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## Artwork in action

Inside parking garage, five-story robot and significant events from the city's history tell a story. **Page 4.**

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# With art, stairwell's appeal is going up

BY RYAN SEALS  
STAFF WRITER

The walls of the Church Street parking garage stairwell are coming alive this summer with a story that's full of fun and imagination and aims to promote a healthier lifestyle.

UNCG art student Brittain Peck and his cast of student volunteers from the African

American Atelier and YMCA summer camps have spent the past few weeks painting a mural inside the stairwell close to

the Central Library. The mural is designed to encourage patrons to use the stairs instead of the elevator.

Funded by a \$2,500 grant from UNCG to the Greensboro Wellness Program, the city's department of transportation and the African American Atelier, Peck's design features a five-story robot, significant events from the city's history and a storyline that encourages patrons to take in the view of the city from the top of the garage.

"It's an opportunity for children from low-wealth com-

munities to get some exposure to the arts and use the arts as a vehicle to advance self-esteem," said Rep. Alma Adams, D-Guilford, who co-founded the Atelier.

"It fosters a greater appreciation for the arts. And to have these young people painting on walls and not destroying them in other ways helps them appreciate their environment."

Pat Levitin, chair of the Greensboro Library Arts Commission said funding is available for similar projects at other parking decks and the Melvin Municipal Office Building, but the Church Street garage is serving as a pilot project.

Guilford County's 2007-08 budget, approved June 21, cut \$1.4 million for nonprofit groups, including summer art programs, which Levitin called a "travesty."

"This is an amazing opportunity for the kids. Some haven't picked up a paintbrush in their lives," Levitin said. "They wouldn't have that opportunity."

Peck said he hopes that by helping with the project, the kids gained a new appreciation for art.

"I wanted to show them how art can benefit their own community and how they can be an active participant in creating such art," Peck said.

"They can walk away with



RYAN SEALS/GUILFORD RECORD

Brittain Peck, an art student from UNCG, helps a student from the African American Atelier work on a mural in the Church Street parking garage stairwell. The mural, which is designed to encourage Central Library visitors to use the stairs instead of the elevator is made possible by a \$2,500 grant from UNCG to the city.

this however they choose, but I hope by working in a group and doing something constructive with their imagination, that it will be a benefit to them."

Peck has done other murals at the Bennett College Student Union, as well as one of Greensboro native and former Harlem Globetrotter

Curley Neal at the Hayes-Taylor YMCA.

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