

## RACC Completes Evaluation of Grants Program

### From the Executive Director

Happy New Year!

To kick off what promises to be an exciting year for arts and culture in our region, Portland City Council will review some proposed changes to the Percent for Art ordinance this month. Our arts commissioner, Sam Adams, has led an effort to clarify the procedures with which all City bureaus and RACC must comply in setting aside funding for public art as part of the budget for all publicly funded capital construction and renovation projects in the City.

The Council will also consider raising the public art allocation from 1.33% to 2% in order to create more art in public places, and to help fund maintenance of the City's ever-growing collection. Mayor Tom Potter and Sam Adams both called for this increase in their 2004 election campaigns. To read and comment upon the proposed changes, visit [www.commissionersam.com](http://www.commissionersam.com). If you'd like to join us for the City Council hearing on January 4 at 9:30 a.m., please contact [icarlson@racc.org](mailto:icarlson@racc.org).

This month we'll also be kicking off a number of advocacy efforts designed to better promote the value of arts and culture in our communities, and to secure more funding for local artists and arts organizations.

I am delighted to report that our Call to Action in Multnomah County last fall resulted in a December statement from County Chair Diane Linn that she will in fact include arts and culture in her 2006-07 Budget proposal. (This is a reversal of her statements last summer.) Thank you all who contacted the Chair and talked about why arts and culture are important for our economy, for our kids, and for our spirit.

There will be much to do in the year ahead, but we're making some exciting progress and we thank you for your help with all.



Eloise Damrosch

Beginning in 2002, the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) began a major restructuring of the grants program, which serves arts organizations and individual artists in the tri-county area. The guiding principles of the restructuring were to streamline, clarify, and standardize the grant applications and processes. Grant Program Officers Lorin Schmit Dunlop and Helen Daltoso led an overhaul of all the grant programs with the guidance of a committee of arts community representatives. Over the next three years, changes were made to all of the grant programs including:

- Changing the two-tiered Operating Support Grants into one General Support Grant and lowering the eligibility for organizations to an annual budget of \$80,000
- Increasing the opportunities for Project Grants in three new categories: Artistic Focus, Arts-in-Schools, and Neighborhood Arts
- Increasing funds available and application opportunities for the re-named Professional Development Grants
- Revisions to guidelines and applications of all grants and moving the application process online

In 2005, RACC completed the first full cycle of the new grant programs and application materials, and the next step was to evaluate the success and impact of the retooled programs. A complete evaluation took place last spring through an online survey that invited artists and organizations who had applied for RACC grants since 2002 to rate and give comments on their experience. The independent consultant William Vesneski managed the evaluation process. 187 people participated in the survey -- 61% identified themselves as individual artists and 39% were representatives of arts organizations. The survey was developed to address applicant relationships with RACC, the online grant application process, the peer-review panel process, communication, and the impact of RACC grants.

— continued on flap

Miracle Theatre Group receives General Support funding from RACC. Their next production, **Mi Vida Gitana** - a cross cultural romance between a young Spanish gypsy girl and an American boy - runs Jan 13 - 21 at the Miracle Theatre, 525 SE Stark, Portland. Visit [www.milagro.org](http://www.milagro.org).



Photo: Stephanie Davis

## AROUND TOWN

All events funded in part by the Regional Arts & Culture Council

**Continuing to 1/10** Barbara Tetenbaum: *A Retrospective of 25 Years as a Book Artist*, 503.988.6287, [www.multcolib.org/events/collins/tetenbaum.html](http://www.multcolib.org/events/collins/tetenbaum.html)

**Continuing to 3/19** Hesse: *A Princely German Collection*, Portland Art Museum, 503.226.2811, [www.pam.org](http://www.pam.org)

**1/5-28** Photographs by Jules Greenberg and Naglaa Walker, Blue Sky Gallery, 503.225.0210, [www.blueskygallery.org](http://www.blueskygallery.org)

**1/8-21** *Charlotte's Web*, Oregon Children's Theatre, 503.228.9571, [www.octc.org](http://www.octc.org)

**1/8-2/18** *Sleeping Giant*, an installation by Daniel Duford, The Art Gym, [www.marylhurst.edu/artgym](http://www.marylhurst.edu/artgym)

**1/10-2/5** *The Fantasticks*, Portland Center Stage, 503.274.6588, [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org)

