Snapshots from USUAF Meeting

Recently I joined about 25 colleagues in Long Beach, California at the semi-annual meeting of the United States Urban Arts Federation. Executive Directors of the arts councils in the top 50 largest cities spent two days sharing key issues, opportunities, problems and solutions. It was fascinating to learn that we are (1) not alone and (2) better off than many.

Some of what I heard:

- Public funding is at best flat and many cities are searching for new dedicated funding sources ranging from additional taxes on lodging, for profit entertainment tickets, and gas.
- Los Angeles’s mayor unilaterally abolished the local arts council, but was overruled by a city council member who is now running for mayor. The council still lost $2 million of its $11 million budget.
- There are Public Art Director positions open in San Diego, Los Angeles and Phoenix. Fort Worth pays its public art staff and maintenance with Water District funds. Seattle’s long envied City Light funded public art program is embroiled in a huge lawsuit.
- Atlanta awards only $500,000 in grants annually (vs. $2 million here), but an anonymous philanthropist is quietly funding arts organizations in need. Fort Worth has almost no grass roots arts organizations, despite one of the most diverse populations in the country.

I suppose the overriding message is that everyone is struggling these days and doing amazing work with very little. Key to success seems to be – elect people who are committed to supporting the arts and will follow through once in office. We in Portland are lucky to have done just that.

The Public Art Murals Program is a city-wide program administered by the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) as part of its 25-year old Public Art Program. While all details are not yet finalized we are progressing towards unveiling and launching by the end of March – in time for mural painting season!

Background

After over a year of collaborative city and community planning, in December 2004 the Portland City Council voted to exempt all public art from the City’s Sign Code and to approve the Public Art Murals Program. As a result previous sign code size limitations no longer apply and murals will be considered by the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), a standing RACC committee responsible for all aspects of the city’s public art program. This group meets monthly and is comprised of artists, arts professionals and enthusiasts, and a liaison to the city’s Design Commission. RACC will add a position for an experienced muralist who, as with all serving members, will not be eligible to apply for commissions during his/her tenure on the committee.

The Murals Program

Like other RACC administered public art, murals approved through this program will be owned by the public. They may be painted on a publicly owned building or on a wall that becomes public via an easement to the city, signed by the property owner. Public art murals will not be approved on historic landmarks or in an historic district until RACC and the Landmarks Commission agree upon a review process that best serves the public’s interest in these unique structures and areas.
AROUND TOWN

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


3/4-26 Little One-Inch, Tears of Joy Theatre, 503.248.0557, www.tojt.com

3/5 Promise of Living, Portland Youth Philharmonic, 503.223.5939, www.portlandyouthphil.org


3/7 Sky...Diamonds by Kate Hawkes, Public Reading at Coho Theatre, 503.494.6976, www.cohoproductions.org


3/18 Guitarist/composer Margaret Slovak (CD Release Performance), Marylhurst University, 503.699.6263, www.marylhurst.edu


3/22 Adventures In Ill-Care (a play reading), Bump In the Road Theatre, 503.750.1439, www.bumpintheroad.org


4/15-17 Capture, Oslund + Company, 503.211.5857, www.oslundandco.org

4/22 Young Artists at the Schnitz Concerto Concert, Metro Arts, 503.790.ARTS, www.metroartsinc.org


For more: www.racc.org/news/events.php

AT RACC

Upcoming Workshops for Artists:
- **3/12 Networking Together a Powerful Business Model.** Business expert Rob Fenty will explain how to create a business model based on win/win relationships and relationships network. Fee: $35. Location: University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd., Buckley Center, Room 307.
- **4/9 Fine-Tuning Your First Impression.** A panel of local gallery owners and curators will have tips on generating quality portfolios and how to prepare your work for juries and competitions. Panelists include Jane Beebe (PDX Gallery), a representative from Blackfish Gallery, Charles Froelick (Froelick Gallery), Terri Hopkins (The Art Gym), and Stephanie Snyder (Cooley Memorial Art Gallery). Fee: $10. The Location: Blackfish Gallery, 420 NW 9th in the Pearl. Sponsored by RACC and the University of Portland Center for Entrepreneurship. To register for Workshops call 503.943.7872 or visit www.up.edu/cfe and click on Community Programs.

