Public Art Gallery Materializes in the Portland Building March 1st

by Peggy Kendellen
RACC Public Art Manager

Have you ever wandered into the Portland Building and never ventured beyond the lobby or the city/county office you were headed for? Next time you’re there, paying your water bill or seeing the latest art installation in the lobby, throw caution to the wind and go upstairs to the second floor. Lo and behold, you’ll discover a public art gallery!

The gallery was started in 1985 by the Metropolitan Arts Commission, now the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC). It contains a treasure trove of information about public art and the Michael Graves design of the Portland Building. But, if you visited the space over the past year, you were greeted with an empty space and blank white walls — a “gallery in waiting”. Over the past year, RACC has undertaken an extensive gallery rejuvenation project under the guidance of Formations, Inc. On Monday, March 1st, the newly designed and updated Public Art Gallery (a.k.a. Metropolitan Center for Public Art) will finally open to the public.

While Portland’s public art program grew by leaps and bounds since the gallery opened in 1985, visitors were seeing examples of the beginnings of public art’s impact in the metropolitan region. The evolution of the area’s public art from 1905 to 2003 is now dramatically evident in new exhibits featuring photographs, models and text from nearly fifty projects.

As RACC’s Public Art Program approaches its 25th anniversary (in 2005), visitors to the new gallery will discover a more comprehensive overview of public art and its substantial impact on the region’s environment. In addition to down-sized depic-
**AROUND TOWN**

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

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**Continuing** - 3/6 White Nights, Oregon Ballet Theatre, 503.222.5538, www.obt.org

**Continuing - 3/7** Two Rooms by Lee Blessing, Portland Actors Conservatory, 503.274.1717, www.actorconservatory.com


3/4-6 Portland Guitar Festival, Portland State University, 503.725.3003, www.guitarfestival.pdx.edu

3/5 Art Making Money, a speech by David C. Hudson (RACC Executive Director), Walters Cultural Arts Center, 503.681.5381


3/9 The Lindsay Quartet, Friends of Chamber Music, 503.725.3307, www.focm.org

3/9-4/4 Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams, Portland Center Stage, 503.274.6588, www.pcs.org

3/12 ZigZag: Real Stories, New Angles, Hot Pepper, Beth Harrington, Metro & OPB, Hollywood Theatre, 503.797.1536

3/12-14 The Constitution Project by Catherine Egan, Performance Works Northwest, 503.288.4666


3/12-5/2 The Art of Bob Stocksdale and A Master Inspires Oregon, Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery, 503.223.2654


3/21 Metropolitan Youth Symphony Concert, Schnitzer Concert Hall, 503.239.4566, www.metroyouthsymphony.org


4/16-17 Taicophony, Uzume Taiko/Portland Taiko, 503.288.2456

4/24 & 30 Reading from Up All Night by Martha Gies, Mark Woolley Gallery (24th) & Powells Books (30th), 503.287-4394

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**AT RACC**

**Increased Federal Funding Recommended for the Arts.** The Bush Administration’s FY2005 budget has recommended a total increase of $55 million to the nation’s cultural agencies—the National Endowment for the Arts (+$18m), the National Endowment for the Humanities (+$27m), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (+$31m). If approved by Congress, the NEA’s budget would increase by $18 million, for a total of $139 million. $5 million of that increase would support a new program called American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Genius. See www.arts.gov.

**Candidates’ Positions on the Arts.** RACC will be requesting statements from the candidates running for Portland’s Mayor and Portland City Council outlining their position on arts and culture. Responses will be posted at www.racc.org in April. In this way citizens of Portland can better understand how each candidate would promote and support the arts in the City before the election on May 18.

**Upcoming RACC Grant Opportunities:**

- **General Support Grants** seek to fund arts organizations (with budgets of $80,000+) and provide a wide range of high quality arts programming made available to the public. First time applicants MUST meet with RACC Grants staff 30 days prior to deadline. Applications and Guidelines available at www.racc.org or call 503.823.5111. **Deadline: 3/15/04, 5:00pm.**

- **5/21/04 Applications and Guidelines will be available for:** Project Grants for Individual & Organizations; Professional Development Grants (Cycle 2); and Individual Artist Fellowships (Literature & Media). See www.racc.org or call 503.823.5417.