**1/12-14** Emio Greco/PC, White Bird PSU Series, 503.245.1600, [www.whitebird.org](http://www.whitebird.org)

**1/13** *Balkan Epiphany*, Cappella Romana, Inc., 503.236.8202, [www.cappellaromana.org](http://www.cappellaromana.org)

**1/13-21** *Mi Vida Gitana*, Miracle Theatre Group, 503.236.7253, [www.milagro.org](http://www.milagro.org)

**1/14-15** Beethoven Violin Concerto, Oregon Symphony, 503.228.1353, [www.orsymphony.org](http://www.orsymphony.org)

**1/14-3/12** Exhibits by Patti Warashina & Helen Otterson, Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery, 503.223.2654, [www.contemporarycrafts.org](http://www.contemporarycrafts.org)

**1/16-17** Shanghai Quartet, Friends of Chamber Music, 503.224.9842, [www.focm.org](http://www.focm.org)

**1/17-2/26** *The Seagull*, by Anton Chekhov, Artists Repertory Theatre, 503.241.1278, [www.artistsrep.org](http://www.artistsrep.org)

**1/19** Portland Arts & Lectures Series: Marilynne Robinson, Literary Arts, Inc., 503.227.2583, [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org)

**1/19-2/18** *Far Away*, Liminal Performance Group, 503.313.8200, [www.liminalgroup.org](http://www.liminalgroup.org)

**1/20** 70 Years Young: Celebrating Obo Addy's Life, Homowo African Arts & Culture, 503.288.3025, [www.homowo.org](http://www.homowo.org)

**1/23-2/29** *The Lion in Winter*, Lakewood Theatre Company, 503.635.3901, [www.lakewood-center.org](http://www.lakewood-center.org)

**1/25-28** *Scapes*, Polaris Dance Theatre, 503.453.6083, [www.polarisdance.org](http://www.polarisdance.org)

**1/29** Chamber Music Concert, Portland Youth Philharmonic, 503.223.5939, [www.portlandyouthphil.org](http://www.portlandyouthphil.org)

**1/30** Miami String Quartet with David Shifrin, Chamber Music Northwest, 503.294.6400, [www.cmnw.org](http://www.cmnw.org)

**2/4-11** *Macbeth*, Portland Opera, 503.241.1407, [www.portlandopera.org](http://www.portlandopera.org)

**2/10-12** *Music for a Prince*, Portland Baroque Orchestra, 503.222.6000, [www.pbo.org](http://www.pbo.org)

**2/10-25** *Monkey King*, Tears of Joy, 503.248.0557, [www.tojt.com](http://www.tojt.com)

**2/14** *Yearning for Spring*, Columbia Symphony Orchestra, 503.234.4077, [www.columbiasymphony.org](http://www.columbiasymphony.org)

For more: [www.racc.org/resources/events](http://www.racc.org/resources/events)

## AT RACC

**RACC Awards \$300,210 in Project Grants.** 76 artists and arts organizations in the Portland metropolitan area have received funding for projects to take place in 2006 in the following three categories: Artistic Focus, Neighborhood Arts and Arts-in-Schools. These 76 Project Grants were awarded to 32 individuals (17 of whom have never received RACC funding) and 44 organizations (19 of which have never been funded by RACC). To see a complete list of grantees visit [www.racc.org/grants/\\_GrantAwards.php](http://www.racc.org/grants/_GrantAwards.php).

**Work for Art** is the new name for RACC's workplace giving program, formerly known as the RAC Fund. The goal of Work for Art is to increase private support for arts and culture by offering workers a chance to donate through payroll deductions. The rebranding effort was developed by Don Rood and Paul Mort of The Felt Hat, and paid for by a grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust and in-kind support from The Felt Hat. For more information on workplace giving visit [www.workforart.org](http://www.workforart.org), or contact Sara Gummere at 503.823.5424.

**12/12-1/6 RACC Temporary Installation:** *all the art that fits.* Employees from the City of Portland and Multnomah County were invited to submit one artwork that was installed on a first-come-first-served basis to be exhibited in the Portland Building Lobby. This year the show features works by 38 City and County employees. 7am-6pm, Monday-Friday. Portland Building Lobby, 1120 SW 5th, Portland. 503.823.5111.

