Portland One of 20 Cities Selected to Participate in National Arts Forum Series

From the Executive Director

It is not news to anyone that funding crises have severely limited arts education opportunities in our region’s schools. Restoring them will require money, creative teamwork, community support and commitment from schools leadership. To that end RACC is working with Young Audiences, Portland Public Schools, North Clackamas Public Schools, and arts and business leaders to develop Arts Partners, a new model for ensuring that every child has access to arts education.

This system is based on a highly successful model entitled “Big Thought,” a sustainable and comprehensive approach for K-8 arts education in Dallas, Texas. We are beginning to plan for capacity building so that RACC, Young Audiences, the public school systems, arts organizations, government funders, and businesses together can create a systemic arts education delivery system that ultimately will reach every student in the Portland region. The two guiding principles for the program are: 1) children succeed when schools make art integral to basic education and 2) every child deserves equal access to arts education.

The premise is simple – the roadmap to the successful system is complex. But we know it works in Dallas. Big Thought organizers are more than happy to help us design our version of their great program, which is drawing multi-million dollar grants from national foundations because it’s such a success.

We hope to receive some public funding in the upcoming fiscal year for planning and for coordination of all partners involved and to pilot the program in a small number of schools in Fall 2007. This is just the beginning – you will hear much more. Part of Dallas’s success was due to abundant communication so that anyone interested could stay abreast of program development and implementation. So, please stay tuned.

The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) and Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts (NW/BCA) will host two of 40 National Arts Forum Series events this spring, sponsored by MetLife Foundation. The forums, which will focus on the role of arts and creativity in building a strong workforce, will take place locally on March 8 and April 14. RACC and NW/BCA are program partners of Arts & Business Council of Americans for the Arts, which coordinates the series nationally.

The first forum, to be held March 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Doug Fir Lounge in Portland, is entitled “The Innovator Next Door: How arts, creativity, and ideas build a strong workforce.” Approximately 120 local business leaders and innovative thinkers are expected to share and explore some of the community’s best strategies for cultivating creative ideas in the workplace.

Scheduled speakers include Andrew McGough of Worksystems, Inc.; Lani Hayward, SVP of Marketing for Umpqua Bank; Claudia Knotek, Community Relations Manager for New Seasons Market; and Anne Schopf, Principal, Mahlum Architects. The forum will be moderated by Kira Higgs, AVP of corporate communications for The Standard, and Carole Morse, President of the PGE Foundation. Space is limited and registration is required. The cost is $20 per person, or $10 for students and representatives of nonprofit arts organizations. For registration and other information, visit www.racc.org/metlife.

A second forum – a three-hour interactive workshop – will be held on April 12 at a location to be determined. Participants, including CEOs and HR directors, will learn specific ways that companies can foster innovation in their own workplace. The forum will be facilitated by Gary Hirsch and Julie Huffaker of On Your Feet, a local improvisational theatre company. Both forums are being designed and implemented by a volunteer committee of representatives from RACC, NW/BCA, Commissioner Sam Adams’s Office, Commissioner Erik Sten’s Office, the Portland Development Commission, Workforce Systems, Inc., the Portland Workforce Alliance, and The Standard.

— continued on flap
AROUND TOWN

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


3/4 Spring Concert, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, 503.239.4566, www.metroyouthsymphony.org


3/5-6 Borodin Quartet, Friends of Chamber Music, 503.224.9842, www.focm.org


3/13 Slam Poetry: Powerfully Moving from Ideas to Writing to Speaking Workshop for Teachers, Young Audiences, 503.225.5900, www.ya-or.org


4/6-7 Forgotten Memories, Minh Tran & Company, 503.284.8686, www.mtdance.org

4/6-7 Rhythms of Change, Portland Taiko, 503.552.8811, www.portlandtaiko.org

For more: www.racc.org/resources/events

AT RACC


New RACC Staff: William Rihel has been selected as the Public Art Collections Preparator, to assist with all technical aspects of public artwork with regard to storage, installation, and packing of objects. Contact: 503.823.5425, wrhnel@racc.org.

3/16 RACC Artists Workshop in partnership with Arts Action Alliance of Clackamas County presents a repeat of The Balancing Act: Making Art and Making Money Workshop from 9-12pm at Museum of the Oregon Territory, 211 Tumwater Dr., Oregon City, OR 97045. To register: elizabeth@artsactionalliance.org or 503.655.0525.