Upcoming RACC Grant Opportunities:
- **Professional Development Grants (Cycle 1)** assist artists or arts administrators with opportunities that specifically improve their business management development skills and/or bring the artist or the arts organization to another level artistically. **Deadline: 3/14/05, 5pm.**
- **RACC applications/guidelines:** Individual Artist Fellowships (Performing Arts). Guidelines are available announced 3/1/05 at www.racc.org. **Project Grants for Individuals and Organizations and Professional Development Grants for Individuals and Organizations (Cycle 2).** Available 5/2/05. For details visit www.racc.org/grants/deadlines.php.

Update on Oregon Cultural Trust Donations for 2004. Over 3,900 Oregonians donated a record $2 million to support arts, cultural and heritage throughout the state. This is an increase of nearly $350,000 from 2003 and indicates growing support for Oregon’s unique cultural heritage. Average gift increasing to well over $500. For more see www.culturaltrust.org.

National Arts Funding for 2005-06. President Bush’s 2006 budget asks Congress to hold even on spending for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) at the 2005 level of $121.264 million. The budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is held level in the president’s proposal, with $138.054 million. The president’s budget again zeroes out funds for the Department of Education’s Arts in Education program. Arts advocates can make their voices heard by writing their Members of Congress and urging them to increase funding for arts and culture and restore funding for arts in education programs. We encourage you to visit Americans for the Arts Advocacy site www3.artsusa.org/advocate.asp and contact your elected officials urging them to support funding increases for the arts.

For updates: www.racc.org/resources/_ANRACCOppportunities.php

At right, a Mosaic Pyramid at Marshall High School created under the guidance of artist Mark Brody.

SUN Arts after school classes are now in session at Multnomah County Schools. See www.racc.org/artseducation/sunarts.php for more information and a list of current classes.

Thru 4/27 This Linoleum Meant for Eyes, not Feet, a collection of linoleum reduction prints on display in the Providence Center on Aging Gallery by Sandy artist Leslie Cheney-Parr. Providence Center on Aging Gallery, Providence Milwaukie Hospital, 10150 SE 32nd Avenue, Milwaukie, 503.513.8404. (C)

3/30 The Art of the Egg. More than 30 artists have contributed to this show of art on eggs and art about eggs to be auctioned 3/26, 2pm. Foyer Gallery, Montinore Estate off Hwy. 47 at Dilley. Call 503.359.3012, www.montinore.com. (W)

3/19 Free Lecture by Photographer Dianne Kornberg, who works with the aesthetics and metaphorical ideas she finds in the natural world. 1:30pm, Beaverton City Library auditorium, 12375 SW 5th. Beaverton Arts Commission at 503.526.2288. (W)

Call for Artists for the 6th Annual Village of Willamette Arts Festival (9/27-28), seeking visual artists and fine crafters interested in exhibiting at the festival. Visit www.VillageArts.org. Click the “Participate!” link for information or application. Or send paper application (+ $10 fee) to: Village Arts, Box 634, West Linn, OR 97068, or call 503.635.3229. Postmarked Deadline: 3/31/05. (C)

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANWAandClack.php

Grants/ Fellowships/ Residencies


Community Access Capital Grant Program from Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission supports projects that use the community access and/or I-Net capabilities of the cable system for community projects. See www.mhccr.org or call Julie Omelchuck at 503.823.4388. Community Access Capital Grant Program, c/o Office of Cable Communications and Franchise Management, Portland Building Room 1305, 1120 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97204. Deadline: 3/21/05.

Grants from the Architecture Foundation of Oregon for organizations and individuals to further AFO’s mission: the enhancement of the built environment, the livability of communities, and the preservation of rich architectural heritage. Awards: $1,000-$5,000. Contact: AFO, PO Box 40230, Portland, OR 97240, 503.542.3825. Deadline: 3/21/05.

Competition


Call to Artists for Expressions West 2005, a juried competition with cash/purchase awards ($2,000-$5,000) open to painters in AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA and WY. Up to 3 admissions of paintings in oil, acrylic, pastel or watercolor. Contact Coos Art Museum, www.coosart.org, info@coosart.org, 541.994.5485, www.sitakcenter.org. Deadline: 4/15/05.


