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**Sculpture celebrating communication commissioned by Women’s Art Initiative**

**March 4, 2019, ROCK HILL -** A new outdoor sculpture that celebrates communication and technology has been commissioned for downtown Rock Hill by the Women’s Art Initiative (WAI).

“Communication: Endless Possibilities Past, Present, Future,” by artist/designer Carrie Gault of Floyd, Va., will be placed at the entrance of Comporium Communication’s Telephone Museum at 117 Elk Ave. Plans for the sculpture depict a teacher with students representing technology from different time periods. Mosaic tiles will illustrate Rock Hill’s history while fiber optics are expected to light the piece at night.

No stranger to Rock Hill, Gault, who has more than 20 years of experience, provided mosaic fabrication at the Freedom Walkway on Main Street, and has worked on public art projects in Charlotte, Greensboro and Floyd, Va. A mosaic instructor with architecture degrees from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, she has served on several advisory committees and received numerous private commissions.

Led by a WAI Selection Committee, Gault’s design was selected through a juried process that followed a national call for proposals.

“Carrie’s design relates well to our project’s theme and we hope it will enrich the public’s knowledge of Rock Hill’s history and the city’s public art landscape,” said Caroline Rust Ward, selection committee chair. “We were intrigued by her vision that blends history with technology, illustrating what can be accomplished through education and ingenuity over time.”

Project sponsors include the City of Rock Hill, which is providing the location and infrastructure; the Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation through its Barre Mitchell Community Initiatives Fund, and Comporium, which was founded in 1894 as Rock Hill Telephone Co. and is now one of the nation’s largest telecom companies.

"Comporium is excited to see progress on the project and to be a part of WAI’s efforts to infuse our community with a culture of appreciation for visual arts," said Shaun Barnes, Comporium’s director of external relations.

The design phase begins this spring, with fabrication taking place during the summer. Installation is expected in early fall.

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The Women’s Art Initiative was created to enhance the quality of life in Rock Hill through public art. Its first public commission was “Ann Evolving” at the White Home and the non-profit most recently refurbished the Lewandowski mural at the Center for the Arts. For more information, contact Grazier Rhea at [grhea@catawbacog.org](mailto:grhea@catawbacog.org) or Caroline Rust Ward at [rustwardc@winthrop.edu](mailto:rustwardc@winthrop.edu).