RACC Grant Opportunity:


• FY 07-08 RACC Fellowship Award in Media Arts helps artists of high merit sustain or enhance their creative process. Application available 3/19/07 at www.racc.org. Deadline for Intent to Apply: 4/30/07.

RACC Public Art Opportunity:


For updates: www.racc.org/resources/RACCopportunities


(RACC Project Grant)

Continuing to 3/16, a RACC temporary installation, Pawn to Queen Four II: Featuring the Scrubby Action Figures by Portland artist Susan Gladstone. The installation references the often absurd and frenetic energy of our lives – at work, in relationships, and during our free time. At the Portland Building Installation Space, 1120 SW 5th Avenue, open from 7am - 6pm, Monday through Friday.
From 3/18-20 teenagers from the Native American Youth and Family Center will participate in the Mentor Artists Playwrights Project (above) presenting professional staged readings of six new one-act plays at three different community venues: Central Library, Milagro Theatre, and the PSU Native American Students and Community Center. (RACC Project Grant to Producer Myra Donnelly)

Grants/Fellowships/Residencies


Nominations for Music Education Award. Oregon Symphony recognizes excellence in Music Education through the Patty Vemer Music Educator of the Year Award honoring those who have made significant contributions to the field of music education or served as a source of inspiration to their students be they music specialists, classroom teachers or community members. Visit http://admin.orsymphony.org/edu/vemer.html or call 503.228.4294. Deadline for Nominations: 3/16/07.


Fall Career Development Residency at Banff Center. Instrumentalists, composers, singers, and ensembles of all genres of music are welcome. Contact: The Banff Center, Office of the Registrar, 107 Tunnel Mountain Drive, Box 1020, Banff, Alberta, Canada, T1L 1H5, 800.565.9989, www.banffcentre.ca. Deadline: 4/6/07.

Challenge Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for their humanities programs and resources. Matching grants are made to museums, public libraries, colleges, research institutions, historical societies and historic sites, public television and radio stations, universities, scholarly associations, state humanities councils, and other nonprofit entities. Contact the staff of NEH’s Office of Challenge Grants at 202.606.8309, challenge@neh.gov, www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/challenge.html. Deadline: 5/1/07.

Competition


Call for Entries for “Road Show” (June-July 07). Froelick Gallery seeks submissions of original artwork - car-centric, road themed art that showcases the prominent positions our automobiles have taken, their role in the American mythos. Contact: Froelick Gallery, 87 SW 2nd, Portland, OR 97204, 503.222.1142, www.froelickgallery.com. Deadline: 3/16/07.

Call for Sculpture for the City of St. Helens (OR). Sculpture sought for the City’s permanent art collection using local rock as the medium, and to provide a week-long residency to engage community in learning about art and local industries. Contact: Brian Little, City of St. Helens, P.O. Box 276, St. Helens, OR 97051, 503.397.6272, fax 503.397.4016, www.ci.st-helens.or.us. Deadline: 3/29/07.

Call for Fine Art for 8th Annual Juried Village of Willamette Arts Festival (9/15-16) West Linn, OR. Seek fine artists from all mediums to apply to this juried event. Open to all Northwest artists. Visit www.villageofwillametteartsfestival.com or request a printed application at artsboard@villageofwillametteartsfestival.com. Deadline: 3/31/07.
Call to Artists for Portland Modern, June issue. Up to ten artists will be selected for publication in this full color catalog and will participate in a group exhibition in July 2007 at the Portland Art Center. Work in any medium. Visit www.portlandmodern.org or Portland Modern, 2515 SE 22nd Ave, Portland, OR 97202. Deadline: 3/31/07.


Call to Ceramic Artists. In honor of its centennial anniversary, Oregon College of Art & Craft is looking for 100 ceramic artists to design, make, and donate a handle for a kitchen whisk that will be auctioned off. Contact Sandy Japel, Beet Gallery, 503.224.5000, BeetGallery@msn.com. Deadline: 4/7/07.

Call for Art for the Out of Doors (3/12-4/4) in the Justice Center windows, SW Madison St. between 2nd and 3rd. No fee, no jury. Call art space coordinator, Margaret Synan, at 503.789.0996 to register.

Deadline: 3/10/07.

