

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

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*Members of the Madison-Morgan Boys and Girls Club explore STMA's sculpture garden.*

### **STMA Hosts Local Boys & Girls Club**

BUCKHEAD – For many of the young members of the Madison-Morgan Boys and Girls Club, the June 18<sup>th</sup> excursion was a real first: a visit to an actual museum, namely the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art. Accompanied by the club art teacher, Terry Tingle, the youngsters were astonished by the variety of art on display: oil and watercolor paintings, pen and ink drawings, mosaics and sculptures.

A highlight of the visit was a presentation by STMA Docent and Boys & Girls Club volunteer, Linda Toman, who explained why this single artist museum was established in Buckhead. (The property, owned by Thomas's son, Steffen Thomas, Jr., seemed the ideal

location for an art institution in a rural area.) Linda also described the museum's Arts Outreach Program and its mission to provide art education for children and families in the community, as well as the opportunity for participants to develop their own talents and to realize their responsibility for preserving the environment.

Lisa Conner, Acting Museum Director and Steffen Thomas's youngest daughter, then described one of her fondest memories: how she came to share her bedroom with a black maned African lion cub. "I was away at college when my father acquired 'Dick the Cub' who soon became a cherished pet." She explained. "He set up residence in my bedroom, so when I returned home for a visit, I had to share that space with him. He was really a very sweet fellow." Club members then embarked on a search for Dick's statue as well as a tour of the museum's sculpture garden.

According to Linda, "The STMA field trip was a perfect end to our 'Hand Crafted Art Week.' " During the session, local professional artists, including Karen Strelecki, Bobbie Austin, Monica Culqui and Elizabeth Collins presented a different medium for the club members to explore. "Thanks to these generous artists, our 'Creative Corner' kids had actual hands-on experience with many of the mediums Steffen Thomas used. The sessions certainly helped them appreciate the greatness of his art," Linda added.

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art is located at 4200 Bethany Road in Buckhead. STMA offers guided tours lead by trained museum docents to groups and classes of all ages. For more information, please call 706-342-7557.