

Item Title: Recognition of Eleanor Oakley

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners recognizes Eleanor Oakley for her many years of service to the arts community of Wake County.

Item Summary:

Eleanor Oakley has spent the last 18 years serving President and CEO of the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

Ms. Oakley has driven much of Wake County's arts growth over the last two decades. She partnered with other regional arts councils to create the Piedmont Laureate program designating a Laureate annually who is available to organizations, libraries, and other groups to highlight the importance of the literary arts. She partnered with Wake County municipalities to start the Wake Municipals Murals program that financially assists cities and towns in having murals created for high visibility places in their communities. More recently, Ms. Oakley established the Wake County Artist in Residence program in 2018, an annual appointment with a different artist and artistic discipline each year.

Ms. Oakley has also partnered with the Wake County Public School System to expand arts offerings to public school students. Under her leadership, the Artists in Schools program grew from 108 schools in 2002 to 154 schools in 2019, reaching 130,000 children. Ms. Oakley built on this success by offering master art classes, reaching 17 high schools in 2019.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners is pleased to present Ms. Oakley with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Attachments:

None.