Call for Art for Art and the Vineyard (7/6-8) Eugene, OR. Open to all artists and craftspeople producing original art. Contact: Maude Kerns Art Center, ATV Artists’ Marketplace, 1900 East 15th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97403, www.mkartcenter.org, staff@mkartcenter.org. Deadline: 4/16/07.

Gresham Art Advisory Committee invites artists to enter the 10th Annual Juried Art Exhibit (6/5-7/19). Juror: Laura Russo. Visit www.ci.gresham.or.us (under 10th Annual Juried Art Exhibit (6/5-7/19)). Gresham Art Advisory Committee invites artists to participate in a group exhibition in July 2007 at the Portland Miracle Theatre. Attn: José González, 425 SE 6th, Portland OR 97214 or email miracle@milagro.org with “Outreach & Education Director” in subject area. Visit www.milagro.org to find out more about Miracle Theatre.

For much more: www.racc.org/resources/other


Marketing Manager for Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA). Promotes and fosters the organization’s presence and visibility, authors and implements strategic marketing plan for institution and programs, creates and implements the key program elements to grow demand and improve ticket and merchandise sales, and creates and manages the marketing budget. Send resume/cover letter to: Victoria Frey, PICA, 324 NW 13th Avenue, Suite 305, Portland, OR 97209, vic@pica.org.

Executive Director of Print Arts Northwest. Areas of responsibility include: strategic planning, financial management and development, gallery and office management, regional interests and public relations within the community. Send a resume with cover letter to Search Committee, Print Arts Northwest, 416 NW 12th Ave., Portland, OR 97209, www.printartsnw.org. Deadline to register: 3/10/07.

Looking for Co-tenant. Imago Theatre, at 17 SE 8th Avenue, seeks co-tenants for their 18,000 square foot facility equipped with rehearsal space, a theatre, offices, costume and wood shop. Contact Jerry Mouawad at jerry@imagotheatre.com.

For much more: www.racc.org/resources/other

On 3/8 the world premiere of Eloquent Nude: The Love and Legacy of Edward Weston & Charis Wilson will be held at the NW Film Center’s Whitesell Auditorium. This documentary on the great American photographer Edward Weston and his wife, model, and collaborator Charis Wilson was directed by Ian McCluskey of NW Documentary Arts & Media. (RACC Project Grant)
“These forums will help the Portland metropolitan region capitalize on a key competitive advantage,” said Jeff Hawthorne, RACC Director of Community Affairs and coordinator of the program. “We have one of the highest domestic in-migration rates among 25 to 34 year olds nationally, and that creates all kinds of economic growth opportunities for our region. However, a serious workforce shortage is looming over the next 20 years, so it’s essential that Portland continue to attract and retain talented workers – especially the writers, designers, engineers, architects, researchers and other creative talent that fuel a knowledge-based economy. We should be pro-active about this.”

Over the course of the last five years, these forums have established a clear record of achievement in communities across the United States, galvanizing conversations among and collaborations between arts and business leaders. Portland has participated in the series once before, in 2005, with two forums that focused on how arts organizations, businesses, and government could be better partners in making sure Portland thrives in the emerging creative economy.

By design, the conversations that have taken place in other years in other cities have revolved around relevant cultural and economic issues. Past forum topics nationally have included private sector support of the arts; the impact of 9/11 on arts marketing and philanthropy; and arts-based training programs for business, among others. The 2006-2007 series “Arts and Workforce Development” will involve approximately 4,000 arts, business, and civic leaders around the country.

Excerpts from each forum will be posted at www.artsusa.org (search under MetLife National Arts Forums Series) as they take place, and a culminating forum will take place in June at the Americans for the Arts 2007 Annual Convention in Las Vegas. “We look forward to continuing a successful collaboration with MetLife Foundation on this important national initiative,” said Gary P. Steuer, executive director of the Arts & Business Council of Americans for the Arts. The Foundation has played a key role in stimulating locally relevant dialogue among arts, business, and civic leaders and in bringing the lessons learned in those conversations to the larger field.”

For more information, visit www.racc.org/metlife.
2006 RACC Annual Report
now available

The colorful 28-page report features
grant awards
public art projects
funding & advocacy initiatives
and photos from
tri-county art events that
RACC funded last year

To receive a free copy call 503.823.5426 or
visit www.racc.org/annualreport