



ARTS MARYLAND NOVEMBER 2011



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Master artist at work

Rich Smoker, a master carver who resides on the Eastern Shore, will receive a 2011 Maryland Traditions ALTA (Achievement in Living Traditions and Arts) Award, Dec. 3 (*see story below*).

Smoker has won more than 400 ribbons in wildfowl-carving competitions and was inducted into the Carver's Hall of Fame at Easton's Waterfowl Festival in 2001. He has also taught carving classes for Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and other organizations in the region.

Photo courtesy of Edwin Remsberg

**Traditional artists
come to schools**

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Maryland arts deliver \$1 billion boost to economy

The arts industry generated a total of \$501 million in direct spending and had a total economic impact of \$1 billion during fiscal 2010, according to a recently released economic-impact study from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development concerning the state's arts industry that year.

Here are some of the findings in the report:

- About 7.6 million people attended arts events in Maryland, spending an estimated \$292 million on related goods and services.
- The arts industry generated 10,671 full-time equivalent jobs.
- Arts-related employment accounted for \$385 million in salaries.
- Arts organizations generated \$209 million in direct spending on goods and services.
- The arts industry provided \$36.5 million in state and local taxes.
- Every \$1 in arts organizations' operating budgets led to \$3.78 in additional economic activity.
- Grants from the Maryland State Arts Council represent \$1 out of every \$19 in the operating budgets of arts organizations.

The DBED study used Maryland Cultural Data Project data supplied by 252 Maryland arts organizations that receive grants from the Arts Council.

Photo courtesy of Joe's Movement Emporium



ALTA Awards honor Maryland's living traditions

Maryland Traditions, the folklife program of the Maryland State Arts Council, has announced the three winners – a person, place and tradition – of its annual ALTA (Achievement in Living Traditions and Arts) Awards. Named for the late Alta Schrock (*pictured*), a folklorist and community leader in Western Maryland, the awards recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations to sustain Maryland traditions. (Schrock, a native of Garrett County, cultivated her interest in preserving Appalachian traditional-art forms by establishing Spruce Forest Artisan Village, Penn Alps and the Springs Festival.)

Awardees are: Rich Smoker, a master decoy carver who lives in Somerset County; Patterson Bowling Center Duckpin Bowling Lanes, the oldest duckpin-bowling alley in the world, located near Patterson Park in East Baltimore; and The Singing & Praying Bands of Maryland – representing a statewide, African-American musical tradition that began at Methodist prayer meetings during the 19th century.

An awards ceremony will be held Dec. 3, 7 p.m., at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring. Admission is free, though tickets must be reserved by calling the center's box office, 240-567-5775.



Arts Council adopts new grant-application system

Maryland State Arts Council grant applications now use the Bromelkamp Company's eGrant.net process, a system used by 32 other state arts agencies and more than 220 grantmakers across the U.S. The Arts Council's former provider, Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Arts Management and Technology, has discontinued its services.

Grant applicants will find that eGrant is similar to the previously used system. The deadline for fiscal 2013 Grants for Organizations applications was extended to Dec. 8, 2011, and the deadline for Request for Funding applications is Dec. 15, 2011. E-mail the Arts Council for more information about eGrant.net.



Theatre Project celebrates 40 years

Theatre Project – established as "Baltimore's free theater" in October 1971 – revives its "pass the hat" tradition at a free performance for each show scheduled during the 2011-2012 season in honor of the theater's 40-year anniversary.

The season features dance, opera and plays with a spotlight on local companies that will be in residence for two to three weeks at a time. Those companies include: Iron Crow Theatre Company, Chesapeake Chamber Opera, The Generous Company, Factory Edge Theatre Works and DNA (Daydreams + Nightmares Aerial) Theatre. Dance companies from the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas will perform in a festival format during March and April.

Located at 45 W. Preston St. near Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Theatre Project offers memberships that start at \$40. Call 410-752-8558 or e-mail the

[theater](#) for membership information.



Partnerships propel public-art project in Harford

A 30-foot-high steel sculpture, *Daybreak* – inspired by Harford County's cannery business – was dedicated Oct. 27 by the town of Bel Air and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. The ceremony, held in a light rain, was the culmination of a public-art project that succeeded through partnerships between public and private entities.