### RACC Grant Opportunities:

• **FY 05-06 General Support Grants** provide general financial support to arts organizations in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties. First-time applicants must consult with RACC grants staff regarding eligibility and criteria at least 30 days prior to proposal deadline. **Application Available: mid-January, 2006. Anticipated Deadline: 3/13/06.**

• **FY 05-06 Professional Development Grants (Cycle I)** assist artists or arts administrators with opportunities that specifically improve their business management development skills and/or brings the artist or the arts organization to another level artistically. **Application Available: mid-January 2006; Deadline: 4/3/06.**

### Public Art Opportunities (Available at [www.racc.org](http://www.racc.org)):

• **Public Art Mural Program.** Guidelines and application for creating murals in the City of Portland are now available at the RACC website. **Next Deadline: 1/17/06.**

• **Visual Chronicle of Portland.** RACC seeks prints, paintings and drawings on paper that reveal Portland's distinctive spirit as seen from artists' perspectives to be purchased for this 16-year-old collection. Currently there are 234 pieces by 138 artists. Budget is \$5,000 for purchase and framing of selected works. **Deadline: 2/17/06, 5pm.**

• **Family Services Unit:** RACC is seeking artists for two public art opportunities at the County's Family Services Unit at 421 SW 5th Avenue, Portland. 1) Direct Purchase/Commission a collection of two-dimensional artworks from various artists; budget \$15,000. 2) 7th Floor lobby space; budget \$8,000. **Deadline: 2/24/06, 5pm.**

### Internship Opportunities:

RACC is seeking a variety of interns for 2006 in the areas of public art, communication, research and information technology. These internships are ideal for people interested in public art management, arts publication, community development, arts policy, arts advocacy, economic development and IT management for non-profits. These are unpaid positions. For detailed information on each internship visit [www.racc.org/news/opportunities.php](http://www.racc.org/news/opportunities.php) or call 503.823.5111 or email: [info@racc.org](mailto:info@racc.org).

For updates: [www.racc.org/resources/RACCopportunities](http://www.racc.org/resources/RACCopportunities)

## GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESIDENCIES

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**2006 Arts Recognition Grants from the Oregon Arts Commission.** \$1,000 awards made to exemplary Oregon arts organizations with a record of excellence in programming, service and organizational capacity. Visit [www.oregonartscommission.org/grants/commission\\_grant\\_programs.php](http://www.oregonartscommission.org/grants/commission_grant_programs.php). **Deadline: 1/16/06.**

**Acting Fellowships:** Early to mid-career actors receive \$15,000 grant plus \$10,000 for student loans; Actors of distinguished achievement receive \$25,000; Host theatres receive \$5,000 to cover costs of residencies. Contact Sheela Kangal, Fox Foundation, at 212.609.5900 x 214, [www.tcg.org/programs/pdf/tcg05\\_foxguide.pdf](http://www.tcg.org/programs/pdf/tcg05_foxguide.pdf). **Deadline: 1/17/06.**

**Portland's Community Vision Grants.** Mayor Potter wants Portlanders to create a vision for Portland. Grants of \$1,000-\$15,000 for community-based organizations to engage their constituencies; support bringing people together with the ultimate goal of asking a series of questions regarding Portland's future. *1/5 Free Grant Workshop* at North Portland Library, 516 N Killingsworth, 3-5pm. RSVP to [amandar@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:amandar@ci.portland.or.us), 503.823.5856. For application visit [www.portlandonline.com/mayor/index.cfm?c=40686](http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor/index.cfm?c=40686). **Deadline: 1/20/06.**

**NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships** are the highest honors that our nation bestows upon jazz musicians. Award is \$25,000. Fellowships are not open to application. To nominate a candidate visit [www.arts.gov/national/jazz/Award.html](http://www.arts.gov/national/jazz/Award.html). **Nomination Postmarked Deadline: 1/31/06.**

**Artist-in-Residence Program at North Cascades National Park.** Open to writers, composers, musicians, performing artists, sculptors, photographers, visual artists, and others. 4-6 week residencies. Contact: Charles Beall at 206.386.4495 x12 or [charles\\_beall@nps.gov](mailto:charles_beall@nps.gov) or [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). **Deadlines: 2/1/06.**

**Fishtrap Summer Fellowship Program.** Up to 5 fellowships awarded. Cost of a workshop, registration, and food & lodging for the week are provided. Fishtrap, PO Box 38, Enterprise, OR 97828, 541.426.3623, [www.fishtrap.org](http://www.fishtrap.org). **Deadline: 2/4/06.**