Junior Artist-in-Residence Program at Oregon College of Art & Craft for the post-graduate artist to pursue a proposed body of work over a 4 month period. Funds: $1,200 stipend, $500 travel and $500 supplies. See www.ocac.edu. Deadline of: 4/1/05.

National Dance Production Grant provides funding for the creation of new dance work that will tour nationally. Grant range $12K-$35K. New England Fdn of the Arts, NDP, 266 Summer St., Boston, MA 02210 or 617.951.0010 or www.nefa.org/grantprog/ndp/ndp_prod_grant_app.html. Deadline: 4/1/05.


Caldera provides professional writers and artists of various disciplines 2-4 week residencies. Seeks those working in traditional mediums and those working in new or interdisciplinary genres. Caldera, 224 NW 13th Ave., Suite 304, Portland, OR 97209, www.calderaarts.org. Contact: Marna Stalcup, 503.937.7594 or marna.stalcup@wk.com. Deadline: 6/1/05.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANGrants.php
Mt. Scott Art Center’s Patterns, Rhythms and Cycles exhibition (5/3-7/20) is an international juried exhibition open to all media. Seeking work that demonstrates in visual format the various patterns, rhythms and cycles inherent in life and nature and found throughout the strata of our existence. Up to $1,000 in cash/purchase awards. Fee: $10 for one slide, $20 for two, $25 for three. Send SASE to: Mt. Scott Art Center, 3439 NE Sandy Blvd. #205, Portland, OR 97232, www.mtscottartcenter.com. Deadline: 3/30/05.

Concrete Artists Wanted. Paolo Design Group seeks innovative, forward-thinking, and modern artists and sculptors working in concrete to showcase in their gallery from 5/5-7/6. Contact: Kate Kauffman, Paolo Design Group, 1233 NW 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97209; 503.222.1757, relations@paolodesigngroup.com. For more on Paolo, visit www.paolodesigngroup.com. Deadline: 4/15/05.

Brazil Exchange Call for Artists. Seek Portland area artists, all backgrounds and levels, to submit proposals for an upcoming international cultural exchange program with Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Seeking strong contemporary artwork in all media and ideas that enrich this exchange including site-specific installations, performances, or interactions. Contact: Nan Curtis, The Feldman Gallery + Project Space, PNCA, 1241 NW Johnson St, Portland, OR 97209, brazilexhibit@pnca.edu. Deadline: 4/23/05.

Call for Artwork by Portland Community College for existing 2-D and 3-D artwork for its Cascade Campus. Professional artists and/or teams of artists nationwide are eligible. Visit spot.pcc.edu/call2artists, or 503.978.5228. cory@concretethestudio.com. Deadline: 5/2/05. For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANCompetitions.php

Workshops/Conferences/Lectures


3/12 & 4/9 Talent to Enterprise Workshops: 3/12 Networking Together a Powerful Business Model, 4/9 Fine-Tuning Your First Impression. (See At RACC).


4/25 Producing a Feature Documentary. A first-hand perspective from award-winning filmmaker David Weissman. Follow a documentary from inception to production to theatrical release to international sales. 7:30pm. 4 sessions: $195 (after 3/25: $225). Contact: info@nwdocumentary.org, 503.227.8688. Held at: Portland Art Center, 2045 SE Belmont Street.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANWorkshops.php

Job Opportunities

Art Event Coordinator for new Pacific Northwest Sculpture program & exhibit (Sept. 2006). Experience in art show organization, fundraising required. Salary $35 to 40K. Contact: PNS, 4110 SE Hawthorne St. #302, PDX, OR 97234, office@pnwsculptors.org. Deadline: 3/9/05.

Positions at Portland Opera: Director of Music and Education; Manager of Major Gifts; and Manager of Foundation/Corporate Relations. Contact: Portland Opera, 211 SE Caruthers, Portland, OR 97234, www.portlandopera.org.

Director sought by Write Around Portland (WRAP). Overseeing a staff of two and a budget of over $100,000, responsible for development and management of programs. Salary: $35,000. Contact: Write Around Portland, 917 SW Oak, Suite 406, Portland OR 97205, skstuart@comcast.net.


