



DECEMBER 2009

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The Language of Objects



Backas Gallery opens new sculpture show

A sculpture exhibition opens at the James Backas Gallery with a free reception, Thursday, Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m. *The Language of Objects*, curated by **Beverly Ress**, features work by six Maryland artists: **Brent Crothers, Steven Dobbin, Mimi Frank, Breon Gilleran, Ryan McKibbin and Betsy Packard**. The gallery is at the Arts Council's office in South Baltimore, 175 W. Ostend St. Free parking. Call 410-767-6555 for details or visit the [Arts Council web site](#).

Above images:(L) Mimi Frank, Happiness Hints for a Holistic Lifestyle, 72 in. x 12 in. x 12 in. (R) Breon Gilleran, Missing Appendage, 96 in. x 48 in. x 36 in.



Councilors meet in Southern Maryland

The Arts Council traveled to St. Mary's College of Maryland in Southern Maryland for its regular council meeting, Nov. 20. Councilor **Barbara Bershon**, who is director of the college's annual River Concert Series, hosted the meeting. **Larry Vote**, acting president and provost at St. Mary's, along with Jeffrey Silberschlag, music director for the concert series and head of music performance at the college, welcomed the group with both a tour of Boyden Gallery and a student performance in Montgomery Hall.

Pictured: (L to R) Nathaniel Silberschlag and Mary Coy with E. Scott Johnson, MSAC chair, and Theresa Colvin, MSAC executive director, following performance.



Cultural community salutes Nancy Haragan

Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) celebrated its 10th anniversary and paid tribute to its executive director, **Nancy Haragan**, at a Nov. 22 dinner in honor of her decade of service to the organization and the cultural community. **E. Scott Johnson**, chair of the Maryland State Arts Council, presented Haragan with a congratulatory citation from **Gov. Martin O'Malley**. Haragan, GBCA's founding director, will retire from the organization at the end of this month. GBCA's board of directors also established a Founder's Fund in Haragan's honor, which will provide working capital for sustaining GBCA. Haragan was praised for her leadership in forging regional partnerships and community forums, along with her efforts in creating the Baltimore Fun Guide and her involvement in bringing the Cultural Data Project to Maryland. For information about the Founder's Fund, call or e-mail GBCA, 410-230-0200.

Pictured: Nancy Haragan



Regional forums support literary arts groups

Literary arts summits – designed to promote communication, foster a collaborative spirit and share resources among literary arts organizations – have been held in the greater Baltimore area, Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Future meetings are planned for the greater Washington, D.C. area and Southern Maryland. **Chris Stewart**, program director for Literary Arts at the Arts Council, says committees have been formed to address the top issues that face literary groups: funding, venues, outreach, programming and technical assistance. For more information, call or e-mail Chris Stewart, 410-767-6476.

Pictured at an earlier summit (l to r): Reggie Harris, Enoch Pratt Free Library; Andrea Lewis, Maryland Humanities Council; and Andy Rubin, Cyclops Books.



Maryland Presenters meet at annual session

More than 40 presenters of performing arts gathered at [Strathmore Music Center](#) in Bethesda, Nov. 23, for the second annual Maryland Presenters Network meeting. The event featured a panel presentation that addressed funding opportunities and how to develop corporate sponsorships during the current economic downturn. Panelists included: **Bianca Beckham**, Strathmore Hall Foundation; **Krista Bradley**, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation; **Theresa Colvin**, Maryland State Arts Council; **Mario Garcia Durham**, National Endowment for the Arts (*pictured*); and **William Mandicott**, Frostburg State University Cultural Events Series. (Mandicott is also a Maryland State Arts Councilor.) Two guests from Pennsylvania – **Chad Herzog**, *Juniata Presents*; and **Amy Dupain Vashaw**, Pennsylvania State University's Center for Performing Arts – joined a discussion about future projects. Call or [e-mail Sharon Blake](#) for information, 410-767-6536.

Pictured: Mario Garcia Durham, National Endowment for the Arts



Arts centers partner for community outreach

Baltimore Clayworks, a nonprofit ceramic-arts center, is using a Maryland State Arts Council ARTvantage grant to offer programming at the **Jubilee Arts Center**, a newly developed arts facility in West Baltimore. The Arts Council offers these grants – designed to help extend arts programs into underserved communities – through funding from the *Challenge America Program* at the National Endowment for the Arts. For the Jubilee project, Clayworks has arranged for **Justin Rothshank**, a Pittsburgh-based artist, to work out of a Clayworks satellite studio at Jubilee during the upcoming spring as resident artist. He will guide a community arts project called *1,000 Cups of Hope*.

Image courtesy of www.rothshank.com



Register for workshop on ARTvantage grants

An informational workshop for [ARTvantage grants](#) will be held at the Arts Council office, 175 W. Ostend St. in South Baltimore, on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 4-5:30 p.m. ARTvantage grants allow arts organizations and artists to expand and diversify their audiences. These grants can promote accessibility to the arts by helping arts organizations extend their programming into underserved communities. Registration required. Call or [e-mail Doreen Harmon](#), 410-767-6555, to register.

NEWS

- [Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center gets \\$1 million gift](#)
- [Panel recommends team to renovate Parkway Theatre](#)
- [The Deep Creek Blog: Garrett County artist work at new hospital](#)

EVENTS

- **20 Years: A Retrospective**
Runs to Jan 9, 2010
Harmony Hall Regional Center
Fort Washington, Prince George's County
Call 301-203-6070 for information
- **Benefit auction for Jubilee Arts Center**
Dec. 11, 7-9 p.m.
Baltimore
Contact: Mariska Jordan
- **Maryland Arts Day**
Feb. 9, 2010
State House, Annapolis
Contact: Maryland Citizens for the Arts
- **National Arts Education Association Conference**
April 14-16, 2010
Baltimore
- **Americans for the Arts 50th Anniversary Conference**
June 25-27, 2010
Baltimore

MSAC events:

- ***The Language of Objects***
Curated by Beverly Ress
Now through March 24, 2010
Reception, Dec. 3, 5-7:30 p.m.
James Backas Gallery
175 W. Ostend St.
(MSAC office) Baltimore
- **Arts and Entertainment District Managers annual meeting**
March 10, 2010
Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
Contact: Pamela Dunne

GRANTS

Check MSAC web site for linked information

- Arts & Entertainment Districts Technical Assistance, Dec. 9
- Arts in Communities, Jan. 21, 2010
- FY2011 Community Arts Development (grant and RFF), Jan. 29, 2010
- Public Art project for county arts councils, Feb. 4, 2010