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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Exhibition of Light and Sculpture Opens in City Hall Park on New Year's Eve

Burlington, VT: (Thursday, December 22, 2011) Opening Saturday, December 31st and running through February 28th, 2012 is a new outdoor exhibition in downtown Burlington entitled *Illuminations: Light and Sculpture in City Hall Park*, featuring sculpture by Vermont artists Kat Clear, Chris Sharp, Rebecca Schwarz and lighting design from Jason "Liggy" Liggett. The exhibition will open during First Night Burlington's celebration on New Year's Eve.

The BCA Center's exhibition *Illuminations: Light and Sculpture in City Hall Park* gives visitors a new outdoor winter park experience with a fantastical combination of light, movement and sculpture. Light artist Jason "Liggy" Liggett uses computer controllers and dozens of lights in The BCA Center and City Hall to transform the park each night between 5 pm and 11 pm into a majestic study of color, motion and shadow inspired by the Aurora Borealis. BCA's 2011 Barbara Smail Award-winning artist Kat Clear's incongruous *Comfy Couch* challenges notions of domesticity with a full living-room set of oxidized steel deposited in the park. Vermont artist Chris Sharp's *Fire Hydrant Jack* examines our heightened post 9/11 awareness of safety infrastructure through a surprising sculptural transformation and Rebecca Schwarz's hanging light sculptures feature organic forms created from recycled materials.

This exhibition in City Hall Park is part of the project *Imagine City Hall Park*, a project funded in part by a 2011 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Burlington City Arts received a \$50,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to engage the community in a creative planning process that will result in a visionary master plan for City Hall Park to be completed by July 2012. Activities that have informed the creation of this master plan design include: community information gathering sessions consisting of traditional town meeting methods and visioning events; siting locations for new and existing public art; and expansion of festival and ongoing cultural activities to test new uses and landscape/design requirements. Cultural activities have included youth performances, new park performances for established downtown festivals like Festival of Fools, weekly lunch hour performances by local artists, temporary public art commissions and more.

Illuminations: Light and Sculpture in City Hall Park is an important part of Burlington City Arts, celebrating 30 years of supporting the arts, 1981-2011, which is dedicated to the promotion of excellence, experimentation, and education in all forms of contemporary art. For more information about gallery exhibitions, special events, classes and workshops, please call 802.865.7166 or visit BURLINGTONCITYARTS.ORG.

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