**Public Art Opportunities:**

- **NW 3rd & 4th Avenue Streetscape.** A Request for Qualifications for three dimensional public art for NW 3rd & 4th Avenue Streetscape will be at www.racc.org and issued electronically only (see below to sign up). The project budget is $150,000. Contact Kristin Calhoun, Public Art Manager, 503.823.5401 or kcalhoun@racc.org. **Deadline: 4/2/04.**

**Public Art Email List:** RACC will be distributing public art notices via email and website only. To subscribe to the RACC Public Art Email list and receive notice of upcoming prospectives, go to www.racc.org/subscribe/pa. For a printed version contact Peggy Kendellen, RACC Public Art Manager, at 503.823.496 or pkendellen@racc.org.

**Volunteers Needed!** Volunteers are needed to assist artists and students in Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Art Programs. Please call Michelle at RACC at 503.823.5423.

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**~ IMPORTANT NOTICE ~**

**SIGN UP NOW!**

**FOR THE FREE ELECTRONIC MONTHLY VERSION OF ART NOTES**

There is a possibility, due to budget cuts, that the printed version of *Art Notes* (May/June) may not be published.

Go to www.racc.org to subscribe enter your name and email address

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For more: www.racc.org/Events/racc-events.html
Clackamas & Washington County Art News

Continuing thru 4/9/04. Clackamas County Skylight Gallery. Alex Farnham, Phil Kaiser, Rose Marie Palaske, Mary Ellen Pedersen, Anne Richardson, Michele Thoenes, Barbara Wagner, Nancy Wright. Skylight Gallery, 901 SE Sunnybrook Blvd., Clackamas, OR. 8-5 pm, Mon.-Fri. Call 503.655.0525. (W)

3/5 Art Making Money, a speech by David C. Hudson, RACC Executive Director, for the Hillsboro Chambers First Friday Forum. 11:30am-1:00pm at the Walters Cultural Arts Center, 5th Ave. & Main St., Hillsboro. 503.681.5381. (W)

3/6-13 Teen Art Show at the Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW 5th Ave., meeting room Afr. 503.350.3610. (W)

Call for Artists (from OR, WA) for the New Tigard Public Library for work to be acquired or commissioned. Budget: $50,000. See www.ci.tigard.or.us/library/calling_artists.asp. Contact: Tigard Public Library, Attn: Cheryl Silverblatt, 13125 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223, 503.684.6537 x2511. Deadline: 3/16/04. (W)

3/23 Westside Cultural Alliance’s next meeting, 3-5pm. WCA is a Washington County coalition of professionals in, and advocates for, the arts, heritage and humanities. 503.629.8534. See www.westsideculturalalliance.org. (W)

Call to Clackamas County artists to be considered for the Art in Public Spaces Program - exhibiting in county offices, libraries and the Skylight Gallery for 2005. Contact Arts Action Alliance of Clackamas County, P.O. Box 2181, Oregon City, OR 97045. Call 503.655.0525 or artsaction@hevanet.com. Deadline: 4/30/04. (C)

First City Arts Faire (7/10-11) at Carnegie and Pioneer Centers, Oregon City. Call for artists in all mediums/styles for juried participation. Contact: First City Arts Faire, PO Box 965, Beavercreek, OR 97004, 503.319.4258. Deadline: 5/21/04. (C)

For more: www.racc.org/News/artnotes/ANRegional.html

Grants/Fellowships/Residencies


The Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund (MAP) for Performing Artists (2004) for work that reflects the boldest and most creative approaches to new work in contemporary art. See eligibility guidelines at www.mapfund.org or contact Moira Brennan at moira@mapfund. Deadline: 3/27/04.

Competitions


Portland Open Studios (10/9 & 16) Call to Portland Artists in all media to open their studios to the public to show the tools, techniques, and know-how of making art. See details at www.portlandopenstudios.com. Deadline: 3/15/04.

2004 Pacific Northwest Art Annual (6/1-25) entries in all mediums from all artists living in the Pacific Northwest. $25 entry for 3 slides. Send SASE to Cultural Forum, Erib Memorial Union, Ste. 2, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, email: cultural@darkwing.uoregon.edu. Deadline: 3/29/04.


Oregon College of Art & Craft’s Artist-in-Residence Program. The Junior Residency and the summer Senior Residency for mid-career artists offer artists the opportunity to intensely explore new directions in their art. Residents receive a $1,200 stipend, plus $500 reimbursement toward travel to the College and $500 reimbursement towards supplies. See www.ocac.edu or call 503.297.5544. Deadline: 4/1/04.