**New Works: Creation and Presentation Grants** (from \$10,000-\$15,000) for the creation and presentation of original music in jazz. Work must be completed and performed by 12/31/07. Visit [www.chamber-music.org](http://www.chamber-music.org). **Deadline: 2/28/06.**

**Espy Foundation offers a Summer Residency Program** for emerging and established poets, fiction writers, creative nonfiction writers and visual artists. Shared cottage; \$400 food stipend. \$20 fee. Contact: Espy Fdn, PO Box 614, Oysterville, WA 98641, 360.665.5220, [www.espyfoundation.org](http://www.espyfoundation.org). **Deadline: 3/1/06.**

**James B. Castles Fellowship (\$3,000)** for original scholarly research that contributes to public understanding of the history of the Columbia River Basin. Open to graduate students, professional historians and independent scholars to study at the Center for Columbia River History in Portland-Vancouver for four weeks. Visit [www.ccrh.org](http://www.ccrh.org) or call 360.258.3289. **Deadline: 3/1/06.**

**Curator Grant.** The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation offers a grant of \$125,000 to an innovative curator for the realization of a strong thematic exhibition concept that challenges the boundaries of contemporary art. Visit [www.tremainefoundation.org](http://www.tremainefoundation.org). **Deadline for Intent to Apply: 3/3/06; For Completed Application: 4/10/06.**

**Community Access Capital Grants** from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission for 501(c)3 non-profit organizations in Multnomah County. By providing grants for capital costs, this program supports development of an interactive, multi-



**Sleeping Giant** by Daniel Duford is a room-size installation that incorporate wall-size scenes painted in color comic book style. At the Art Gym at Marylhurst University from Jan8-Feb 18. Funded in part by a 2006 RACC Project Grant.

media information infrastructure through use of cable system technology that is accessible to all Multnomah County citizens. Visit [www.mhcr.org](http://www.mhcr.org) for guidelines and applications. **Deadline: 3/21/06, 4:40pm.**

**2006 Halvorsen Artist-in-Residence** open for application at Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery. Given to an outstanding student or emerging artist who commits to a six month residency at the gallery's on-site studio facility and a solo exhibition at the conclusion of the residency. Begins 7/1/06. See [www.contemporarycrafts.org/residency/Halvorsen\\_Residency\\_2006.pdf](http://www.contemporarycrafts.org/residency/Halvorsen_Residency_2006.pdf). **Deadline: 4/1/06.**

**Two Oregon College of Art & Craft Residencies.** *Junior Residency for Emerging Artists:* For the post-graduate artist to pursue a proposed body of work over a four-month period in a stimulating arts environment. *Senior Residency (6/25-8/3):* For mid-career artists in book arts/printmaking, ceramics, drawing/painting, fibers, metalsmithing/jewelry, photography and wood/furniture-making to pursue a focused project in a stimulating art environment. See [www.ocac.edu/Studio\\_School/artist\\_in\\_residence.htm](http://www.ocac.edu/Studio_School/artist_in_residence.htm). Oregon College of Art & Craft, 8245 SW Barnes Rd., Portland, OR 97225, 503.297.5544. **Deadline for Both: 4/1/06.**

For much more: [www.racc.org/resources/grants](http://www.racc.org/resources/grants)

## COMPETITIONS

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**Call for Entries for 2006 Oregon Biennial (7/29-10/8).** Open to all artists, established and emerging, currently working in Oregon and in Vancouver/Clark County, Washington. See details for applying at [web.pam.org/asp/templates/page.asp?pageID=53](http://web.pam.org/asp/templates/page.asp?pageID=53). Oregon Biennial 2006, Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97205. **Deadline: 1/6/06.**

**Portland Association of Gay and Lesbian Artists (PAGLA)** seeks artwork for upcoming shows. All fine art media is eligible. Send 6 slides with SASE to: PAGLA, 1802 SW Custer Street, Portland, OR 97219-2767. **Deadline: 1/20/06.**

**Seeking artists in all media** for the 16th annual Buckman Elementary School Art Show & Sell. Artists retain 70% of proceeds. Visit [www.buckmanelementary.org/artsale](http://www.buckmanelementary.org/artsale). Contact: Namita Wiggers at [namita\\_wiggers@yahoo.com](mailto:namita_wiggers@yahoo.com). **Deadline: 1/20/06.**

