



## PROJECT MANDALA ENHANCES LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS



Example of art from pieces created at Zygoté Press

In April 2003 the Sisters of Charity awarded the Cleveland area Community Assessment & Treatment Services a grant to develop an arts collaborative that brings art organizations and halfway houses together to provide cultural enrichment activities to people in treatment for various addictions.

Community Assessment contacted several arts organizations in the Greater Cleveland area and together they formed the arts collaborative for Project Mandala. The *mandala* is a circular design that in ancient times was used to invoke the spirit of healing, bringing the individual back into harmony with the cosmos.

The purpose of this project

is to help chemically dependent people restore themselves through the arts. OAC grant recipients, Art on Wheels, Art House, Broadway School of Music, Cleveland Public Theater and Zygoté press, together with halfway houses, Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Salvation Army – Harbor Lights and Oriana House, worked to enhance the lives of these individuals.

More than 100 clients from the three halfway houses were provided hands-on art experiences ranging from drumming classes to mask making. Satisfaction surveys revealed that more than 90% said the activities helped (*con't page 2*)

## OHIO HERITAGE FELLOWSHIPS HONOR TOP FOLK ARTISTS

The Ohio Arts Council, in partnership with the Ohio Folk Arts Network, has created the Ohio Heritage Fellowships to honor Ohio folk artists who are the finest and most influential masters of their particular art forms and traditions. Ohio Heritage Fellows are among our state's living cultural treasures. They embody the highest level of artistic achievement in their work, and the highest level of service in the teaching and other efforts they undertake in their communities to ensure that their traditions stay strong. Each year, the OAC considers nominations for Ohio Heritage Fellowships in three categories: performing arts (folk dance and music), material culture (folk art and craft) and community leadership. The performing arts and material culture fellowships are given to individuals for their lifelong record of artistic excellence, authenticity and significance. The (*con't page 3*)

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## **PROJECT MANDALA (CONT.)**

their treatment. One individual said, "Coming here was an excellent experience, relaxing and mood soothing. I absolutely enjoyed myself."

The arts organizations also benefited from this project. Many of the artists had no previous experience working with people who suffer from chemical dependencies, some of whom were incarcerated for drug-related crimes. Project Mandala exemplifies the arts community's effort to expand its outreach and increase public value. Project Mandala focused on providing an enhanced healing process through the arts, encouraging enjoyable, drug-free activities for clients. It also has the potential of developing new patrons of the arts as they return to being productive members of their communities and offering a new audience for arts organizations to consider.

For more information on Project Mandala, contact Linda Rasmussen at the Community Assessment & Treatment Services, 216/441-0200 or e-mail [lrasmussen@communityassessment.com](mailto:lrasmussen@communityassessment.com).

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**"The services provided by the Ohio Arts Council are extremely valuable, and the manner in which they are provided is accessible and well-organized. The website is easy to use and all personnel at OAC who we were in contact with were extremely helpful."**

– Antaeus Dance, Cleveland

## **PUBLIC VALUE EXEMPLIFIED IN TUSCARAWAS COUNTY**

**"We have been very happy with our relationship with the Ohio Arts Council. We recognize how financially difficult the last couple of years have been for the Council and appreciate the efforts that you have made to protect grantees from the full impact of state budget cuts. It tells us how clearly you value the work that is being done in our state."**

– Noreen Wilhelm, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

Public value is created and defined by citizens, businesses and organizations in every community. As Ohio societies move into a new era for the arts, the Ohio Arts Council's goal is to aid constituents in their pursuit to define public value within their own work and within their individual communities.

Tuscarawas County Center for the Arts (TCCA), in New Philadelphia, began with the simple concept to increase public value of the arts in their region. They developed a core source of support from the community, several partnerships, magnificent exhibitions and unique educational opportunities.

The quality and variety of classes offered at TCCA significantly enhance art education in Tuscarawas County. A fall class offering in creative writing gave birth to the Tuscarawas County Writers Guild, which meets monthly at TCCA. In addition, the first annual "Art Educators Forum" presented a workshop for area art educators was held in June. Three TCCA clay instructors volunteered time and talents for the workshop and plans are in the works for expanded course offerings in the future.

This year, the TCCA acquired a valuable partnership with the Tuscarawas Philharmonic. The Philharmonic performed the piano suite *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky and TCCA exhibited the work of 10 professional artists who each selected one movement to represent. The community support was remarkable and enabled TCCA to successfully complete the project.

Events and shows sponsored by TCCA provide cultural and educational enrichment to their community and in doing so preserve the past and enhance the present.

For more information on Tuscarawas County Center for the Arts, call 330/339-2787 or visit [www.tuscartcenter.org](http://www.tuscartcenter.org).

**"The OAC provides the support and stability that the festival needs to continue its mission in the community. The OAC and its staff have been helpful and responsive in every way."**

– Arts Foundation of Olde Towne, Columbus



Orquesta El Arranque

## EL ARRANQUE PERFORMANCES SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT OHIO

Orquesta El Arranque will tour Ohio as part of the 2004 fall International Music and Performing Arts in Communities Tour (IMPACT). El Arranque will perform 12 shows, November 1–12, 2004. Performance locations include Lancaster, Cleveland, Akron, Dayton, Cincinnati, Sandusky, Springfield, Urbana, Columbus, Newark/Granville and New Philadelphia. All performances are free and open to the public.

