponsors to date for the School Daze Project include: Ball Lumber, Country Courier, Women's Club of King and Queen County, International Training, Inc., Scott's Store, West Point Glass and West Point Pharmacy.

K. Anne Careatti, of Tappahannock, decorated a desk in which she titled, "Mattaponi River Scenes." She carved river scenes into the wood slats on the back of the chair, and then rubbed ink into the carvings. The writing surface is painted Chinese lacquer red with small river scenes in the corners, representing the four seasons. The region's fragrant honey suckle is painted around the seat and legs. This desk is decorated with the idea of it being a usable piece of furniture. Anne is inspired by the prints of Hokusai and Hiroshige, and she works mostly outdoors.

Karen Tootelian-Westermann, of King William, designed a Native American- and river-inspired desk sculpture for the School Daze Public Art Project. A writer/environmentalist, she painted quotes from her book, *The Chief and I* and incorporated earth symbols onto the sculpture. Her inspiration for *The Chief and I* evolved from her personal journals about the time she spent with Chief Webster Little Eagle Custalow of the Mattaponi Tribe, their deep friendship, their efforts to protect the Mattaponi River from the proposed King William reservoir, and about her own spiritual bond with the river. Like the book, her desk sculpture evokes thoughts about what life on the Mattaponi River was like in the past, and in present day, when Native Americans worked and preserved the land "for seven generations to come."

While the desks were first publically exhibited at the Wine and Art Festival at Locust Grove on June 14th, the sculptures will be exhibited at other area locations throughout the coming months in West Point, King and Queen, King William, and Tappahannock. Look for desks at the Community Pride Day in King and Queen at Central High School on October 18th and at the Robinson/Olsson Auditorium and Fine Arts Center in West Point October 21st through the 25th. Themes for the desk sculptures include a wide range from school related to quilting to aviation to river and wildlife. The project will conclude with a gala event in spring 2009 where the desk sculptures will be auctioned off as a fundraiser for KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project. The Marriott School Restoration Project is the planned renovation of the Marriott School into a community/cultural arts center for residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in or volunteer with the School Daze Public Art Project, please contact the KQCD office at 804-769-9656 or email schooldaze@kqcd.org. If you are interested in sponsoring the "Mattaponi River Scenes" desk or the "Chief and I" desk, please contact the KQCD office. For more information about KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project, please visit www.kqcd.org.

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