

THE ARTS-- PART OF THE SOLUTION

PROJECT JERICHO: CREATING HOPE

Not many people make it past the heavy metal doors and four levels of security that lead inside the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center in Springfield, Ohio. But for the youth sentenced to serve time there and their families, it can feel like the end of the road. Fortunately for them, the artists and staff of Project Jericho have brought their programs inside the walls. A collaboration of the Clark State Performing Arts Center and the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services and with funding from the Ohio Arts Council, Project Jericho uses quality arts programs as a tool for changing lives.

Project Jericho provides hope and a sense of possibility for the residents in the detention center. "When you watch a child who is uncommunicative write a heart-felt poem about his life, or see an angry child give way to laughter, you realize that you are reaching these kids on a level that is usually very difficult to reach. Yet Project Jericho reaches all of these



children at such an intimate and personal level on a daily basis," notes Thomas Wilson, Director of the Juvenile Court.

By participating in quality in-depth arts experiences, these youth learn skills in communication, self-awareness, and confidence. Speaking about participating in a jazz dance recital, Keeona, a 15-year-old female, remarks "... when we did the dance in front of a group of people, it really made me feel like all the trouble around me was gone. It was like I wasn't even locked up. Like when the people left clapping, I could leave still dancing with joy. ...When people say programs at CCJDC won't help kids change their lives, well they're wrong. Believe it or not, it changed mine."

Participants develop a sense of community and feel empowered to make contributions to their community. Alicia Brown, a Juvenile Court shift supervisor, notes, "Project Jericho's programming has given the residents a sense of hope and well-being that was not previously evident." With its receipt of the 2005 National Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties and the 2008 Coming Up Taller Award from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, Project Jericho is making a national impact.

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP HITS OHIO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS (CONT.)

arts policies, state-level planning, research, funding, staff expertise, technical assistance, professional resources, etc. to help organizations "weather the storm" in the short term and to effectively and efficiently sustain their organizations.

We are committed to working shoulder-to-shoulder with Governor Strickland, the 128th Ohio General Assembly and our constituents to strengthen the state's economy and education system and to ensure that even the most vulnerable and underserved citizens are supported and have opportunities to live lives of hope, consequence and productivity.

The Executive Summary of the survey can be obtained at the Ohio Arts Council's Web site at www.oac.state.oh.us



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 interest please send them to Stephanie Dawson at stephanie.dawson@oac.state.oh.us. Public Information Office
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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.

Visit Us on the Internet
www.oac.state.oh.us

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SPRING 2009

Published by the Ohio Arts Council

STIMULUS MONEY TARGETED AT PRESERVATION OF JOBS IN THE ARTS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$50 million to the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) to be distributed in direct grants to preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn. Forty percent of the funds will be distributed to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations and 60 percent of the funds will be competitively awarded to nonprofit organizations.

The funds must be used for: Salary support, full or partial, for one or more positions that are critical to an organization's artistic mission.

And/or fees for previously engaged artists and/or contractual personnel.

The Ohio Arts Council submitted its grant application on March 13, outlining a plan to quickly disburse the funds to Ohio arts organizations with special attention to geographic equity and underserved populations.

For more information please contact, Stephanie Dawson at stephanie.dawson@oac.state.oh.us

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FOURTH ANNUAL POETRY OUT LOUD CONTEST WINNER SELECTED

OHIO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS FACING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

NEW RIFFE GALLERY EXHIBITION



NEA Director of Government Affairs Anita Decker, OAC Chair Susan Saxbe and NBC 4's Marshall McPeck congratulate Ohio's POL winner Mido Aly. See inside for story.

THE ARTS ARE BIG BUSINESS IN OHIO

A recent study titled *Ohio's Arts - A Foundation for Innovation, Creativity and Economic Strength* by the Center for Regional Development at Bowling Green State University demonstrated the enormous economic impact the arts have in Ohio. The results underscore that a thriving arts community is crucial to the health and vitality of our state.

The report looked at a number of creative industries including writing, performing, publishing, sound recording, custom architectural woodwork, musical instruments, manufacturing, broadcasting, advertising and audio and video media production.

The report found:

- The creative industries generate \$25 billion annually in Ohio.
- The creative industries support 231,000 jobs annually.
- The creative industries generate \$1.6 billion in tax revenue in northwest Ohio alone.
- Wages are higher, on average, for those creative industries collectively, than for the state average wages in most other industries.
- Nationally, every \$1 billion in spending by nonprofit arts organizations results in almost 70,000 full-time-equivalent jobs.
- Every dollar spent by arts industries creates \$1.62 for Ohio's economy.

For more information on the Economic Impact Study, visit www.centerforregionaldevelopment.com.

UPPER ARLINGTON STUDENT ADVANCES TO NATIONAL CONTEST

Ohio's fourth annual Poetry Out Loud state competition was held on Saturday, March 14 in Ohio Dominican University's Matesich Theatre. National Endowment for the Arts director of government affairs Anita Decker, Ohio Arts Council chairperson Susan Saxbe and Marshall McPeck of NBC 4 were on hand to present awards and certificates to the competitors.

