

The Story behind the Buddy Bear:

An idea on its tour around the world!

**"We have to get to know each other better ...
... it makes us understand one another better,
trust each other more, and live together more peacefully."**

THE ART OF TOLERANCE

Under this motto, the **UNITED BUDDY BEARS** promote and represent living together in peace, love, harmony tolerance and international understanding on their global tour. Around 140 Buddy Bears (each 2 m tall) represent as many countries acknowledged by the United Nations. Since the first exhibition in Berlin in 2002, more than 30 million visitors world-wide have been able to admire the United Buddy Bears. Any funds rose in connection with the exhibition is for the benefit of UNICEF.

Each Buddy Bear shows the individual design created by different artists on behalf of their native countries. The international artists' different styles are joined together in one work of art, spreading zest for life. The diverse design of the Buddy Bears – always typical for the respective countries – enables the visitors to experience a journey around the globe. One important prerequisite for this international unifying project is to choose artists from the individual countries – for the circle to reflect the diversity of the cultures of *one world*. The observer learns about the culture, the history, the people and the landscape of the individual countries – large or small. Hence the United Buddy Bears circle has become a platform for even the smallest and poorest countries which frequently remain unnoticed. Suddenly, they are equal to larger and often rich nations.

Soon, more regional bears were created: Our Charlotte Buddy Bear 'Charlie' has been drafted by the local artist Sharon Dowell. She incorporated Queen Charlotte as well as the State flower, the Dogwood. Sharon painted the bear herself in Berlin in March 2014. Before she has been selected, the project has been driven for years by Kurt Waldthausen, the former Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Charlotte, and founder of the German Language and Culture Foundation. Financially funded by the German community, the Charlotte Library has been selected as the ultimate home of the Charlottean Buddy Bear, becoming only the 4th in the United States. [see also: www.buddy-baer.com]

City of Charlotte, North Carolina Proclamation

WHEREAS, the sponsors of the Buddy Bear public Arts project represented by the Alemannia Society of Charlotte, the Deutsche Schule Charlotte, the German American Chamber of Commerce, the German Language & Culture Foundation, Kuehne & Nagel, Inc. and the Waldthausen family, gift the Buddy Bear statue to the city of Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, the Buddy Bear statue is dedicated in celebration of tolerance, friendship and understanding between the people of the city of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in Germany - Birthplace of the City's namesake, Queen Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, the Buddy Bear statue serves as a continual reminder of the strong, vibrant and close cultural and economic ties between the Charlotte Region and Germany; and

WHEREAS, the Buddy Bear Statue shall also convey the gratitude of the German community for the warm reception and friendship received upon settling in the Charlotte Region:

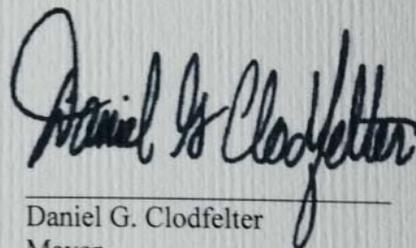
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel G. Clodfelter, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim June 10, 2014 as

“BUDDY BEAR DAY”

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

WITNESS MY HAND and the official Seal of the City of Charlotte.




Daniel G. Clodfelter
Mayor