Two Theatre Fellowships Available: The Leslie O. Fulton Fellowship ($10,000) open for active Portland theatre artists of high merit to enhance their creative process. The Portland Civic Theater Guild Fellowship ($1,500) for local emerging theatre artists to advance theatrical development. Call Betty Norrie at 503.222.2626. Portland Theatre Guild, PO Box 1181, Portland, OR 97207. Deadline for both: 4/10/04.


Pacific Pioneer Fund supports documentary filmmakers from CA, OR, WA with grants ranging from $1,000 to $10,000. Contact: PPF, PO Box 20504, Stanford, CA 94309, www.pacificpioneerfund.com. Deadline: 5/1/04.

Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts offers grants from $2,500-$12,000 to visual artists (not in photography or crafts). Contact: EFA, PO Box 2670, NY, NY 10108. Deadline: 5/1/04.

For more: www.racc.org/News/artnotes/ANGrants.html


The Art Institute of Portland Gallery is accepting exhibition proposals for 2005. See www.aiip.artinstitutes.edu. Contact: Marlynn Schotland, The Art Institute of Portland, 1122 NW Davis Street, Portland, OR 97209. **Deadline: 4/2/04.**

Corvallis Fall Festival (9/25-26) seeking arts, crafts and performing arts. Send SASE to Corvallis Fall Festival, 760 SW Madison, #200, Corvallis, OR 97333, 541.752.0955, www.corvallisfallfestival.com. **Deadline: 4/2/04.**

Call for Entries. Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery (CCMG) is accepting entries for a juried exhibition of ply-splitting technique, 9/18-11/14. Entry fee: $10. Email info@contemporarycrafts.org, 503.223.2654. **Deadline: 5/1/04.**

Annual Willard R. Espy Award for light verse. For unpublished writers: 30-50 lines that can be more than one verse. Award $1,000. Contact: WREL Foundation, PO Box 614, Oysterville, WA 98641, 360.665.5220, www.espyfoundation.org. **Deadline: 5/15/04.**


Call for Artists by the Fireplace Gallery at Mt. Hood Community College for exhibits 9/04-6/05. Send slides, resume and artist’s statement to Shirley Wilson, Mr. Hood Community College, 26000 SE Stark Street, Gresham, OR 97030. 503.491.7260. **Deadline: 6/1/04.**

For more: www.racc.org/News/artnotes/ANComp.html

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**Workshops/Conferences/Lectures**

3/6 Poetry Workshop: Crafting the Narrative Impulse in Poetry with Lynnell Edwards, poet and Concordia University professor. 12-3pm, Portland State University, Neuberger Hall Room 369, Portland. Email: sydneyt@pdx.edu.

3/21 Dancing From the Core Workshop at Aurora-a Creative Space for Dance and Movement. 2-4pm, $25. Facilitated by Kirsten Peterson, MA, MFA, ADTR and Maria Brigano Lee MA, ADTR, NBC. **Upcoming workshops: 4/18 & 5/16.** Aurora-a at 5433 NE 30th, Portland. 503.249.0201.

3/22-26 Arts for Peace Spring Break Camp. Local Native American Artists will share their stories to provide the foundation for students’ creative response. $155 (w/ scholarships available). Call Jenny at Grace Institute (1535 NE 17th Ave) 503.331.8155 x123.

5/3-8 San Francisco: Art Beats By the Bay! An insider’s ARtrageous Adventures tour of San Francisco’s formidable art scene. Contact Barbara Sobo Gast, 541.456.4331, bgast@cyberline.com. **Reservation Deadline: 3/20/04.**

6/11-15 The Mountain Pacific Summer Writers Conference. Poetry, fiction, and non-fiction events will include readings, workshops, panels, and lectures. Tuition: $600, Room & Board: $275. See www.mountainwriters.org or 503.236.4854. **Deadline for application/registration: 3/15/04.**

For more: www.racc.org/News/artnotes/ANWorkshops.html

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**Job Opportunities**

Assistant/Associate Professor in Sculpture/New Genre Sought by PSU. FT tenure track. See www.hrc.pdx.edu/openings/unclassified. Send applications to: Chair, Sculptor Search Committee, Dept. of Art, PSU, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751. 503.725.3515, **Tentative Deadline: 3/19/04.**

Washington State Arts Commission seek artists for an Artist in Residence Program. Artists that live within 50 miles of a Washington city may apply. See www.arts.wa.gov. **Deadline: 3/19/04.**

Manager of Individual Giving sought by Portland Opera. See www.portlandopera.org/general.php?gen=jobs.html. A résumé, cover letter and a list of three references to: Ellen Bussing, Portland Opera, 211 SE Caruthers, Portland, OR 97214, email: ebussing@portlandopera.org.