State champion Mido Aly of Upper Arlington High School received \$300 and an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to represent Ohio in the national competition April 26-28, 2009. Upper Arlington High School received a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. Leah Walkowski from Columbus Alternative High School placed second and in third place was Lynsay Strahorn from Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton. All three finalists received a framed hand painted tile from PassionWorks in Athens.

Twenty seven Ohio high schools participated in the 2009 Poetry Out Loud competition, including: Garfield High School, Akron; Amanda Clearcreek High School, Amanda; Purcell Marian High School, Shroder High School, Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati; The Lyceum, Cleveland; Cleveland Heights High School, Cleveland Heights; Arts and College Preparatory Academy, Bishop Hartley High School, Eastmoor Academy, Premier Academy, Columbus; Westland High School, Galloway; Butler Tech Option Academy – the Arts, Hamilton; Logan Hocking High School, Logan; Madison High School, Madison; Medina High School, Medina; Milford High School, Milford; Reynoldsburg High School, Reynoldsburg; Shaker Heights/University Heights High School, Shaker Heights; South Webster High School, South Webster; Stow-Munroe Falls High School, Stow; Tallmadge High School, Tallmadge; Westerville South High School, Westerville.

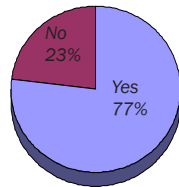
Poetry Out Loud is presented by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council. For more information on Poetry Out Loud, visit www.oac.state.oh.us.

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP HITS OHIO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Ohio arts organizations are feeling the pinch of a sputtering state and national economy, according to a survey conducted by the Ohio Arts Council. Arts organizations throughout the state report that contributions are down and ticket sales are behind where they were last year.

"This is a significant problem for all Ohioans, not just the many who enjoy and participate in the arts," according to Julie Henahan, executive director of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). "The arts are an essential part of the state's ecology. An active arts community drives tourism, fills restaurants and hotels in a community. An active and healthy arts community is important to our state's economy."

Are you seeing a downturn in contributions?



According to the survey, an overwhelming 77 percent have seen a downturn in contributions and 69 percent reported a downturn in ticket sales. In addition, the survey revealed that when public funds, such as Ohio Arts Council grants, are cut it is often underserved populations, especially children living below the poverty line, court-involved youth and

the homeless, that suffer, these programs being more heavily subsidized. Many organizations have done what they can to cut costs but not programs; however, they acknowledge that if this trend continues they will have no choice but to reduce programs.

Arts and cultural organizations throughout Ohio understand the importance of, and their unique role in, lifting the human spirit during difficult times. Local arts leaders are beginning to address these issues in a collaborative fashion—many have started offering pay what you can programs, free days on weekends for families or through partnerships with social service organizations, are accepting canned goods in lieu of a paid ticket.

While individual organizations are tackling their unique local challenges, the situation also calls for state-level action. The OAC must use its unique bundle of resources (con't page4)

RIFFE GALLERY PRESENTS NEW NARRATIVES: PAINTINGS BY OHIO ARTISTS • MAY 7-JULY 12, 2009



New Narratives: Paintings by Ohio Artists explores the various themes and styles of narrative painting by Ohio contemporary artists ranging from traditional figurative compositions to others using signs and symbols.

The exhibition will open on Thursday, May 7, starting at 5 p.m. with a guided exhibition by curator Dominique H. Vasseur. Artists in the show include: Ron Anderson, Columbus; Adam Brouillette, Columbus; Donna Coleman, Oberlin; Diane Fitch, Yellow Springs, Edwin George, Kent; Deborah Morrissey-Goff, Cincinnati; Aka Pereyma, Troy; Lisa Share, Cincinnati; Michael R. Stillion, Cincinnati; Laura R. Vinnedge, Akron; Brian R. Williams, Columbus; and Ronnie Williams, Dayton.

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery will also hold a Family Day Workshop Sunday, May 17, 2009 from 2 - 4 p.m. Artist Brian Williams will lead the creation of a collaborative chalk drawing on the State Street side of the Riffe Center. Registration is required as space is limited and all children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Registration begins May 1 and ends May 11, 2009 online at www.riffegallery.org.

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery is located in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. Admission is free. Gallery hours are Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday, noon - 8 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Closed Mondays, Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, 2009.

Visit www.riffegallery.org or phone 614/644-9624 for more information.

Above: AKA PEREYMA, *White Swans* from the "Ukrainian Folksong" Series (detail), 2006 oil on canvas, 30 x 38", Collection of the artist

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! RIFFE GALLERY!

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery celebrates its 20th anniversary in March. Governor Ted Strickland honored the Riffe Gallery with a proclamation officially recognizing the Riffe Gallery's first 20 years enriching the state of Ohio.

A jewel of downtown Columbus, the gallery showcases the work of the region's artists, curators and exhibitions from Ohio visual arts institutions. The gallery seeks to increase understanding of the arts through its educational programming. Visit the new Web site www.spotlightriffegallery.org

WELCOME NEW OHIO ARTS COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

Senator Kevin Coughlin of Cuyahoga Falls, Senator Teresa Fedor of Toledo, Speaker Armond Budish of Beachwood and Representative Josh Mandel of Independence have been appointed to serve on the Ohio Arts Council Board. The Board is composed of 15 voting members appointed by the governor and four non-voting legislative members, two each from the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives. The Council Board is responsible for final approval of funding requests. All Council Board meetings are open to the public.