

## THE ARTS – PART OF THE SOLUTION

### NELSONVILLE, OHIO: Putting the Unity in Community

Nelsonville, Ohio is a town of just over 4,500 residents. Despite its rich Appalachian history and natural beauty, Nelsonville sits in a “severely depressed” area and has high poverty rates. But since 1990, the community’s downtown business district has worked to preserve buildings, attract tourism, and drive economic development. At the center of the revitalization effort: Collaboration, education and the arts.

For the effort to succeed, many community players had to be involved. Hocking College pioneered programs in Nelsonville



placing students in area galleries and restaurants to work entrepreneurially and learn real-world lessons about business development. “A big part of what these students learn is about life.

It’s an exchange of ideas,” says Ann Judy, owner of Starbrick Clay Fine Arts Gallery. The arts scene grew, businesses thrived, and state investment played a critical role. “The fruits of those efforts planted by the college, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and the Ohio Arts Council are paying off,” said Mark Hackworth, coordinator of Hocking’s Arts Marketing and Design program.

The past two decades have seen dramatic transformation in Nelsonville. After decades of disrepair, Stuart’s Opera House reopened in 1997 to offer family entertainment, performing arts and educational activities. The Hockhocking Festival, Art and Music Festival and Parade of the Hills celebrations draw tens of thousands to the region each year. Final Fridays are held each month on the Public Square, generating business for galleries, restaurants and other area shops, and encouraging visitors to make their own art. The Foothills Arts School, Majestic Gallery, 2C Studio and upscale Rhapsody Music and Fine Dining – staffed by Hocking College culinary students – all contribute to a vibrant, lively arts scene throughout the year.

Nelsonville has embraced its Appalachian heritage and proven that strategic community collaboration can lead to bold and positive growth. Today, the Nelsonville Historic Square Arts District – now listed on the National Register of Historic Places – stands as a model of how a struggling community can use the arts and culture to revitalize itself.



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](mailto:stephanie.dawson@oac.state.oh.us). Public Information Office Jami Goldstein, Director Stephanie Dawson, 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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# artsPerspective

WINTER 2009

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## 2009 GOVERNOR’S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS IN OHIO WINNERS SELECTED!

Nine winners were chosen for the 2009 Governor’s Awards for the Arts in Ohio. Winners were selected from 103 nominations submitted by individuals and organizations throughout Ohio.

Award categories and recipients include: Arts Administration, **Marc Folk**, Arts Commission of Greater Toledo (Toledo); Arts Education, **Dr. Corwin Georges** (Springfield); Arts Patron, **Roe Green** (Aurora); Business Support of the Arts, **Huntington Bank** (Statewide); Community Development and Participation, **Cityfolk** (Dayton); Individual Artist, **Derek Mortland** and **Michael Joseph Ulery**, musicians, Sketches of the Inner World (Columbus); and the Irma Lazarus Award, **Willis “Bing” Davis**, artist, educator and humanitarian (Dayton) and **The Honorable Patrick Sweeney**, former legislator (Cleveland).

### OHIO ARTS COUNCIL APPROVES 11 GRANTS BRINGING FY09 TOTAL TO \$7,920,455

At a public meeting on September 25 the Council Board approved the second round of grants for fiscal year 2009. The Ohio Arts Council will award 11 grants totaling \$43,915 to support arts organizations and arts programs across Ohio. Together, with grants awarded at the June 30 meeting, the Board has approved 491 grants for a total of \$7,920,455 after reviewing 560 grant requests totaling \$16,777,592. Recommendations to the Board were made by advisory panels that reviewed applications throughout the spring.

Organizations that receive OAC funds are required to match state tax dollars with additional public and private funds. In general, for every state tax dollar invested, \$45 is raised in matching funds by recipient organizations.

For more information specific to this round of grant announcements, please contact Stephanie Dawson at 614/728-4475 or [stephanie.dawson@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:stephanie.dawson@oac.state.oh.us)



The awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony honoring winners and members of the Ohio Legislature hosted by the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation at noon on April 1, 2009 at the Columbus Athenaeum in downtown Columbus. Winners will receive an original work of art by New Carlisle painter Jean Koeller.

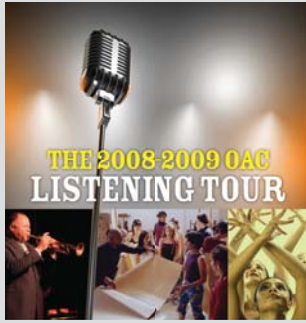
The 2009 Governor’s Award Committee, consisting of Ohio Arts Council Board members, included committee chair Sheila Markley-Black (Canton), Barbara Gould (Cincinnati), Sharon Howard (Dayton), Mary Lazarus (Columbus), Susan Saxbe (Columbus), Ginger Warner (Cincinnati) and Neal Zimmers (New Albany).

