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For Immediate Release:

School Daze Public Art Project

The King and Queen Community Development Corporation, Inc. (KQCD) is announcing the School Daze Public Art Project. Fourteen area artists/groups are participating in the project by turning old school desks, from the former Marriott High School, into pieces of public art. The School Daze Project is much like other public art projects such as Richmond's 2000 GO Fish and the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association's 2004 Mad About Shad projects. The public art project committee is comprised of Ann Chenoweth, Elizabeth Christeller, and Dawn Shank. This project is a fundraiser for KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project which 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.

Desk sculptures are being created by many talented local artists: Buttons Boggs - Walkerton; Anne Careatti -Tappahannock; Ann Chenoweth - Bruington; Michael Martin-Bruington; Elizabeth Mills and Mary Sader-Bruington/Mechanicsville; The Monk Family-Amherst; Cecky Ropelewski-Walkerton; Dawn Shank-Walkerton; Jonathan Walsh-Aylett; Karen Westermann-West Point and by the Sewing Ladies of Walkerton. Additionally, each of the three public schools in King and Queen County are participating as well. Themes for the desk sculptures include a wide range from school related to quilting to aviation to river and wildlife. The artists met at the old Marriott School on February 2nd to pick up their desks to begin working on their sculptures.

The desks will be first exhibited publically at the 2008 Wine and Art Festival at Locust Grove on June 14th in Walkerton, VA. This local festival which features the art work of local artists, in addition to wine tasting, food, music and activities for children, is a wonderful setting to feature the desk sculptures and bring awareness to the project. The public art sculptures will also be exhibited at other area locations through the coming months. The project will conclude with a gala event in early 2009 where the desk sculptures will be auctioned off as a fundraiser for the Marriott School Restoration Project. Business sponsorships will be available in support of the project including participation as a desk sculpture sponsor and as a table sponsor at the event. Business sponsorships are available and the committee is contacting local businesses for their support.

The Marriott School Restoration Project has made significant progress toward Phase One of the Project. In early 2007, the Marriott School became listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Stabilization efforts began last May at the site working to achieve a stabilized structure ready for the renovation phase. Remaining phase one plans include asbestos abatement and the removal of the non historic rear addition. KQCD plans to initiate significant

fundraising activities toward renovating and equipping the site as a community/cultural arts center for the residents of King and Queen County and 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. For more information about KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project, please visit www.kqcd.org. More information about the 2008 Wine and Art Festival at Locust Grove can be found at www.locustgrove1665.com or by calling 804-769-8201.

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