**Call for Entries for Portland Arts Festival (6/16-18)** held in the South Park Blocks during the Portland Rose Festival. Seek approximately 150 artists to exhibit in 14 media categories. Nearly \$10,000 in prizes. Visit [www.rosefestival.org](http://www.rosefestival.org). Contact: 503.227.2681 or [info@rosefestival.org](mailto:info@rosefestival.org). **Deadline: 1/31/06.**

**Call to artists** for Tazo Tea's juried *Waste Not* recycled art competition, with an exhibition and auction benefiting SCRAP and Disjecta. Entries must consist of at least 75% reused, recycled or found objects. Cash prizes will be awarded. Visit [www.wastenot-art.com](http://www.wastenot-art.com) or call 503.736.9005 x2248. **Deadline: 2/13/06.**

**Call For Artists and Houses** to host First Annual Mt Tabor Open Studio Art Tour (5/20-21). Artists must reside in the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood, Portland. For more information email: [sharlane@dslnorthwest.net](mailto:sharlane@dslnorthwest.net), 503.235.6234. **Deadline: 2/15/06.**

**Call for Artists for B Street Gallery** on West Burnside, a place where local civic artists can share their perspective on this colorful street. The gallery will feature new work from multiple artists every 3 months. Honorarium of \$1,000. For exhibiting in Aug or Sept 2006, please submit artwork examples and inquiries to: The Burnside Project, 202 NW 13th Avenue, Portland, OR 97209, [burnside\\_project@thecivic.com](mailto:burnside_project@thecivic.com). **Deadline: 4/1/06.**

**Call for Entries for Realism 2006** (5/30-6/30) for work based on realism: people, places or things, including abstracted renditions of realistic subject matter. Up to \$1,000 in Awards. Slide Fees: \$10/1, \$20/2, \$25/3. Visit [www.mtscottartcenter.com](http://www.mtscottartcenter.com) or mail with SASE to: Mt. Scott Art Center, 3439 NE Sandy Blvd. #205, Portland, OR 97232. **Deadline: 4/30/06.**

For much more: [www.racc.org/resources/competitions](http://www.racc.org/resources/competitions)

## WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/LECTURES

**1/12 2006 Excellence in Craft Lecture Series: Irony, Humor and Politics: All in a Day's Work** by Patti Warashina. This Seattle based ceramic artist will lecture on her exhibition at Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery, a body of figurative ceramic sculpture exploring everything from dreamlike states to contemporary politics. 7pm, PNCA, 1241 NW Johnson. Call 503.223.2654.

**Starting 1/15 Bilingual Playwriting Workshop for Adults** presented by Miracle Theatre with Joann Farias, TCG/NEA Resident Playwright. While it is especially geared for dramatic writing, these exercises can be applied to all forms of writing. Contact Olga Sanchez, [olga@milagro.org](mailto:olga@milagro.org), 503.236.7253.

**2/3-5 & 2/15-3/15 Imaginative Writing Seminar: The Muses Among Us** with Kim Stafford. Learn to be the listener who remembers, shapes and tells. Northwest Writing Institute, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd., Portland. Call 503.768.6162 to register. Visit [www.lclark.edu/dept/nwi](http://www.lclark.edu/dept/nwi).

For much more: [www.racc.org/resources/workshops](http://www.racc.org/resources/workshops)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Associate Professor, Art History:** Art or Architectural Historian, Reed College. Tenure-track; start fall 2006. Please send a curriculum vitae, a letter describing teaching and scholarly interests, and 3 letters of reference to William Diebold, Art History Search Chair, Reed College, Portland, Oregon 97202 or [wdiebold@reed.edu](mailto:wdiebold@reed.edu). Visit <http://web.reed.edu>. **Deadline: 1/15/06.**

**Archivist Sought** by Oregon Historical Society Research Library to process and catalogue archival materials. For detailed description visit [www.ohs.org/news/current-openings.cfm](http://www.ohs.org/news/current-openings.cfm) or contact: Director of Human Resources, Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205, [jonij@ohs.org](mailto:jonij@ohs.org). No phone calls. **Review Begins: 1/15/06.**

**Director of Development** for The Broadway Rose Theatre Company. Responsible for all aspects of fundraising, including major donor cultivation, membership development, special events, planned giving, working with board, corporate sponsors and grant writing. Salary \$36,000 to \$40,000. Send cover letter/re-

sume to: Sharon Maroney, Broadway Rose Theatre, P.O. Box 231004, Tigard, OR 97281, [BRTCSM@aol.com](mailto:BRTCSM@aol.com).