More information about the Governor’s Awards for the Arts in Ohio and Arts Day Luncheon, including a full list of past winners, is available on the Ohio Arts Council Web site at [www.oac.state.oh.us/events/GovAwards](http://www.oac.state.oh.us/events/GovAwards).

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## FALL LISTENING TOUR VISITS SEVEN TOWNS



work while also enriching the human spirit and expanding our capacity to be creative.

Visit the Listening Tour Web page available on our Web site at: [www.oac.state.oh.us](http://www.oac.state.oh.us)

**Below are a sample of the statewide headlines from this fall's meetings.**

### HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Each community has a tremendous amount of pride of place – whether through history, architecture, or the other unique community assets – particularly through arts and cultural institutions, which are seen as essential aspects of how the community views itself and its past.



Mayor Steve Mercer, OAC Executive Director Julie Henahan, Senator Joy Padgett and OCA Executive Director Donna Collins at the Listening Tour in Coshocton.

### CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Many knowledge-based business incubators have been successfully implemented in some of these communities have brought a broader tax base as well as contributions of the people within the knowledge-based and creative workforces.

### EDUCATION

These communities strongly believe that the essential role that arts education plays in the development of young people's minds, their ability to be creative thinkers and part of the 21st century workforce, needs to be better understood. Parents want their children to have well-rounded educations and hope that their children will live and work in Ohio.

### PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING

Each community recognizes the importance of support and leadership from elected officials. Leaders who implement broad-based community planning, recognize the contributions of different sectors to the success of the community

and involve voices from all areas are seen as particularly effective.

### COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND STABILIZATION

Loss of jobs and young people are a primary concern everywhere. Opportunities for creativity are believed to be effective potential counteragents to these concerns.

## RIFFE GALLERY PRESENTS VISUAL DIALOGUES

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery will present *Visual Dialogues* from January 29 – April 12, 2009. Curated by Nicholas Hill, this exhibition represents the artwork produced during an exchange between 11 German and Ohio artists who shared the distinctive experience of participating in printmaking residencies at Zygoté Press in Cleveland and Grafikwerkstatt in Dresden, Germany.



Jana Morgenstern, *Untitled*, 2006, oil on paper, 27 1/2 x 19 1/2"

The Ohio Arts Council hosted the German artists in Cleveland and the City of Dresden sponsored the Ohio artists.

Artists in the show include: Larry Winston Collins, Oxford; Angela Hampel, Dresden; Jean Kirsten, Dresden; Volker Leinkeit, Dresden; Jana Morgenstern, Dresden; Claudio Orso-Giacone, Oberlin; Detlef Schweiger, Dresden; Wendy Collin Sorin,

Cleveland Heights; Susan Squires, Cleveland Heights; Joan Tallan, Reynoldsburg; and Bärbel Voigt, Dresden.

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery will also hold a Family Workshop, on Sunday, March 1, 2009 from 2 – 4 p.m. in the Capitol Theatre

lobby, Riffe Center, third floor. Phoenix Rising artists, Anne Cushman and Cindy Davis, will help students age 6 – 17 explore the Korean printmaking technique of Takbon. Takbon uses an ink bundle to create images from found objects, relics of history, stone, wood and other textured materials.

Registration begins February 1 and ends February 13, 2009 online at [www.riffegallery.org](http://www.riffegallery.org).

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery is located in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, 77 S. High St., Columbus, OH. Tuesday 10 – 4 p.m.; Wednesday – Friday 10 – 8 p.m.; Saturday noon – 8 p.m.; Sunday noon – 4 p.m. The gallery is closed Monday and state holidays. Admission is free.

Visit [www.riffegallery.org](http://www.riffegallery.org) or phone 614/644-9624 for more information.

## PROJECT JERICO HONORED BY MRS. LAURA BUSH

Project Jericho of Springfield, Ohio was honored with a 2008 Coming Up Taller Award by First Lady Laura Bush and received a \$10,000 award.

Funded through the OAC's Arts Partnership program, Project Jericho is a collaborative program of Clark State Community College Performing Arts Center and Job and Family Services of Clark County in Springfield that enables at-risk students to tap their own creativity to forge a path to productive lives by applying skills and discipline learned through the arts to their daily lives. Recognizing the role of healthy family dynamics in leading young people away from at-risk behaviors, Project



Left to right: First Lady Laura Bush; Scott Dawson, Director of Education, Project Jericho; Anthony Mitchell; Caren Prothro, Board Member, President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Photo Credit: Steven Purcell, courtesy of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

Jericho also sponsors the Family Connections Program for clients of the Department of Job and Family Services, through which young people and their families collaborate on art-based projects to strengthen bonds and improve

communication.

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of young people, and provide them with new learning opportunities and a chance to contribute to their communities.

Coming Up Taller is an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

(PCAH) in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.