



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Artisphere Dedicates Public Sculpture to Celebrate 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

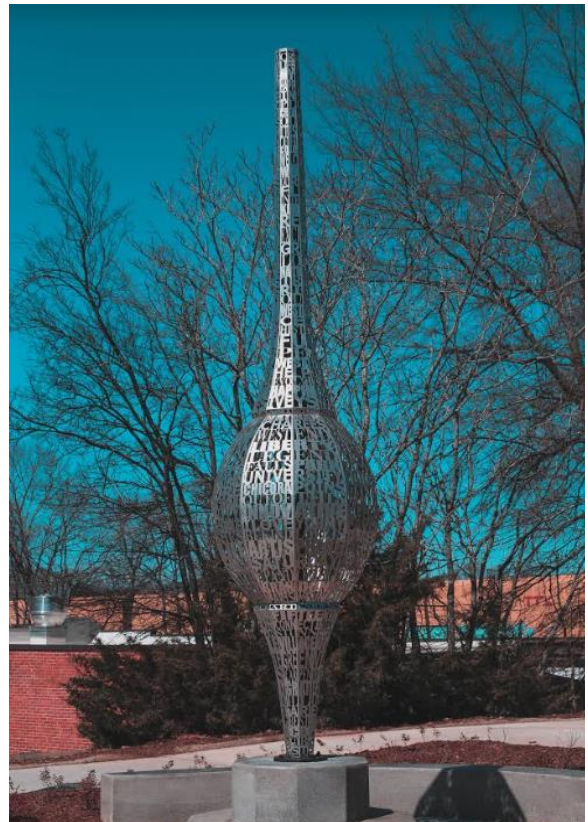
*Spindle* is the 4<sup>th</sup> piece the festival has commissioned since 2005

[Greenville, SC] April 2019- In celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Artisphere* presented by TD Bank, the festival commissioned artist Blessing Hancock (Phoenix, AR) to create a public sculpture commemorating the milestone occasion. The piece was dedicated to the City of Greenville in a public ceremony on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Situated on the Plaza in the Village of West Greenville, *Spindle* (a straight spike used for spinning and twisting fibers into yard) pays homage to Greenville's former life as the "Textile Center of the World."

Funded by the City of Greenville's Arts in Public Places Commission as well as private foundations and individual donors, the project took over a year to complete from RFP to installation.

"The City of Greenville's Arts in Public Places Commission deeply appreciates the efforts that the Artisphere organization makes to develop a permanent work of public art for the City every five years as a tangible reminder of the importance of art in our community" stated Arts in Public Places Commission Chairman, Sean Scoopmire, "*Spindle* by Blessing Hancock incorporates meaningful words from her interaction with the community and is a powerful tribute to Greenville's past, a recognition of its present, and a vision for its future. I think this work will be an important landmark in the Village of West Greenville Arts District."



*Spindle* by Blessing Hancock, photo by Ridge Media

Standing 20ft tall from the ground to the tip, *Spindle* incorporates text that Hancock collected during her visit to *Artisphere* 2018. Patrons completed an exercise where they identified words that "explain" Greenville. Hancock included 277 words or phrases in the aluminum steel that creates the spindle shape. When illuminated, words like "Reedy River," "Paris Mountain," "Liberty Bridge" and "Swamp Rabbit" spill onto the ground surrounding it.

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The sculpture makes the fourth public art piece dedicated to the City of Greenville by *Artisphere*, and the first outside of the festival footprint.

Blessing Hancock owns Skyrim Studio Inc which focuses on site specific sculpture. She utilizes her BFA in Sculpture and MLA in Landscape Architecture to create innovative work for public spaces. She has completed monumental sculpture projects throughout the world and has extensive experience working with city agencies, project teams and community groups.

“We are thrilled to be able to dedicate Artisphere’s fourth public art installation to the City of Greenville” stated Artisphere Board of Directors President, Ed Zeigler, “We believe that the addition of public art will cement the Village of West Greenville as an Arts District for many years to come”.

Find your happy medium at *Artisphere*, presented by TD Bank, May 10-12, 2019. For more information, visit [www.artisphere.org](http://www.artisphere.org).

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***Artisphere* is funded by grants** from The City of Greenville, Greenville County, South Carolina Arts Commission, Metropolitan Arts Council, The Graham Foundation, The Jean T. & Heyward G. Pelham Foundation, The Daniel Mickel Foundation and The Roe Foundation.

**About *Artisphere***

*Artisphere* is a highlight of Greenville’s cultural calendar and a Top 10 Fine Arts festival. The event features a juried Visual Artist Row; Artists of the Upstate, a juried exhibition of local artists; Outdoor Stages with performances by local and national artists; hands-on Kidsphere children’s art activities; the Culinary Arts Café that highlights local restaurants; and Special Festival Art Projects that liven the streets of Greenville with street musicians, acrobats, sidewalk artists, and more. *Artisphere* is attended by approximately 90,000 patrons annually and has an estimated economic impact of \$6.5 million on the Greenville community. *Artisphere* is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. For information, visit [www.artisphere.org](http://www.artisphere.org).

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