**Museum Educator** for Portland Children's Museum. Need a great attitude and strong desire to make a positive impact in children and caregiver's lives in a creative, playful environment. \$9 - \$11 per hour, 24 - 40 hours per week. Submit a letter of interest, resume and three references to [portlandcm.org](http://portlandcm.org) or fax to 503.223.6600. Portland Children's Museum, 4015 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221, [www.portlandchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.portlandchildrensmuseum.org).

For much more: [www.racc.org/resources/jobs](http://www.racc.org/resources/jobs)

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

**Seeking Volunteer Dancers** both disabled and non-disabled dancers to perform *Being Liquid in a Solid World*, a performance piece produced by the National Disabled Students Union. No experience is necessary, just willingness to try and be present! Rehearsals Sundays in January. Contact: Kathy Coleman 503.238.0723, e-mail [kafia@prodigy.net](mailto:kafia@prodigy.net).

**Donated Artwork Sought.** The Jackson 4 committee representing Capitol Hill, Markham, Stephenson Elementary Schools, and Jackson M.S. looking for community artists willing to donate (tax donation) artwork for auction on 1/28. Contact: Joan McFadden at [jmcfadden@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:jmcfadden@pps.k12.or.us).

**2/11-13 The Portland Area Theatre Alliance (PATA) will hold its next citywide auditions.** PATA's biannual auditions provide a convenient way for actors to be seen by as many as 40 freelance auditors at one time. Must be a PATA member to audition; membership cost is \$25 for one year. Downloaded applications at <http://patagreenroom.org> or call 503.241.4902. West End Theatre, 1220 SW Taylor St. **Applications Deadline: 1/27/06.**

**Intern for The PINE Film Festival** (1/27-2/4). PINE Film screens newly released and highly acclaimed films on themes of sustainability, culture and social justice, emphasizing the interconnection of people to people and people to place. Seeking an intern to explore how the festival can be promoted to and through non-profit groups. Contact Cheryl at [inbox@livableplace.org](mailto:inbox@livableplace.org) and visit [www.livableplace.org](http://www.livableplace.org).

**Working Artists renting NW & NE Studios.** Working Artists create the physical and marketing environment to help studio tenants achieve success in both their creative and business realms. Call Adrienne Fritze at 503.445.1268, [adrienne@urbanesque.com](mailto:adrienne@urbanesque.com).

For much more: [www.racc.org/resources/other](http://www.racc.org/resources/other)



In the fall of 2005, Heather Pearl and the Nomadic Theatre produced **Written in a Letter** with 4th grade students at Skyline and Shaver Elementary Schools. Supported in part by a 2005 RACC Project Grant.

In response to questions regarding working with RACC, both individual artists and organizations were generally quite satisfied. Among the key themes that emerged, there was strong appreciation for staff communication and constructive feedback on grants; artists appreciated that there were grant dollars available to them as individuals; and the application process was described as accessible and straight-forward. The highest scores in all of the evaluation came in the rankings of interaction and communication between staff and grant applicants.

The median time spent filling out a RACC application is 20 hours. In rating the experience of RACC applications compared to other funding sources, responses were generally positive. However, comments from some respondents revealed that RACC's grant applications are still too demanding and time-consuming in relation to the size of the grant awards. The largest burden appears to be on organizations with budgets between \$500,000 and \$999,000, whose development resources may not be as great as larger organizations – but whose needs are higher than small, grassroots organizations or individual artists.

Feedback on RACC's online grant system was also very positive. The online application process rated higher than the former paper-based process in every category including overall ease of submission, clarity of guidelines, and invoicing. There is still room for improvement as evidenced in the comments from respondents, and RACC plans to continue development of the online system with particular attention to space allotment and printing difficulties.

An important issue addressed in the evaluation focused on the peer-review panel process. The survey revealed that there is some confusion and skepticism about the selection of panelists, the panel process, and the review criteria. The lowest ratings in the survey were found in response to these issues. Many felt that RACC panels have repeatedly funded the same artists and tend to favor established, mainstream projects. RACC needs to do a better job of communicating to the arts community about the panel process and how they make their funding decisions. We believe that many people will be surprised when they learn about the wide range of new artists and arts organizations that are funded each year through the RACC grant program – and the high percentage of new panelists that help adjudicate proposals each year.

