

**Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
(STMA)**

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**STMA Arts Outreach Program© Receives Grants from Two Prestigious
Foundations**

BUCKHEAD – STMA Arts Outreach Program© was the recent recipient of grants from the **C. R. Bard Foundation** and the **Frances Wood Wilson Foundation**.

The **C. R. Bard Foundation**, the local community commitment incentive of **C. R. Bard, Inc.**, a worldwide leader in health care, awarded a grant to the Steffen Thomas Museum for its 2009 spring term program with the Morgan County CrossRoads School.

"*Between a Rock and a Hard Place – The Winter Garden*," is a continuation of STMA's 2008 spring term CrossRoads program, "*From Garden Gate to Dinner Plate*." Museum staff; local seniors, naturalists, and artists; master gardeners as well as educators will work with the students for a minimum of 12 weeks from January through May.

Participants will be taught essential, useful life skills such as winter garden/drought resistant planning and planting, harvesting and preparing their very own garden produce, and celebrating their accomplishments by creating individual and composite sculptures of the vegetables using recycled wire, rocks and other "reclaimed" objects.

Along with this instruction, they will also learn of the many art/design jobs available in the local, commercial sector through "*Op art: Opportunities for Employment and Empowerment through the Visual Art*," a vital educational initiative offered by STMA Arts Outreach Program©.

STMA's "*Op Art*" incentive was also honored with a recent grant from the **Frances Wood Wilson Foundation**. The three-year project, which will introduce students in the tri-county Lake Oconee area to careers in the visual arts, began this fall with a mixed group of 9th through 12th graders from Greene County High School.

Working professionals with a wide variety of experience, education and training will speak to the students about opportunities in careers related to the visual arts. Guest lecturers will include graphic artists, illustrators, interior and landscape designers, architects and fine artists. They will describe the numerous employment opportunities associated with the visual arts as well as the skills, experience and education necessary to qualify for these professions. Based on their first-hand experience, the speakers will also explain how to research job opportunities, apply for various positions, experience the creative process associated with these employment opportunities and help to design an education and employment strategy for interested students.

"*OP Art*" contributes a valuable link to the Georgia/Governor's Task Force Work Ready Economic Development Initiative, now adopted by Greene, Morgan and Putnam counties.

The students will also design and build "recycled" sculptures made from discarded objects. By doing so, the young artists will realize the power of their very own ability to sustain the local environment and reduce our carbon footprint.

A composite of the most outstanding student works will be constructed during the program's second semester. The resulting large public sculpture will be publicly and permanently installed at the Georgia Power Lake Oconee Parks Ferry Recreation Area in the spring of 2009.

Students in Putnam and Morgan counties will participate in the second and third years of the project, respectively.

For more information, please contact the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art; 4200 Bethany Road in Buckhead; 706-342-7557; www.steffenthomas.org. The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; STMA members and children under six are admitted free. A new audio tour is now available at no additional charge.