For more: www.racc.org/News/artnotes/ANJobs.html

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**Other Opportunities & Information**

Pride Northwest is seeking queer-friendly performers of all ages to participate in Pride 2004, Portland’s annual celebration of the lesbian and gay community. Email entertainment@pridenw.org, 503.772.2844, www.pridenw.org

Volunteers needed to usher for Miracle Theatre Group. Call 503.236.7253. See shows for free and help support your local artists.

For more: www.racc.org/News/artnotes/ANOther.html

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**Classified**

Top Quality Photography Services for Artists. Both 2 & 3-D artwork, 35mm, medium and 4x5 formats. See www.topqualityphotography.com. Call 503.236.4854.

Space Rental in Alameda. 2,200 sf. Wheelchair access, AC, full kitchen, two very large rooms, small stage with piano. Subed Center, 3185 NE Regents Drive. 503.287.6227.

Northwest Portland Space Available. Good for theatre or performance group. Accessible. 4,000 sf $5.00/sf ($2,000/ mo). See www.venerableproperties.com. 503.224.2446.

For more: www.racc.org/News/artnotes/ANClass.html

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"Upper Clackamas River #5" by Robert Dozono (above). The final wallWORKS at the Portland International Airport (near security checks for Concourses D & E) on exhibit until March 31. The wallWORKS:PDX project was funded by Interspace Airport Advertising and administered by RACC. Since 2001 the project has featured eight Portland area artists creating murals on-site. Due to space restrictions, the program will come to an end in March.
and the Multnomah County Justice Center, nine other public art related topics are explored.

One of the new features, The Artistic Process, includes stories behind individual public art projects and the evolutions from conception to final installation. The new design will offer the added convenience of keeping the gallery dynamic and up-to-date by changing examples in every category.

Topics and Artists Featured at the RACC Public Art Gallery

Artistic Process
Lucinda Parker
Dana Lynn Louis & Barbara Eiswerth

Art in the Landscape
Fernanda D’Agostino
Linda Wysong
Helen Lessick
Linda K. Johnson

Art in Transit
Brian Borrello
Roslyn Hill
Valerie Otani
Lillian Pitt
Jerry Quenton

Art in the Neighborhood
Adriene Cruz
John Early
Marcia Donahue
Charlotte Lewis
Youth Arts Public Art

Architectural Integration and Design Team Opportunities
Robert Calvo
Ed Carpenter
Jim Hirshfield and Sonya Ishii
Larry Kirkland
Ronna Neuenschwander
Jochem Poensgen
Westside Light Rail Design Team

Temporary Public Art
Martin Caulley
Nan Curtis and Martin Houston
Kristy Edmunds
Harrell Fletcher
Jon Hammer
David Joyce
Steven Siegel
Linda Wysong

Also featured are examples of re-siting artworks, gifts/donations, tributes, maintenance and the Visual Chronicle of Portland.

Students, out-of-town visitors, urban tour groups, and local citizens attending meetings are frequent visitors to the space. With new and updated exhibits, we anticipate visitors to the space leaving with a better understanding of the complexities of public art and its contribution to the quality of life in the metropolitan region.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:30pm; closed on weekends and holidays. The gallery is free and open to the public. The Portland Building is located at 1120 SW 5th in downtown Portland. Questions: contact Peggy Kendellen, Public Art Manager, pkendellen@racc.org or 503-823.4196.
On Monday, February 9th a helicopter donated its services to drop five giant tree root wads into Smith Lake. Artist Valerie Otani had selected the pieces from the southern Cascades to serve as more artful woody debris (missing in recent years from the lake) to provide new habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. The root art is the first public art to be installed by Metro to improve the public facilities at the Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife area. Other art will include “ecology stones” depicting the area’s natural past, present and future; “gathering stones” near the parking area and basalt canoe sculptures. RACC administered the project with the cooperation of the Multnomah County Sheriffs Dept. which provided public art funds related to their new Wapato Jail adjacent to the lakes.