Executive Director sought by Oregon Repertory Singers to manage and strategically advance the organization. Experience in choral arts or the music field preferred. Contact: ORS c/o MBL Group, LLC, Attn: Paul Barber, 111 SW Columbia, Suite 110, Portland, OR 97201, employment@mlbgroup.com, www.oregonrepingers.org.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANJobs.php

Other Opportunities & Information

2005 Web Raising Event for Non-profits (4/16) by Art Institute of Portland. For no fee, receive a new website or redesign or update current websites. Contact Jacquelyn Blain, 503.382.4705, jblain@aii.edu. Application Deadline: 3/11/05.

Call to Artists: Honor Those Who Have Died in the Iraq War. A group of peace seekers are creating a Portland area artshow (3/20) to recognize the losses brought by war. Portraits of soldiers are to be done on letter-size paper which we will mount on 11x17 black. No art will be sold. Call Tess at 503.257.2042, tess@pcez.com. Deadline: 3/17/05.

Studio Seeking Artists. Interactive media company and art studio, Concrete, is seeking artists for monthly exhibitions in their studio and on the web. Open to all types of art. Contact Cory McMahon, Studio Manager, 222 NW Davis, Suite 317, Portland, OR 97209, 503.780.6144, cory@concretethestudio.com.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANOtherInfo.php

Classified

Top Quality Photo Services for Artists. Both 2-D and 3-D artwork. 35mm, medium, and 4x5 formats, www.graceweston.com, 503.288.6077.

Arts Promoter, Fundraiser, Event Planner. Contact Gigi Rosenberg at gigirosenberg@earthlink.net, 503.771.0860.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANClassified.php

No Exit by Jean-Paul Sartre. This award-winning revival by Imago Theatre, featuring a New York cast and the return of the stunning set, runs from March 8-April 9. Imago receives General Support funding from RACC.
Approval Process

RACC is attempting to make this process as streamlined as possible. Please note that mural proponents may still elect to gain approval through the traditional sign code process if the proposed image is less than the 200 square feet sign code maximum. Advocates for larger murals will need to follow these steps.

1) Make an appointment and meet with RACC public art staff for initial review of imagery, location, funding, and building owner’s approval.

2) If basic criteria have been met, staff will schedule review at the next monthly PAAC meeting (every third Tuesday at 12:30pm). An agenda and invitation to attend and comment will be sent to interested neighborhood groups and individuals identified for regular notification by the city.

3) The PAAC will review the application and make a decision based upon adopted selection criteria for public art murals. If the proposal is rejected, the applicant may choose to return to the PAAC having responded to its comments.

4) Once the mural is approved the building owner will sign a simple easement and maintenance agreement, currently being developed by the city attorney’s office. The easement states that the owner agrees to keep the mural unchanged for at least 5 years, unless he/she needs to make physical changes to the building or to sell it.

5) Then it is mural painting time!

Funding

This year Mayor Katz appropriated $50,000 to seed the new program. RACC anticipates a range of mural funding sources. A building owner may pay the entire cost, negotiated with the artist. People wanting to apply for RACC funding should provide evidence of some match — either cash or in-kind. Given limited funds it is unlikely that RACC will fund a mural 100%, without any match. RACC will soon announce the application timeline and how the available funds will be divided. Feedback from the muralists community suggests that we fund three substantial murals and a greater number of smaller ones in this pilot year. RACC has requested an additional $50,000 for next year’s budget allocation from City Council.

We know the program is not all things to all people, but given constitutional and legal issues, we believe it is a good start and a great improvement over what has essentially been a mural-less Portland. We plan an evaluation after the first year and look forward to all comments.

We would like to thank Mayor Katz for her vision and persistence, city staff, and the Murals Working Group, who advised the process. We look forward to a blossoming of new murals around our wonderful city. See you at the dedications!

For more information call RACC 503.823.5111, info@racc.org

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.

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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

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.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER. To sign up for our free electronic edition of Art Notes, which is distributed each month, visit 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 May/June: 4/15/05.
Our 2004 Annual Report is now available!

This publication contains detailed information about all RACC grants awarded in 2003 and 2004, along with summaries of RACC's public art projects, arts education programs, and financial statements.

Visit www.racc.org/annualreport to download a PDF copy, or request a printed edition by calling Mary Bauer at 503.823.5426.