FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POCKET PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS *COLOR COLUMBIA*

CALL FOR ARTISTS OPENS TODAY

Contact: Dr. Sherry Warren, Executive Director of Pocket Productions (803)800-7716 (cell) or Pocket Productions at (803)

**Pocket Productions**presents ***Color Columbia***, a temporary public mural project open to artists throughout South Carolina. Up to 20 artists will be selected to create a 10’ x 10’ mural using temporary paint directly on the asphalt of Main Street in downtown Columbia on July 4th, 2013. ***Color Columbia*** is a great opportunity to engage the public through artistic expression, to have your work showcased in an art-friendly community, and to participate in public art in the City of Columbia. One Columbia for Arts and History anticipates securing funding for at least one public mural commission with a projected budget of least $10,000 (includes artist’s fee, materials and production), with more to follow.

On July 4, artists from across South Carolina will paint murals directly on Main Street as part of a statewide mural design competition produced by **Pocket Productions**. The competition will present opportunities for South Carolina artists to share their ideas for murals in the city, opening opportunities to be awarded privately and publicly funded mural commissions. **The call for artists for this one of a kind competition has just opened. The deadline for applications is June 6, 2013.**

This mural competition will have two rounds.

**First Round**: Artists will complete the application and send samples of artwork, along with up to three mural designs for the July 4th ***Color Columbia*** event. The mural designs should be planned for a 10’ x 10’ section of asphalt on Main Street. Incomplete applications will not be considered. ***Color Columbia*** finalists will be among the list of approved artists invited to submit proposals for future public art commissions as funding becomes available.

**Second Round**: Artists who are selected as finalists will participate in the **July 4 *Color Columbia*** event on Main Street. Each finalist will create a 10x10 foot mural using temporary paint directly on Main Street. The street mural should reflect one of the designs submitted by the artist for the First Round. All materials, shade, water and refreshments will be provided to the artists as they create their work from 5:00-8:00 PM on July 4 during First Thursday on Main Street (artists can begin their work as early as 2 PM if they choose to do so, and will have shade and water available from this point on).

Prizes will be awarded on the day for *public choice* and *best in show*, among others. Representatives of One Columbia for Arts & Historyand the **City of Columbia** will be present at this event to see the finalists’ skills in action. ***Color Columbia*** finalists will be among the list of approved artists invited to submit proposals for future public art commissions as funding becomes available. A committee including art professionals and artists will decide on which artists and designs to commission for murals in the city.

The application form is available at [www.pocketproductions.org](http://www.pocketproductions.org) or immediately downloadable at <http://pocketproductions.org/pocket-productions-color-columbia-call-for-artists.docx>

Special thanks to First Thursdays on Main Street, Mark Plessinger, One Columbia, and the City of Columbia for their support of this project.

*Pocket Productions is an arts company, in the process of becoming non-profit, devoted to developing and expanding the arts community in Columbia, SC, by stimulating cooperation between and innovation among local artists and arts organizations. Pocket Productions is supported by the Columbia Music Festival Association, the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties, and the City of Columbia. For more information about Pocket Productions, visit http://www.pocketproductions.org*