Ellicott City artist Richard Brink created the sculpture, which is located on the Ma and Pa Trail off Route 24 in Harford County. Richard Streett, whose family owned a Spenceola Cannery, a local tomato-canning business, provided support for the project, which Natalie Weeks – a member of the cultural arts board – had initiated.

A \$5,000 matching grant from the Maryland State Arts Council was awarded to the cultural arts board through the Public Art Project Grant Program. Since its inception four years ago, the program has awarded 11 grants for public-art projects in nine counties.



***Literary Arts Week* debuts at Baltimore arts celebration**

Free Fall Baltimore – the month-long array of free arts and cultural events held every October in the city in recognition of *National Arts and Humanities Month* – included a *Literary Arts Week* for the first time. Through a partnership forged by [CityLit Project](#), [Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance](#) and Maryland State Arts Council, the special week featured a range of activities. Among them:

- Spotlight UB, CityLit Project and The Love Movement presented *Across Words*, an evening of storytelling, music and poetry.
- Maryland Humanities Council hosted literary walking tours of Baltimore's Mt. Vernon district, which included a stop at the former residence of Gertrude Stein and references to other famous literary figures who resided or visited the neighborhood.
- Enoch Pratt Free Library offered a variety of author's talks and readings, such as a discussion titled *Why Read Moby Dick?* – led by author Nathaniel Philbrick.
- Playwrights Group of Baltimore presented readings of seven short plays – The BaltiVORE Plays – which were each inspired by some of the city's signature food items, including: Old Bay Seasoning, Berger's Cookies and Utz chips.

For information about the Arts Council's literary arts program or to learn about next year's *Literary Arts Week*, [e-mail Chris Stewart](#) at the Arts Council.



New program brings traditional artists to schools

Master traditional artists will share their artistry with students in public and private schools in Montgomery County as part of a pilot program called *Maryland Traditions in the Schools*. The program is expected to expand to other counties.

Montgomery County's pilot – for students in grades 6 to 12 – includes workshops and presentations by four Maryland traditional artists: Junious "House" Brickhouse (urban dancing); Daryl Davis (barrelhouse piano/American roots music); Samia Ahmad (South Asian classical music); and Phil Wiggins (country blues harmonica).

Maryland Traditions in the Schools is based on a partnership between the Maryland State Arts Council's Maryland Traditions (folklife) and Arts-in-Education programs with the National Council for the Traditional Arts and Class Acts Arts.

Photo: Phil Wiggins teaching Harmonica 101

IN THE NEWS

Arts Council staff take part in industry events

Maryland State Arts Council staff participated in a variety of events tied to the arts industry during October. Here are some of those activities:

- Executive Director **Theresa Colvin** and Chair **William Mandicott** attended the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) 2011 Leadership Institute in Charleston, W. Va. Colvin is a member of NASAA's board of directors. The conference focused on "Designing the Future of State Arts Agencies" and leadership training.
- Folklorist **Cliff Murphy** made two presentations at the American Folklore Society's annual meeting, held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. His first session addressed the disciplinary connections between ethnomusicology and folklore. The second was part of a panel discussion, titled *Catch and Release: Leadership, Transition, and Succession in Public Folklore Programs*.
- Senior Program Director **Carla Dunlap** participated in the Grantmakers in the Arts 2011 conference, titled *Embracing the Velocity of Change*, in San Francisco. The conference focused on changing demographics, changing technology and changes in the understanding of arts and social justice as it pertains to decision-making for awarding grants.

