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**CULTURALDC'S MOBILE ART GALLERY AND NORTH CAPITOL MAIN STREET OPEN "IN A WORD" BY ARTIST
AMY WIKE**

Interactive fiber art exhibition explores what Washingtonians think of their city

EXHIBITION DATES: June 7 - July 29

GALLERY HOURS: Thursday-Friday 5-9 p.m. ; Saturday-Sunday 12-8 p.m.

COMMUNITY KICK-OFF: June 8, 6-9 p.m.

ARTIST WORKSHOPS: June 24 at SAAM's Luce Foundation Center 1-3 p.m.

July 14 at the Mobile Art Gallery 2-4 p.m.

WASHINGTON, DC - Starting June 7, CulturalDC's Mobile Art Gallery moves to Truxton Circle for Amy Wike's interactive fiber art installation, "In a Word." Held in partnership with North Capitol Main Street, "In a Word" invites participants to consider varying perceptions of Washington, DC.

After asking over 300 people to describe Washington in one word, Wike knit their answers in Morse code to give the words a tangible presence. The knitted responses create a web-like maze of thread visitors navigate upon entering the Mobile Art Gallery, forcing them to confront and physically acknowledge preconceived notions about the space and city they are currently inhabiting.

"The installation compares and contrasts perceptions of DC—how they do and do not line up from internal and external vantage points—and invites consideration of how an individual neighborhood or community impacts the overall perception of a region," says Wike of her installation.

Visitors can participate in the exhibit by sharing single-word descriptors of Truxton Circle - the neighborhood in which the Mobile Art Gallery will reside - through a submission box in the gallery. Wike will use these answers to create a second Morse code piece, collecting them weekly and knitting them into a living tapestry that grows as the exhibition progresses.

"In a Word" marks the sixth exhibit of the Mobile Art Gallery inaugural season. Says CulturalDC's Executive Director Tanya Hilton, "Amy's work continues CulturalDC's tradition of creating engaged communities. Our Mobile Art Gallery ensures that neighborhoods across the District have access to locally grown creative experiences."

"North Capitol Main Street is elated to partner with CulturalDC to bring art and vibrancy to an already dynamic corridor. Art is such a powerful tool to foster both community and conversation. We look forward to engaging all who come to see this great exhibit," says Executive Director Aisha Bond.

"At Whittle School & Studios, we believe that our curriculum is created by every single aspect of a child's day. We highly value the importance of art and design as well as community engagement. We are particularly pleased to sponsor CulturalDC's Mobile Art Gallery to bring inspirational experiences to both our students and the surrounding community" says Vincent Traviglione, Director of Enrollment Management.

Other opportunities to engage the exhibit include:

- The exhibit's Community Kick-Off held on June 8 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- A free workshop led by Amy Wike at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Luce Foundation Center on June 24, 1-3 p.m.
- A free workshop led by Amy Wike at the Mobile Art Gallery on July 14, 2-4 p.m.
- Live knitting sessions with Amy Wike June 17, 1-5 p.m. and July 8, 1-5 p.m.

"In a Word" at CulturalDC's Mobile Art Gallery can be found from June 7 until July 29 at 1600 North Capitol St NW.

ABOUT AMY WIKE

Amy Wike is a fiber artist based in Washington, DC. Her work plays with the ideas of translation, interpretation, and the complexities of language. She takes words or phrases and abstracts them beyond recognition by translating them into Morse code and knitting the transcription row by row with yarn. The resulting amorphous shapes act as visual representations of communication. She aims to create a space where visitors are challenged to think about language in a way we aren't used to experiencing it; visually, but also tactilely and tangibly. Born in Philadelphia, PA and raised in Pewaukee, WI, she earned her degree in Marketing and Entrepreneurship Management at the University of South Carolina, with a minor in Art History. She currently lives and works in Washington, DC, with a career in art museum marketing. Her work has been exhibited widely in DC and across the Mid-Atlantic region.

ABOUT CULTURALDC

[CulturalDC](#) has a 19-year history of creating affordable, sustainable artist spaces in the Washington, DC, area. CulturalDC has brokered more than 250,000 square feet of artist space, including the Arts Walk at Monroe Street Market, Atlas Performing Arts Center, GALA Hispanic Theatre, Source Theatre and Woolly Mammoth Theatre. Each year, CulturalDC serves more than 1,000 artists and welcomes 30,000 audience members and participants who patronize local businesses and contribute an estimated \$1 million to the local economy.

CulturalDC's Mobile Art Gallery continues our strong history of presenting cutting-edge artwork and emerging artists by allowing artists to transform a fully-outfitted 40ft shipping container into an immersive environment. The gallery moves across the city throughout the 2017-2018 season with a new exhibit and a different community project in every neighborhood it visits. By outfitting a portable shipping container as a multi-functional space for art and by partnering with unconventional venues across the city, CulturalDC ensures that communities experience and engage in groundbreaking works.

CulturalDC's Mobile Art Gallery was made possible with support from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Studios Architecture, Monarc Construction Inc., WGL Energy, Forest City Washington, Dulles Electric Supply, Enegenium Group, and K&K International Inc.

ABOUT NORTH CAPITOL MAIN STREET

A non-profit organization focused on revitalizing North Capitol Street as a vibrant commercial corridor leading from the United States Capitol building to all points north. Chartered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Street program and the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development, the group is changing North Capitol and the surrounding neighborhoods into a robust and connected community of thriving businesses and diverse offerings.