

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ARTS DAY 2005



Rep. Trakas speaks with students at the Brush High School Performing Arts Center, Lyndhurst

In an effort to educate young people about the legislative process, Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation, with the help of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, invited high schools from around Ohio to participate in Arts Day 2005. Arts Day, co-presented annually by Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council, offers opportunities for citizens to express their support of public funding for the arts to their state legislators.

Schools selected to participate in Arts Day 2005 are Admiral King High School, Lorain; Botkins High School, Botkins; Charles F. Brush High School, Lyndhurst; Coshocton High School, Coshocton; Grandview Heights High

School, Grandview; Indian Hill High School, Cincinnati; Kettering Fairmont High School, Kettering; Lancaster High School, Lancaster; Lima High School, Lima; Mason High School, Mason; Marysville High School, Marysville; Shawnee High School, Springfield; Southview High School, Lorain; St. Charles Preparatory, Columbus; Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington; and Westerville Central High School, Westerville. More than 60 high schools expressed interest in the event.

Each high school has chosen six students to participate in the event based on their ability to be successful student advocates. Advocates must have an interest (*con't page 2*)

HUSTED ON COUNCIL BOARD

Speaker of the House Jon Husted (R), District 37, recently appointed himself to the Ohio Arts Council Board. Husted, a resident of Kettering, earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Dayton. He currently serves as Chair of the Rules and Reference standing committee. Husted was named one of the Dayton Area's "Top 40" Business Leaders under the age of 40 by Business News and Montgomery County Republican of the Year (1996).

The Council Board is composed of 15 voting members appointed by the governor and four non-voting members, two each from the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives. All Council Board meetings are open to the public. Also serving legislative appointments to the Ohio Arts Council Board are Senator David Goodman (R), Bexley, Senator Robert F. Hagan (D), Youngstown, and Representative Peter Ujvagi (D), Toledo. For more information about the Ohio Arts Council Board, visit www.oac.state.oh.us.

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Ohio Team Receives Kennedy Center Honor

Riffe Gallery Presents *Land of Latitudes: Contemporary Art From Chile*

OHIO TEAMS RECEIVE KENNEDY CENTER HONOR

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has selected two Ohio teams for its prestigious Partners in Education Program. In 2005, only 12 partnership teams were selected from across the nation. Two of those teams hail from Ohio: a team in Dayton (The Muse Machine and Kettering City Schools) and a team in Cleveland (Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland and Playhouse Square Foundation and the Cleveland Municipal and Berea City School Districts).

“As a newly naturalized citizen to this country from Cuba, I was struck by the Ohio Arts Council’s fair and democratic process for choosing its awardees. I was pleased to have the opportunity to sit in on the selection process, knowing that my work was anonymous at that moment. It was refreshing to see my work judged on its own merits, independent of my social or political connections (or lack thereof). It was an experience that I was never able to have in Cuba, nor as a permanent resident living in other states in this country. It is an experience that I will never forget, and it is one for which I am very grateful.”

— Juan Gonzalez (Lopez),
Yellow Springs

The Partners in Education program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is designed to assist arts organizations throughout the nation to develop or expand educational partnerships with their local school systems. The Ohio teams will be inducted at the Partners in Education Institute, May 11–14, 2005 in Washington D.C.

The primary purpose is to foster collaborative relationships between arts organizations and school districts that lead to professional development opportunities that focus on arts in education and strengthen arts in the region.

The Kennedy Center Partners in Education program offers a four-day Institute that shares program models and planning strategies for establishing or expanding professional development programs in the arts. Follow-up consultation and ongoing communication will assist partnership teams in program development. The program offers annual multi-day meetings and intensive seminars to assist teams, as well as special access and discounts to Kennedy Center touring programs and other resources. The teams will also receive granting opportunities for conducting professional development, research and other arts education collaborative projects.

For more information on Kennedy Center Programs, visit www.kennedy-center.org.

“We deeply appreciate your efforts in highlighting the importance of cultural arts in Ohio and your support of the partnership between the State and the community through its funding of the Ohio Arts Council which fosters, among other things, the preservation of cultural heritage among communities through ethnographic song and dance. It also helps to foster inter-cultural and inter-racial harmony through common interests in the arts.”

— Algis Ruksenas,
International Services
Center, Cleveland

ARTS DAY 2005 (CONT.)

in the arts and the legislative process, an ability to speak in public with individuals or small groups and a willingness to follow through with written assignments.

Each participating school has hosted a state legislator who shared information regarding the state government process and received information on the school’s arts and civics programs. On Arts Day, April 6, the student advocates will travel to Columbus to spend the morning speaking with legislators about the impact the arts have had on their lives. In the afternoon, they will attend the 2005 Governor’s Awards for the Arts in Ohio ceremony.

