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Eyedrum signs on as petitioner in Percent for Art lawsuit

ATLANTA — The 20-member board of Eyedrum Art & Music Gallery voted in mid-November to join a lawsuit against the city of Atlanta for its failure to collect and distribute funds in its Percent for Arts program. Eyedrum's move to become a petitioner in the lawsuit underscores the nonprofit's commitment to supporting Atlanta's arts community.

Percent for Art is a city ordinance that earmarks 1.5 percent of the cost of city-funded capital construction projects for public art. Eyedrum, along with Public Space Initiative, Public Domain, and numerous private individual petitioners, have come together in an attempt to correct the misdirection of the program, which was established in 1977 to provide a resource for Atlanta artists to create works in various mediums across the city for public enjoyment and enrichment.

As it is Eyedrum's mission to help provide a forum that supports and encourages the development, exchange, and presentation of creative ideas, joining the lawsuit was a logical move for the organization, even as it is unlikely to directly benefit from any resulting collection of funds.

"The Atlanta arts community has always been very supportive of Eyedrum. Therefore, the Eyedrum board of directors feels that it is only appropriate that we support efforts to enhance Atlanta arts and culture. The city of Atlanta's efforts in this area are commendable and this petition is meant to help city planners continue the work of making Atlanta a truly cosmopolitan city, in all senses."

For more information, please contact Eyedrum Executive Director Robert Cheatham at zeug1@earthlink.net, or Alyson Laura at alysonannelaura@gmail.com.

Started in 1998, Eyedrum is a nonprofit organization developing an interdisciplinary approach to the arts by incorporating a wide range of contemporary art, music and new media in its gallery space. The gallery is operated entirely by volunteers, and supported through memberships and donations. It has been recognized internationally as well as locally by Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs and within the community at large for its advancement of innovation. **For more info, please contact Eyedrum at 404-522-0655 or www.eyedrum.org.**