

A quarterly newsletter linking donors to causes in our community

Arts groups offer innovative programs to enrich life in Greater Cleveland

Greater Cleveland has a long and rich heritage in the arts. Our arts scene ranges from world-renowned organizations to a wealth of vibrant community groups that enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike. Big or small, these organizations must take forward-looking and innovative approaches to remain viable and to appeal to changing audiences.

In this issue of *Donor Connections*, we highlight five organizations and programs that are demonstrating an exciting vision of the future of the arts: **Cleveland Arts Prize, Cleveland Public Art, Cleveland Public Theatre, Creative Fusion**, and the **Fine Arts Association**.

Strengthen

Support

Hope

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Build

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Cleveland Public Theatre is all about *daring* new work



Youth experience the arts and learn job skills in CPT's STEP program.

Cleveland Public Theatre likes living on the edge ... and has earned a national reputation for doing it successfully.

Now in its 30th year, CPT is Cleveland's leading stage for adventurous new theater and is known nationally for groundbreaking productions. For example, "Cut to Pieces,"

an original production which blends live video feed, film, and animation, is preparing to tour nationally.

"We are dedicated to giving artists the freedom to experiment and create exciting, unconventional work in an intimate setting," says Executive Artistic Director Raymond Bobgan.

Cleveland Arts Prize honors – and encourages – local

talent

The executive director of the Cleveland Arts Prize tells it like it is. “It is hard to win an Arts Prize,” says Marcie Bergman, “because there are so many exceptional artists in our community.”

Established in 1960, the Cleveland Arts Prize is the oldest award of its kind in the United States. It annually honors



All Arts Prize winners receive a specially designed medal.

artists whose work has made Northeast Ohio a more exciting place to live and sets a standard of excellence to which others can aspire.

After deliberations by a jury of peers, a \$5,000 prize and medal is awarded to one emerging artist and to mid-career

artists in each of four categories: literature, visual arts, music and dance, and design. A lifetime achievement winner may be chosen as well. This year's awards ceremony is on June 28.

The group also strives to raise public awareness and support of artistic creativity through special awards for arts leaders, studio tours and other events, and scholarships for area students.

Grants to the Arts Prize will help celebrate the excellence of artists in our community:

- \$500 supports the jury process.
- \$1,500 sponsors the annual awards ceremony.
- \$3,000 maintains an online archive of winners, an important international resource.

For more information, call 216-321-7278 or check out www.clevelandartsprize.org.

Cleveland Public Art helps *beautify* and strengthen our neighborhoods

A 35-foot-tall “flower” made of bicycle wheels in Slavic Village ... an intimate reading garden at the Cleveland Public Library ... more than 30 blue bird sculptures in Detroit-Shoreway ...

These are a few of the dozens of projects Cleveland Public Art has created in public spaces throughout the city of Cleveland since 1984. In our city's most visible areas and in its most disadvantaged neighborhoods, these projects bring beauty, interest, utility, and more.

“Public art and creative urban design can help attract residents and investment,” says Greg Peckham, executive director. “They can reinvent a place and lead to healthier and safer neighborhoods.”

CPA is a preeminent organization for the identification and evaluation of public art opportunities. CPA has created a citywide, award-winning public art collection that ensures Cleveland's residents, visitors, and workers have access to art in their daily lives.

CPA has been a consultant on key civic investments, including RTA's Euclid Corridor project, the Cleveland Public Library's downtown expansion, and the Gateway sports complex.

To learn how a grant to CPA can help beautify and strengthen our community, please visit www.clevelandpublicart.org or call 216-621-5330.



This “flower” brightens a Slavic Village bike trail.

Since 1957, the Fine Arts Association has offered children and adults a large variety of visual and performing arts classes, as well as live performances, at its facility in Willoughby. Even



Music therapist Ellen Shetler leads a fun interactive session.

at full capacity with 60,000 people served a year, more is demanded.

“So we are taking the arts to the people,” says Linda Wise, chief executive officer of this nationally recognized cultural

center. “And now our off-site programs have tripled in five years. It underscores our community’s need for quality arts education.”

Outreach programs are run by professional teaching artists in dance, theater, music, visual arts, and music therapy, and are customized for senior centers and schools in Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, and Cuyahoga counties.

Theatre for Healthy Living™ is a new program that brings live theater into local high schools to deal with topics of social significance. An FAA instructor works with faculty, staff, and students to identify an issue – such as teen pregnancy, drug abuse, or bullying – and then to create and perform a play about it.

Contributions can help the FAA bring arts education to new audiences:

- \$150 enables a low-income student to attend an arts class for 16 weeks.
- \$750 gives a special-needs student 18 weeks of music therapy.
- \$2,500 provides a theater program to a high school student body.

To learn more, log on to www.fineartsassociation.org or call 440-951-7500, ext. 107.

continued from page 1... **Cleveland Public Theatre**

One way CPT supports local artists is through its award-winning Big [BOX] series. Over eight weekends, 13 area artists are given keys to the theater and the freedom to transform the space for their original works. Also gaining national attention is the devised theater approach pioneered at CPT, which involves an ensemble creating new work from previously written texts.

Based on its belief that “art can change lives,” CPT offers arts education and job training programs for about 500 urban youth and homeless men and women in transition each year.

Grants to CPT will help further its mission of adventurous theater and innovative arts education:

- \$500 provides a one-week salary for a teaching artist working with homeless men in recovery.
- \$1,000 supports one week of new play development in Big [BOX].
- \$5,000 sponsors one child in the eight-week STEP education/job training program.

To learn more, visit www.cptonline.org or call 216-631-2727.

Creative Fusion brings *global* artists to Cleveland

T rue to its energetic name, Creative Fusion is infusing Cleveland with new art forms, cultural insights, and above all, a global perspective.

Creative Fusion, a special initiative of the Cleveland Foundation, brings international artists to Cleveland for



Sevi Bayraktar teaches students about Turkey and the origins of Gypsy dance.

residencies of up to one year to engage with our artists, youth, and the community. Local cultural and educational institutions partner to host the artists.

"Cleveland is striving to become a more global city. And the arts are an ideal way to help us work toward that goal," says program director Kathleen Cerveney.

In its first year, Creative Fusion welcomed a Gypsy dancer, a South African visual artist, a Turkish playwright and director, and a Turkish paper marbling artist and educator. Major sponsors were Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland State University, Spaces Gallery, and Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio.

Through workshops, performances, and other programming, the four artists interacted with more than 7,000 students, collaborated with more than 175 arts professionals, and reached more than 1,000 community members.

In 2011, Creative Fusion will be hosting artists from Uganda, Chile, and Cuba.

Grants will help support artists' school visits and community workshops as well as collaborative work with local artists.

Find out more by calling 216-615-7146 or visiting www.ClevelandFoundation.org/CreativeFusion.html.

How to recommend a grant to these and other organizations

Complete the grant recommendation form enclosed, or access your Advisor Xpress account through the Donor section of the foundation's website. For more information, please call or e-mail the Gift Planning and Donor Relations team.



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