



# Party Animals

## Washington, DC

BY THE DC COMMISSION ON ARTS & HUMANITIES

### Orange Frazer Press Book Makes *Washington Post's* Bookworld Top Ten List

It was announced on November 17th that the Orange Frazer Press fall release, *Party Animals, Washington, DC* made the Top Ten List of books sold in the Washington, DC area. Not bad for a publishing house that fifteen years ago began with a small fact book on Ohio. "I suppose we've come a long way since then," said Publisher Marcy Hawley, "but it's hard to tell. Our celebrations certainly have not evolved. Some chocolate creme pie at McD's Pub is as good as it gets."

*Party Animals, Washington DC* is Orange Frazer's third public urban art exhibit book. Their first was *The Big Pig Gig, Celebrating Pigs in the City*, produced in 2000 for ArtWorks in Cincinnati. That led to *Fish Out of Water, Baltimore's Fin-tastic Voyage* for The National Aquarium of Baltimore, which in turn led the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities to contact Orange Frazer for their book.

The Official Book, *Party Animals, Washington, DC*, is the full-color pictorial record of the largest public art project in the history of our country's capital. Inspired by the successes of Chicago's Cows on Parade and similar public arts projects in other cities, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities knew Washington and its artists could only benefit from a chance to display their creativity, generosity, and profound sense of community to the rest of the world.

Over a period of nine months, the DC Arts Commission worked diligently to turn over hundreds of well-formed, near life-sized creatures-100 elephants and 100 donkeys-to artists. *Party Animals* was an opportunity to exhibit Washington's abundant creative talent and energy. In a city notorious for taking itself a bit too seriously, it was an opportunity to have some fun.

The Party Animals public art project was launched by Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, and Anthony Williams, Mayor of the District of Columbia on April 23rd, 2002. The event received over 200 national media mentions that day alone from major media such as *The Washington Post*, CNN and NBC-TV's *Today Show*. But most important, Washingtonians began rounding the corners of downtown streets, emerging from Metro entrances and stepping out of their homes to unexpectedly discover a herd of striking and strangely endearing animal sculptures.

These handsome works of art were auctioned off in late October, 2002, raised over one million dollars for perpetuating the arts in Washington and are, finally, recorded only in "The Official" Orange Frazer Press book. "We released *Fish Out of Water* during the 9/11 crisis which spilled into Baltimore, and released *Party Animals* during the sniper tragedies in Washington. All I can say is, regardless of how much chaos is found in the world, it appears that good books must still deliver some peace and sanity. And, if nothing else, they're quiet."

Orange Frazer Press just won the Ohio Preservation Award for their Ohio architectural travel book series, *Building Ohio*. For more on Orange Frazer Press, go to their web site: [www.orangefrazer.com](http://www.orangefrazer.com).

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