A second aspect of the grants program evaluation involved confidential telephone interviews with past grant panelists, conducted by Mr. Vesneski. These panelists' perspectives also help clarify areas for improvement. While these interviews yielded positive remarks about the process, from staff involvement to panels composition, their feedback has already led to some changes in this fall's Project Grant panels, including how supplementary materials are handled, the development of a specific Multi-Discipline panel, and an additional opportunity for each panelist to make changes to their scores after discussions of all applicants are complete.

The RACC grants program has gone through a lot of changes in the last three years, and the evaluation process was an important step in assessing the efficacy and impact of how the program has evolved. Despite the positive marks in many areas, there are definitely areas to work on. Among the issues that RACC will address in the year ahead: reaching out to mid-sized organizations to improve their experiences; continuing to streamline the applications; enhancing the online capabilities; addressing misperceptions about grant awardees; explaining the peer-review process; and refining the review and scoring of applications. As concluded by Mr. Vesneski, the positive results of the evaluation leave RACC poised to further enhance and strengthen the overall grants program.

For more information on the RACC Grants Program and a listing of 2006 grant deadlines, visit [www.racc.org/grants](http://www.racc.org/grants).

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**ART NOTES.** A free bi-monthly publication of the Regional Arts & Culture Council, which serves the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area, including Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties.

Mary Bauer, *Editor*  
Jeff Hawthorne, *Director of Community Affairs*  
Eloise Damrosch, *Executive Director*

**RACC VISION.** To enrich community life, the Regional Arts & Culture Council and partners create an environment in which the arts and culture of the region flourish and prosper.

**RACC MISSION.** Through vision, leadership and service the Regional Arts & Culture Council works to integrate arts and culture in all aspects of community life.

**RACC VALUES.** We value freedom of artistic and cultural expression as a fundamental human right. We value a diversity of artistic and cultural experiences. We value a community in which everyone can participate in arts and culture. We value a community that celebrates and supports its artists, and its arts and cultural organizations. We value arts and culture as key elements in creating desirable places to live, work and visit.

**RACC PARTNERS.** RACC works in partnership with the following organizations to ensure a quality arts and culture community in our region:

Americans for the Arts  
Arts Action Alliance of Clackamas County  
Cultural Advocacy Coalition  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts  
Oregon Arts Commission  
Oregon Cultural Trust  
Westside Cultural Alliance, Washington County

Oregon  
Cultural  
Trust



**ON THE WEB.** The most current and complete information regarding the notices you see here in *Art Notes* is available on the RACC web site at [www.racc.org](http://www.racc.org).

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER.** To sign up for our free electronic edition of *Art Notes*, which is distributed each month, visit [www.racc.org](http://www.racc.org).

**SUBMISSIONS.** Only events funded by RACC are included in the Around Town section. Other notices about job openings, grants, etc. may be submitted, but RACC reserves the right to edit or reject material. Mail to RACC at the address listed below. Deadline for Mar/Apr: 2/15/06.



REGIONAL ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL

108 NW 9th Avenue, Suite 300, Portland, OR 97209-3318  
Tel: 503.823.5111 Fax: 503.823.5432 TDD#: 503.823.6868  
Email: [info@racc.org](mailto:info@racc.org) [www.racc.org](http://www.racc.org)

# ARTnotes

January/February 2006



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ARTS & CULTURE  
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Portland, OR 97209-3318  
www.racc.org

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**a report to the community 2005**

Regional Arts & Culture Council

25 years ago both the City of Portland and Multnomah County passed ordinances requiring that 1% (later raised to 1.33%) of publicly funded capital construction budgets be set aside for public art. RACC administers these Percent for Art programs.

1983  
Unified Ed Carpenter  
Multnomah County  
Justice Center

## Did you Know that in 2005...

RACC awarded \$1.7 million in Grants  
Over 250 citizens volunteered for RACC

More than 100 artists and 100  
organizations received RACC funding

Over 150 schools received  
Arts Education grants

....and see

## 25 Years of Percent for Art!

Read all about it in the

## 2005 Annual Report

Visit [www.racc.org/annualreport](http://www.racc.org/annualreport) to download a PDF copy  
or request a printed edition by calling Mary Bauer at  
503.823.5426.