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## **MORPC's Art in the Halls Program Welcomes Goodwill Art Studio & Gallery and Blue Shoe Arts**

**(COLUMBUS, February 10, 2010)** – The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) Art in the Halls program announces a new exhibit on display through **February 26**, featuring artwork from the Goodwill Art Studio & Gallery and Blue Shoe Arts. MORPC's gallery, located at 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 in Columbus' Brewery District, is open for public viewing Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The **Goodwill Art Studio & Gallery** is an innovative fine arts program for persons with disabilities and other barriers that offers the opportunity for creative self-expression, recognition, improved self-esteem, increased life satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment through encouragement and collaboration with professional artists. This process results in the creation of high quality artwork that is original and expressive. Our artists gain recognition through exhibitions and receive 65 percent of the proceeds from the sale of their artwork. All works of art are created in collaboration with resident artists, Holly Adkins-Ardrey, Kate Gorman, and Deborah Griffing.

**Blue Shoe Arts (BSA)** is all about helping individuals with disabilities discover their natural talents in the field of visual art and providing income opportunities to build self-sufficiency and increase self-esteem. BSA is a studio/gallery owned by Fairfield Industries with generous support from Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Currently there are 12 artists who work in the studio one or two days each week. Each artist owns his/her own artwork and receives 100 percent of the proceeds less minimal supply cost. Cheryl Fey is the creator/director of BSA and appreciates the help of many loyal volunteers who encourage the artists in the studio as well as helping in many other ways.

MORPC's Art in the Halls program was created in 1986 and is a unique public art program that provides an opportunity for local artists to market themselves in the public sector. When it first began, it was one of the few places where local artists could exhibit their work. More recently, other communities and organizations have taken the concept and used it to bring art to their municipal and organizational buildings.

MORPC's Art in the Halls program provides Central Ohio artists with a highly visible forum in which to exhibit their work. Since its inception, the program has displayed the works of over 85 artists. Featuring new collections on a bi-monthly schedule, Art in the Halls integrates artworks among the day-to-day functions of MORPC. Gallery space is interspersed throughout MORPC's offices. For more information on the program call Shari Saunders at (614) 233-4125 or visit [www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org).

MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio. It serves the region through planning, direct services, developing public policy, innovative programming, and coordinating intergovernmental services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.