More news items:

Hippodrome uses new grant to give nonprofits a broader stage

Artist brings lively learning to Montgomery's New Market Elementary

Blake Robison to leave Bethesda's Round House for Cincinnati

Academy Art Museum names Wagenberg as curator

EMP Collective launches new space to incubate art in all its forms

Saving the country's cultural heritage, one recovered work at a time

See the inner workings of Western Maryland artists

Frederick's Arts Hall of Fame announces 2011 inductees

Anne Arundel's arts council announces 2011 Annie Awards

Hammond's Blanch named art teacher of year in Howard County

Walters Art Museum opens access to 10,000 images

Plight of Baltimore's Poe House attracts national attention

EVENTS

Eastern Shore festival celebrates wildlife, bay lifestyle

Easton hosts the 41st annual Waterfowl Festival, Nov. 11-13. The event – a wildlife art and sportsman's exposition that runs at 12 venues around town – features wildlife paintings, sculpture, carvings and photography, along with collectible decoys and sporting gear. It also has championship "calling contests," decoy auctions, craft and food vendors, and fly-fishing and dog demonstrations. Proceeds benefit wildlife conservation. Free parking and shuttle service are available. Order tickets online.

BMA presents panel on black male perceptions

Journalists and scholars convene for a panel discussion about the role of contemporary media in shaping perceptions of black males at a Baltimore Museum of Art symposium, *Black Male Identity: Media, Message and Visual Culture*, on Nov. 19. Mark Steiner, of the Center for Emerging Media, moderates the discussion.

Meet the performers at free Theatre Project event

Theatre Project presents *B'more Dance: An Autumn Mixer*, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. The event – free and open to the public – features performances by Baltimore area dance companies. Audience members can mingle with performers prior to each show and then offer feedback on performances. Attendees also receive a complimentary drink during the cocktail period, which starts at 6:30 p.m. Reserve a seat by calling 410-752-8558.

Frederick Festival of Greens features up to 100 decorated or themed wreaths and trees at the town's Cultural Arts Center, Nov. 25 to Dec. 4. All of the wreaths and trees will be available for purchase during a silent auction that runs throughout the event. Many of them come with attached gift certificates and related merchandise. Event kicks off on Nov. 25 with the Frosty Friday artists market. For more information, call the Frederick Arts Council, 301-662-4190, or visit its web site.

**OPPORTUNITIES
& DEADLINES**

Learn how to protect yourself and your work when you hand it over to a gallery. Maryland Lawyers for the Arts and Creative Alliance present *Lawyers, Art and Money: Legal Guide to the Gallery*, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to noon, at Creative Alliance, 3134 Eastern Ave. in Baltimore. Registration available online.

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts announces a call for entries for its 79th annual *Cumberland Valley Photographic Salon*, a juried exhibition open to professional and amateur photographers that will be on display from Jan. 28 through April 29 in 2012. Entries must be received by Dec. 2. Guidelines are available online. For more information, call or e-mail the museum, 301-739-5727.

Maryland Citizens for the Arts presents the second of three workshops on submitting organizational bond bill requests, Nov. 21 at Baltimore Clayworks. The advocacy group also offers a series of pre-legislative session briefings during December. First briefing is Dec. 5 at the Dorchester Center for the Arts in Cambridge. View the schedule of additional December meetings online. All sessions are free of charge and begin at 10 a.m. For more information, call or e-mail Maryland Citizens for the Arts, 410-467-6700.

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation is looking for venues to serve as host sites for the 2012-2013 *On Screen/In Person* tour, which brings new independent American films and their creators to communities across the mid-Atlantic region. The deadline for submitting an application as a host site is Dec. 2. More information is available online.

MetLife Foundation and the National Guild for Community Arts Education offer grants for creative-aging programs. Awards of up to \$10,000 help support the capacity of nonprofits to deliver arts education and programming to older adults. The deadline for applications is Dec. 16. Guidelines are available online. For more information, call or e-mail Ken Cole at the National Guild for Community Arts Education, 212-268-3337, ext. 18.

Theatre communications Group's Leadership U has two new grants programs. One-on-One grants of \$75,000 will be awarded to six early-career leaders from all areas of theater operations. Deadline for online registration and applications is Dec. 12. Continuing Ed grants of up to \$6,000 will be given to eight professionals – mid-career or veterans. The application deadline for this program is April 9, 2012.

As a resource for Maryland nonprofits, Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU) provides a network for securing both volunteers and board members. Nonprofits can post profiles and volunteer opportunities free of charge on BVU's volunteer site. BVU also matches local executives with nonprofits through its Board Leadership Program. For more information, call or e-mail BVU, 410-366-6030.

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