

Donor

connections

A quarterly newsletter linking donors to causes in our community

Keeping the Arts Alive & Well Here

When Cuyahoga County voters approved Issue 18 in November, it was the culmination of more than a decade of hard work to secure public funding for the arts in and around Cleveland. However, while Issue 18 will provide much-needed support for local arts institutions, it can account for up to only 25 percent of their individual operating budgets. It is vital, then, that Cleveland's philanthropic community continues to support our local arts and cultural institutions.

In this issue of *Donor Connections*, we profile some of Cleveland's outstanding arts organizations. Some will benefit from Issue 18 funding, but all will continue to rely on the support of individual donors to help them deliver high-quality arts programming and education in Northeast Ohio.



Strengthen

Support

Hope

Connect

Succeed

Trust

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MOCA Cleveland Heads to Heart of University Circle

These are exciting times at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (MOCA Cleveland). The museum is planning a move from its current location on Carnegie Avenue to the corner of Euclid Avenue and Mayfield Road, the heart of Cleveland's University Circle area. At the new site, MOCA will serve as the gateway to the planned "University Arts and Retail District," designed to create a "college town" environment with a variety of retail and residential offerings.

"During this pivotal time of renewal in University Circle, MOCA will further animate this vibrant urban mecca in a building designed by the London-based architectural firm Foreign Office Architects," said MOCA Executive Director Jill Snyder. "With a mission to present the art and ideas of our time, MOCA will add

dynamism to the cultural arena."

MOCA Cleveland features visual art exhibitions from internationally known contemporary artists as well as from emerging and established artists in Northeast Ohio through its PULSE Exhibition Series. The museum also offers a variety of multi-arts programming and educational experiences, including lectures, readings, films, performances, concerts, tours, and more to inspire and energize visitors.

Over the next year, MOCA is planning exhibitions of works from the late Cleveland photographer Masumi Hayashi and artists Diana Cooper and Sam Taylor-Wood.

MOCA Cleveland accepts donations to fund these offerings as well as other aspects of its ongoing operations. The museum's web site www.mocacleveland.org has more information.

Verb Ballets

Connecting Public with Dance



No one can accuse Verb Ballets of lacking ambition. The Cleveland-based dance company seeks to develop interest in and appreciation for contemporary dance through performance, educational programs that promote learning and wellness, audience and community dialogue, and advocacy efforts that support the art of dance.

Those aspirations, coupled with superior performance and choreography, have garnered the troupe plaudits from many corners, including a mention in *Dance Magazine* as one of the “25 to Watch” among the nation’s dance companies.

“Dance is an art form that supporters can experience through observation and participation,” said Dr. Margaret Carlson, Verb’s executive director. “The essence of dance comes from non-verbal communication that lies deep within our psyche and can stir very deep responses. People of all ages and physical abilities can participate in it on some level.”

Verb Ballets’ outreach programs encompass performances, workshops and residencies in schools, universities, community centers, arts institutions and health care facilities. By prompting individuals to interact directly with the experience of dance, Verb hopes to breed better understanding of dance and stimulate creativity.

A charitable gift of \$10,000 or more commissions a work from Verb and earns recognition for the donor in the house program, on the Internet and in relevant media materials. A \$5,000 donation affords sponsorship rights for a work in the company’s repertory for one year. Gifts of \$375 pay for educational programs in schools, while \$250 covers the cost of an outreach program in a nursing home.

Visit Verb Ballets online at www.verbballets.org.

Dobama supports the youngest of emerging Playwrights

When the staff at Dobama Theatre says that part of its mission is to premier plays written by today’s emerging playwrights, they are to be taken seriously. Dobama is one of the only arts organizations anywhere providing a forum for playwrights as young as 6 to have their work produced, through the Marilyn Bianchi Kids’ Playwriting Festival (also known simply as “Marilyn’s Festival”).

Each year, Marilyn’s Festival receives hundreds of plays written by Cuyahoga County students in grades 1 through 12. Winning playwrights receive U.S. savings bonds, publication of their work, and possible production of their work by Dobama artists.

“Marilyn’s Festival is a high-energy event, producing ingenious fantasies to poignant dramas that demonstrate an understanding of contemporary life far beyond the years of these young writers,” said Joyce Casey, Dobama’s artistic director.

This year marks the 29th Marilyn’s Festival and the 48th year that Dobama Theatre has been bringing new contemporary plays to Cleveland audiences. Dobama produces six mainstage plays annually, plus its “Night Kitchen,” which offers theatrical events presented by and for young adults.

Dobama has reduced its current season to build a new home in time for the 30th year of Marilyn’s Festival. The organization accepts donations at a number of levels:

- \$500 prints color posters for all school and public libraries advertising Dobama performances
- \$500 also prints color postcards to promote Marilyn’s Festival
- \$1,000 “adopts” a winning playwright of Marilyn’s Festival
- \$2,000 hires an equity actor for Dobama
- \$2,500 covers the cost of typesetting and printing the annual Marilyn’s Festival book of winning plays

For more information, see Dobama’s web site at www.dobama.org.