For more information about the legislative school visits and Arts Day meetings please contact Donna Collins at Ohio Citizens for the Arts, 614/221-4064.



Mario Gomez, *La tarde del sueno*, 2003

RIFFE GALLERY PRESENTS **LAND OF LATITUDES: CONTEMPORARY ART FROM CHILE**

Land of Latitudes: Contemporary Art From Chile opens Thursday, May 12 at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery in the Vern Riffe Center for the Government and the Arts. This exhibition, curated by Sara Johnson, director of visual arts at the Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center, and Betty Talbott, director of the Ohio Craft Museum, will feature the work of nearly 60 artists living in the South American nation.

Land of Latitudes confirms Chile's international reputation in printmaking and ceramic work and brings attention to major Chilean painters, sculptors and fiber artists. At 3,000 kilometers long, stretching nearly to Antarctica and situated tightly between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains, Chile enjoys a distinct and dramatically contrasted geography that contributes to the exhibition's diversity of work.

In addition to the exhibition, the Ohio Arts Council will host Chilean Pedro Sanchez, renowned for his readings of Pablo Neruda's poetry. Neruda is the most widely read of the Latin American poets. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971 and served at various diplomatic posts throughout Europe and East Asia.

Since 1989, the Ohio Arts Council has taken an active role in creating an international network of peers for Ohio's artists and arts institutions. The OAC and its partners in Chile are committed to encouraging honest expression and a sense of community in the context of globalization.

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery showcases the work of Ohio's artists and curators, exhibitions produced by the Ohio Arts Council's International Program and the collections of the region's museums and galleries.

For information and hours, call 614/644-9624 or visit the web at www.riffegallery.org.

OAC CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY/ NATIONAL ARTS & HUMANITIES MONTH

October celebrates National Arts and Humanities Month and the Ohio Arts Council's 40th Anniversary. We hope that you can join hundreds of arts organizations across the state in recognizing the importance of the arts in our communities. The Ohio Arts Council will mark this month-long festivity with activities to commemorate 40 years of representing and serving communities throughout Ohio and providing opportunities for Ohioans to participate in and appreciate the arts.

National Arts and Humanities Month is coordinated by Americans for the Arts, the national organization working to empower communities with the resources and support necessary to provide access to all of the arts for all of the people. The Ohio Arts Council urges artists and arts organizations around the state to participate in Arts and Humanities Month, October 2005 by planning activities to honor the cultural heritage and arts in Ohio communities and celebrate 40 years of public support of the arts. Stay tuned for more information about what the OAC has in mind to celebrate 40 years during National Arts and Humanities Month.



Ohio Arts Council

RAND STUDY SAYS ARTS POLICY SHOULD FOCUS ON BUILDING INDIVIDUAL APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS

The broad range of benefits that the arts provide to individuals can be sustained and enhanced by strengthening public appreciation of the arts, according to a RAND Corporation study.

The study — commissioned by The Wallace Foundation — concludes that giving individuals repeated rewarding experiences with the arts over time is a necessary first step before other, more public benefits of the arts can be realized. These other benefits include exposure to new perspectives, sharpened learning skills among young people, expanded capacity for empathy and stronger social bonds in communities.

Based on these findings, the report recommends that federal, state and local policy be refocused to build demand for the arts by introducing more Americans to engaging arts experiences, especially when they are young. This would be an expansion of the current focus on maintaining the supply of the arts.

“We hope that future policies focus on cultivating the demand for the arts, rather than the supply,” said Kevin McCarthy, RAND senior social scientist and the lead author of the report, titled “Gifts of the Muse: Reframing the Debate About the Benefits of the Arts.”

“A demand-side approach would build a market for the arts by helping people personally experience its benefits and understand how arts can improve their quality of life.”

The study contends that many of the benefits of the arts are gained only through a process of sustained involvement. Two key factors that help stimulate such sustained involvement are early childhood experiences and strong arts experiences that are marked by high levels of emotional, mental and sometimes social engagement.

As a result, the study says the key to spreading the benefits of the arts is to help greater numbers of Americans to have engaging arts experiences through sustained and deep involvement. This requires shifting policy to balance the current focus on building supply of the arts with efforts to cultivate demand.

In addition to McCarthy, other authors of the report are Elizabeth H. Ondaatje, Laura Zakaras and Arthur Brooks of RAND.

A printed copy of “Gifts of the Muse: Reframing the Debate About the Benefits of the Arts” can be ordered from RAND’s Distribution Services at order@rand.org or call toll-free 1-877-584-8642.



Ohio Arts Council

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*
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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.

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