

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OR DENY THE YARN BOMBING PROJECT, PRE-
APPROVED YARN BOMBING SITES AND PROCESS TO REQUEST FUTURE SITES
Draft Resolution No. 133/2010-11**

WHEREAS, the Arts Committee requested the Board to review and consider a Yarn bombing Project.

WHEREAS, the committee would like to create an outdoor installation that is focused on color and design using yarn. They sense a strong need for outdoor art in Carrboro.

WHEREAS, the Board requested staff to review the proposal and provide a response; and

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed the request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CARRBORO BOARD OF ALDERMEN:

Section 1. The Board of Aldermen approves, denies or modifies the request and staff recommendations.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

To the Board of Alderman and Staff,

The Art's Committee for the town of Carrboro would like to create an outdoor installation that is focused on color and design using yarn. This use of working with yarn over cityscapes has been coined the term "Yarn Bombing". In cities like, Cleveland, a tree stood covered in a sweater of yarn for 3 years. Other areas, such as, Chicago, California, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, British Columbia, Stockholm, London, Paris, Monaco, Moscow, Mexico City, Chile, and Delhi, India, have displayed overwhelming feats in covering trees, posts, abandoned gas stations, and even a giant school bus.

Magda Sayeg, a 35-year-old from Texas is the founder of Knitta Please, one of the first guerrilla knitting crews. Sayeg started out decorating her local area with leftover pieces of knitting from unfinished projects. She soon got more ambitious, traveling around the world and leaving bits of thread behind: she counts the Great Wall of China, a handful of Paris landmarks and the Welcome to Manhattan sign on the Brooklyn Bridge among her greatest conquests.

The Art's committee of Carrboro is looking for your acceptance and support in our own "Yarn Bombing" project. We sense a strong need for outdoor art in Carrboro.

Our steps will be as follows:

1. I round up various knitters, 15-40 people

2. Potential targets identified and measured. Cosies are knitted to fit later at home.

Potential Sites:

Weaver St. trees

Big tree in front of Town Hall

Metal chain fence near Open Eye Café

3. Hold regular meetings with knitters to discuss ideas, and obtain a time frame.

4. Discuss materials already on hand, make the project as green as possible, recycling old yarn that everyone already has on hand and start knitting, all knitters working in a variety of colors. If there is money in the budget, we use some money to buy sale item/discounted/recycled materials, as needed. The overall idea is use what we have first, upcycled materials.

4. After 2-4 months of making, I gather all of the knitters to help yarn bomb our site choices on a set date. Everything will already be made from measurements; we just have to install the art exhibit, as a surprise to most of the public of Carrboro.

5. After 1-2 weeks, the artists take down the pieces.

This outdoor installation will NOT do any harm or damage to trees or property. Yarn is lightweight and can be fit snug or loose to any one object. To remove the pieces, one long stitch, for each object, needs to be pulled apart.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Laura Korch, Carrboro Arts Committee Member

Yarn Carrboro Project

The Town Attorney and Staff reviewed the general proposal. Recommendations are included in italics for Board of Aldermen consideration.

The proposed Yarn Bombing Subcommittee of the Arts Committee will oversee this project. The subcommittee consists of three Arts Committee Members: Laura Korch, Hassan Melehy and Stephanie Russ and was formed for this specific project.

The committee proposed implementing this project using a 5 step process:

1. Recruitment of knitting team/supplies

The Arts Committee will contact local knitting groups seeking interest. Supplies needed for this project hopefully will be donated.

If supplies are not donated or unforeseen costs arise, items could be purchased using Arts Committee funds. A limit should be established for what can be spent for this project. The Arts Committee annual budget is \$1000 along with the balance from the previous year.

2. Identification and measurement of sites

The committee discussed potential sites however no recommendations were provided at this time.

Staff recommends that individual requests be reviewed for approval. Each request should be submitted to a department designated by the Manager. That department will distribute the request to the appropriate department in charge of the facility. After consideration, the Town provides a response to the request. Safety is a big factor along with other circumstances in question. If each item/area is requested separately this will allow staff an opportunity to review all areas of concern. Based on the requests, there may be different levels of liability and issues to consider such as the degree of public jeopardy during and/or after installation. People performing work in the public right-of-way typically need to be protected depending on the proximity of traffic and other hazards (e.g. traffic cones, safety vests, etc.) and the public also needs to be protected from the work being performed (equipment, excavations, work overhead, etc.) Guidelines for consideration should be developed such as no climbing of trees or use of ladders to decorate fixtures, and no yarn bombing of traffic signs or street name signs, etc. Also a request template should be developed that includes the necessary information to make an informed decision.

Staff recommends covering bike racks, lower parts of the red columns supporting the Town Commons structure, planters (concrete pipe) at the temporary lot along S. Greensboro Street and railings at Town Hall or lower parts of portico columns.

The Town attorney recommends that the Town (including the Art Committee and staff) consider Town property only. Yarn bombing of private property should not be a part of the project. (The one exception might be property leased to the Town, where we are actually in possession of the property, but we would still have to get the owner's permission). Private individuals (including those who are participating in this project to yarn bomb town fixtures) can solicit permission from private property owners to engage in such activities on their property if they want to, but not as a representative of the Town or as part of a Town project. No authority exists for the

Town to engage in the “decoration” of private property, and doing so would establish a bad precedent and be fraught with potential problems.

Public Works also voiced concerns about a couple of possible sites mentioned:

a) Elm Tree in front of Town Hall and the Holly tree in front of Fire Station #2:

Due to the communal concern for the health of the Holly tree at FS #2 and the Elm tree in front of Town Hall, these trees should not be considered for the project. The Public Works Department has spent considerable resources providing care such as watering, root invigoration (Elm Tree), mulching and selective pruning. The long, thick, sweeping, lower limbs of the Elm tree bear considerable weight and there would be great concern should additional weight/strain be added due to being pushed while accommodating ladders, people, objects or other material. Selective pruning to remove any dead limbs and weight was done just a few years ago to the Elm tree and will be scheduled again in the next few weeks.

b) Chain Link fence at perimeter of temporary parking lot corner of Roberson and S. Greensboro:

The town leases this lot and permission/agreement from the lot owner would need to be considered. There is existing razor wire along the top of portions of the fence which would certainly pose a hazard to anyone working near the top of the fence. There is fence on both sides of the Roberson entrance and driver visibility would need to be considered if anything too opaque was attached.

c) Covering signs or sign posts:

Traffic signs are installed according to MUTCD standards and certainly covering the message or distorting the view raises concerns, even for information signs. We do not want signs covered or decorated that would cause driver/pedestrian confusion or traffic safety issues.

3. Regular meetings of knitters to discuss design, execution, and timing

To be determined by the Art Committee and provided in the request for approval.

4. After 2-4 months of knitting the pieces for installation, on the announced date, all knitters would gather for the yarn bombing. This step would only take a few hours, and hence would come as a pleasant surprise to the public

Once the project is approved and the item is created, the installation requires use of volunteers. Each volunteer will be notified of the installation process / schedule and should be required to sign a waiver of liability.

5. After 1-2 weeks the artists would take down the display

The Arts Committee should be solely responsible for the installation and take down of the knitted exhibit. This information should also be included in the request.