

## **Charlotte Unveils Historic Public Art Installation at Levine Center for the Arts**

In a groundbreaking move to elevate the city's cultural landscape, Charlotte unveiled a striking new public art installation today at the Levine Center for the Arts, in the heart of uptown. The installation, titled "*Threads of Time*," combines the talents of renowned local artist Maria Solis with cutting-edge digital art technology, creating an interactive piece that explores the complex history and future of the city.

The 25-foot tall sculpture, which features woven metal threads interspersed with illuminated LED screens, represents the city's diverse history and its rapid growth into a cultural hub in the Southeastern United States. Solis, known for her work that blends sculpture, technology, and storytelling, collaborated with engineers to bring her vision to life. The installation is designed to react to movement, allowing passersby to trigger dynamic visual elements by simply walking past it, creating a unique and ever-changing experience for each viewer.

"This piece is more than just art—it's a conversation," Solis said at the unveiling ceremony. "It speaks to the layers of history in this city, from its Native American roots to the diverse communities that call Charlotte home today. It's a visual representation of where we've been and where we're headed."

Local officials and art enthusiasts gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which featured speeches from Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, the city's Arts and Culture Commissioner, and representatives from the Levine Center. Mayor Lyles praised the installation as a bold step forward in making Charlotte a more vibrant and inclusive cultural destination.

“Charlotte has always been a city of innovation, and today, we take another leap forward in showcasing our artistic talent and rich history,” Mayor Lyles said. “This installation is a testament to the creativity and resilience of our city. It will serve as a permanent reminder of the powerful stories that shape our collective identity.”

The installation, which is expected to attract both local visitors and tourists, is part of a broader initiative by the city to integrate art into public spaces. The Levine Center for the Arts, which already houses the Mint Museum, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, and the North Carolina Dance Theatre, will now be home to this monumental new work of art that invites interaction and reflection.

Charlotte’s arts scene has been rapidly growing in recent years, with the city’s cultural institutions becoming increasingly recognized on the national stage. This new installation, which was funded through a public-private partnership, adds to that momentum, signaling Charlotte’s commitment to fostering creativity and engaging the community in meaningful cultural experiences.

*"Threads of Time"* will be on display year-round, free to the public, and is expected to become a key destination for those exploring Charlotte’s vibrant arts district.

## **Former Student Attacks Professor Over Grade Dispute**

An incident unfolded at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Friday morning when a former student allegedly attacked Professor Brittany Nix-Crawford with a lightsaber during a routine lecture.

The altercation caused a disruption to Professor Nix-Crawford's Journalism class. The suspect entered the classroom unexpectedly and confronted the professor over a bad grade. Students were told to take notes of what they saw.

According to witnesses, the suspect began yelling and waving the lightsaber in the air, burning parts of the professor's podium, but fortunately, she remained unharmed. Students described the scene as bizarre and frightening.

One anonymous student noted, "He didn't seem rational at all. He wasn't actually trying to hurt Professor Crawford with the lightsaber, but he was definitely swinging it around aggressively. We were all shocked, but luckily, no one was physically injured."

Campus police arrived quickly and arrested the suspect without further incident. He was charged with assault and disorderly conduct and later released on a \$100,000 bail. Authorities confirmed the charges included aggravated assault and destruction of property.

Later that afternoon, there was a press conference with the Chief of Police and a witness. Both mentioned the effectiveness in removing the suspect from the classroom. They answered further questions from reporters.

In the aftermath, a fellow student, John Ernest, expressed support for Professor Crawford, noting her reputation for being a tough grader but emphasizing that such outbursts over grades were unjustifiable.

"Students shouldn't get upset over a 'B'," Ernest said. "We have sent Professor Crawford a care package with brownies and chocolate-covered potato chips to help in her recovery."

University officials have stressed that emotional outbursts over academic disputes should never be handled through violence. Authorities continue to investigate the events leading up to the confrontation.