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City Partners with Arts Council to Promote Local Art

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg is partnering with the Arts Council of the Valley to promote and seek local art.

Virginia’s Executive Mansion recently announced that the theme for its 2015 holiday tree will be “Celebrating Virginia’s Localities.” The Virginia Municipal League (VML), of which Harrisonburg is a member, was asked to assist in collecting ornaments from Virginia cities and towns for the tree that is displayed in the mansion’s ballroom.

The city and the Arts Council of the Valley are asking local artists to submit handmade entries for this project. From the ornaments received, only one will be sent on behalf of Harrisonburg to be displayed on the tree in the Executive Mansion. This tree will be adorned with these unique ornaments representing the cities and towns in Virginia and will be on display to the public throughout the season.

Through this partnership, the fun doesn’t stop there!

All other ornaments submitted for this project will be displayed on the city’s Christmas tree in the lobby of the new City Hall to welcome residents, employees, and visitors.

Since moving to City Hall is like moving to a new home, Harrisonburg’s theme for the ornaments will be “Harrisonburg is *Home* for the Holidays.”

Submissions can be sent to the Arts Council of the Valley by mail or in person to 311 S. Main St. Harrisonburg, VA 22801. The Arts Council of the Valley is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Questions? Contact Mary-Hope Vass, public information officer for Harrisonburg at 540-432-7701 or MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov. Additional information is also available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/new-city-hall.

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Guidelines for ornament submissions:

- Each participating locality is asked to submit one holiday ornament for the tree in the Executive Mansion. All other ornaments will become the property of the city for annual display on the Christmas tree.
- The theme for Harrisonburg’s ornament is “Harrisonburg is *Home* for the Holidays.”
- The size of the ornament should be no longer than six inches and the shape and material is totally up to the artist/artisan. The finished ornament should be sent along with the name of the locality and artist placed on the back of the ornament.
- The artist/artisan should reside in or near the locality. As we may feature a children-themed tree in the future, we are asking that this year’s ornaments be created by adults.
- No purchased ornaments.
- Deadline for submitting the ornament to the Arts Council of the Valley is **Monday, October 19**.

The mansion officially opens for the holidays the evening of the Capital Tree Lighting with an open house for the general public on Friday, December 4.

*Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the **Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System** by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com.*



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