The IMPACT tour is presented by the Ohio Arts Council in partnership with the Ohio Arts Presenters Network and Arts Midwest. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Wallace Foundation.

Since its inception six years ago, El Arranque has quickly earned an international reputation as the most important young tango orchestra in the world today. In March 2004, El Arranque won the Carlos Gardel award for the best Tango recording. This is the Argentine version of a Grammy in the United States. The album was recorded during a live tour in Switzerland. The El Arranque Tango Orchestra has been working to preserve the rich tradition of orchestral tango and carry it forward into the future.

Since 1998, IMPACT has been bringing international artists to Ohio each fall for a statewide tour in places of worship. IMPACT is designed to bring the best international performing arts groups to audiences in Ohio.

IMPACT will feature educational outreach programs in addition to the performances. For more information visit the Ohio Arts Council website at [www.oac.state.oh.us](http://www.oac.state.oh.us), call 614/466-2613 or email [kathy.cain@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:kathy.cain@oac.state.oh.us).

## OHIO HERITAGE (CONT.)

community leadership fellowship is given to an individual whose lifelong achievements have had a lasting positive impact on the excellence, vitality and public appreciation of the folk and traditional arts in Ohio. To nominate a folk artist or outstanding community leader in the traditional arts for the Ohio Heritage Fellowships, contact the Ohio Arts Council at 614/466-2613, or apply online at [www.oac.state.oh.us](http://www.oac.state.oh.us). The deadline is January 15, 2005.

## artssmarts

**Small and midsize businesses from coast to coast are supporting the arts because they recognize that the arts:**

- Are essential to the quality of life of a community – just as essential as good schools, adequate housing, an array of health services and open spaces for leisure-time employment.
- Add to the economic vitality of community by attracting people who buy products and services. For every \$1 spent on the arts, an average of \$4 more are spent on restaurants and hotels, transportation and parking, retail sales and souvenirs.
- Help develop a prepared workforce by increasing academic performance and SAT scores when the arts are incorporated into K-12 education.

Source: Business Committee for the Arts, Inc.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia recently announced the addition of **Shana Chase** to the NEA Office of Governmental Affairs as Deputy Congressional Liaison. Chase brings to the Arts Endowment 11 years experience in governmental relations in Washington. For the past eight years Chase has served as the Director of Government Affairs for one of the country's largest arts advocacy organizations, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. In that position, Chase was the principal liaison to Congress and federal agencies. For more information on the National Endowment for the Arts, call 202/682-5400 or visit [www.nea.gov](http://www.nea.gov).

## BOOKWORMS ARE BECOMING EXTINCT

Literary reading is in dramatic decline with fewer than half of American adults now reading literature, according to a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) survey. *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America* reports drops in all groups studied, with the steepest rate of decline—28 percent—occurring in the youngest age groups. *Reading at Risk* presents the results from the literature segment of the *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*, conducted by the Census Bureau in 2002 at the NEA's request. The survey asked more than 17,000 adults if—during the previous 12 months—they had read any novels, short stories, poetry or plays in their leisure time, that were not required for work or school.

"This report documents a national crisis," NEA Chairman Dana Gioia said. "Reading develops a capacity for focused attention and imaginative growth that enriches both private and public life. The decline in reading among every segment of the adult population reflects a general collapse in advanced literacy. To lose this human capacity—and all the diverse benefits it fosters—impoverishes both cultural and civic life."

While all demographic groups showed declines in literary reading between 1982 and 2002, the survey shows some are dropping more rapidly than others. The three youngest age groups saw the steepest drops, but literary reading declined among all age groups. The rate of decline for the youngest adults, aged 18 to 24, was 55 percent greater than that of the total adult population.

Reading also affects lifestyle, the study shows. Literary readers are much more likely to be involved in cultural, sports and volunteer activities than are non-readers. For example, literary readers are nearly three times as likely to attend a performing arts event, almost four times as likely to visit an art museum, more than two-and-a-half times as likely to do volunteer or charity work, and over one-and-a-half times as likely to attend or participate in sports activities.

Gioia explained, "No single factor caused this problem. No single solution can solve it. But it cannot be ignored and must be addressed."



Share the Arts

## artsPerspective

Published by the Ohio Arts Council

This newsletter aims to keep Ohio's key decision makers informed about the work of the state's arts agency. We'd like this to be a two-way communication. If you have comments about the OAC's involvement in your district or area of expertise please send them to Kathy Burgan at the address below. Thanks for reading.

Gregg Dodd, *Public Information Director*  
Jami Goldstein, *Communications Manager*  
Kathy Burgan, *Editor*

### We're Building Ohio Through the Arts

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

*The Ohio Arts Council is an equal opportunity employer.*

### Visit Us on the Internet

[www.oac.state.oh.us](http://www.oac.state.oh.us)

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