Young Audiences Helps Students

Learn through the Arts

Too often, the arts are placed on the periphery of public education, viewed more as an option or elective than as a fundamental component of the curriculum. That simple fact led to the formation in 1952 of Young Audiences, the country's oldest and largest organization dedicated to making the arts essential to the education of all school-aged children. The next year saw the formation of Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland, now known as Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio (YANEO). Put simply, the mission of Young Audiences is to enrich the lives of children and promote creative learning by uniting arts and education.

"Young Audiences' roster of more than 50 performing, literary and visual artists delivers high-quality arts experiences," said Marsha Dobrzynski, executive director of YANEO. "We believe all children deserve to be exposed to the arts to help them succeed in school and in life."

Last year, YANEO reached more than 265,000 students in urban, rural and suburban school districts in six Northeast Ohio counties. YANEO performances ranged from a one-act play about the American civil rights movement to a display of West African dance and drumming. The organization

serves students from preschool through high school.

Contributions to YANEO help to ensure that more children can learn through the arts:

- \$100 covers a 30-minute early childhood performance for up to 60 preschoolers
- \$150 pays for an hour-long professional development workshop for up to 30 teachers
- \$350 buys five hour-long workshops with a select artist for a class of 30 students
- \$500 covers an hour-long, all-school performance by a professional dance troupe
- \$2,500 pays for the creation and installation of a school mural

For more information, log on to YANEO's web site at www.yaneo.org.



SPACES advances artists'

Visions

Perhaps the only thing predictable about SPACES is its unpredictability. In the course of a year, the artist-run, alternative gallery organizes exhibitions from local, national and international artists. Media on display range from traditional painting and sculpture to performance art and video.



A scene from Adrian Paci's video "pilgrIMAGE," part of the recent "Legal Aliens" exhibition at SPACES.

SPACES allows artists the freedom to engage the public in an ongoing dialogue about the role and nature of contemporary art. The institution interacts directly with artists to promote experimentation, public programs, residencies and publications.

Recognized for its innovative work, SPACES bills itself as a forum for promising artists to present exceptional work that might otherwise not gain wide exposure. That is especially true of the works exhibited through the gallery's SPACELab program, which provides short-term exhibition space for experimental art, particularly that produced by younger artists and students.

The SPACES World Artists Program offers national and

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Rabbit Run

When Western Reserve Fine Arts Association and the longstanding Rabbit Run Theater merged in 2000, the result was one of the largest and most comprehensive visual and performing arts organizations in Lake County. The new entity, known as the Rabbit Run Community Arts Association (RRCOA) and based in Madison, seeks to provide people of all ages the opportunity to participate in quality and affordable arts programs, education and performances.

Rabbit Run Theater, located right on Lake Erie, is one of the few barn theaters still in operation in Ohio. Each summer, the nearly 300-seat, fully equipped facility offers outstanding theater producing comedies, dramas, and musicals from the beginning of June through the end of August.

“The mission of RRCOA is truly our guiding force,” said Executive Director Brint Learned. “Every program we offer is chosen to provide the highest quality arts opportunities to our extended community. This commitment to quality has created a bond of trust with each student and patron, ensuring a rich and satisfying arts experience.”



Among Rabbit Run’s more innovative programs is “Try Me – An Arts Exploration Series” for children ages 2-12. The program introduces children to the fine arts in a fun and relaxed way. Each series consists of three sessions focusing on different aspects of a particular art form. A recent dance series, for example, featured sessions on ballet, modern dance and Spanish flamenco.

Donations to RRCOA support the organization’s efforts to provide arts education and programming to the extended community, specifically in the form of arts scholarships and theater renovations.

Visit Rabbit Run’s web site www.rabbitrunonline.com for further details.

How to recommend a grant for any of these organizations

Complete the grant recommendation form enclosed, or access your Advisor Xpress account through the My TCF option under the “Current Donors” section of the foundation web site.

For more information about these and other worthy organizations, please call or email the Gift Planning and Donor Relations team.



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international artists a six-week residency designed to give them the time and opportunity to create new work and interact with many Northeast Ohio communities.

As a nonprofit arts organization, SPACES relies on the support of foundations, private funding and membership. Every dollar donated directly impacts the quality and breadth of exhibitions and programming:

- \$150 helps to execute an arts outreach program for at-risk youth or children from the Cleveland Municipal School District
- \$500 provides a SPACES World Artist Program artist-in-residence the materials necessary to create a new work of art
- \$3,000 contributes to the publication of a SPACES catalog
- \$10,000 sponsors an entire exhibition

More information can be found on SPACES’ web site, www.spacesgallery.org.