



Arts and Culture News in the Corridor

A Project of the Heritage-in-Arts Initiative

July, 2009

October 2009 is National Arts and Humanities Month

Join individuals, organizations and agencies across the country to celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month (NAHM), “the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation” according to Americans for the Arts who coordinates the event. This is your chance to elevate and celebrate the arts in your village, town, city, county and region. Suggested activities from Americans for the Arts include arts center open houses, mayoral proclamations, banners and media coverage. To purchase a set of five ART. ASK FOR MORE posters, click the following website to access the Americans for the Arts on-line store. <http://ww2.americansforthearts.org/vango/core/orders/product.aspx?catid=6&prodid=859> Check out the website below or contact your local PBS station for information on screenings of Art:21 – Art in the Twenty-First Century, the Emmy-nominated PBS series. <http://www.pbs.org/art21/> For general information on NAHM check out the Americans for the Arts website and let your creativity begin! http://www.artsusa.org/get_involved/advocacy/nahm/default.asp

Arts Covenant Initiative Launched

On Friday, July 24th at noon in City Hall Commons by the Tectonic Hand Sculpture arts enthusiasts are invited to show their support for the vibrant arts and culture community in Central New York as part of Arts Week. The Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse and Onondaga County is asking participants to show their commitment by leaving their hand print in the CNY Arts Covenant quilt as they agree to four acts to support the arts in Central New York over the next year. The four acts include 1.) purchase three original works of art to honor the creative work of CNY artists, 2.) attend at least one arts event from a culture other than your own to explore our community’s diversity, 3.) attend at least one event in an art form you don’t usually choose, and 4.) get involved and support an arts institution that you haven’t supported before by volunteering, sponsoring, or attending an event. Inspired by Mary Stanley, the Arts Covenant concept is being promoted by an all-volunteer group called Arts Across Borders. Spread the word about this great showing of solidarity for the arts. For information or to notify organizers that you will be in attendance or bringing others e-mail artscov@gmail.com. Let’s see if we can take inspiration from this effort to develop covenants across the Canalway Corridor! www.artscovenant.com.

Erie Canalway Corridor Communities Receive “Big Read” Grants from NEA

Four Canalway Corridor Communities and five sites received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts “Big Read” Initiative. The five selected were of only 269 nation-wide participating in the project from September 2009 to June 2010. The “Big Read” initiative is one that represents well the goals of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to promote and celebrate inter-organizational approaches in the arts and culture communities. As NEA Acting Chairman Patrice Walker Powell stated in the June 23, 2009 NEA press release, “The Big Read highlights not only literature, but also what can be accomplished in partnership. I’m grateful to IMLS, Arts Midwest, and the many, many nonprofits, local governments,

and media outlets around the country that have partnered with the NEA to present hundreds of Big Read projects nationwide. We welcome our new community partners to the Big Read family and look forward to continuing this transformative dialogue between neighbors and across borders.”

Grants in the Corridor include the following:

Brockport – Drake Memorial Library – reading *Sun, Stone, and Shadows* - award of \$5,000

Buffalo – Buffalo & Erie County Public Library – *The Great Gatsby* - \$20,000

Oneida – Oneida Community Mansion House – *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* and *Our Town* - \$4,075

Rochester – Monroe County Library System – *The Call of the Wild* - \$20,000

Rochester – Writers & Books, Inc. – *Edgar Alan Poe* - \$20,000

For more information, see <http://www.arts.gov/news/news09/big-read-grants-2009-2010.html>. Could this be the first step in a Corridor-wide Big, Big, Big Read Project?

Widely Popular Erie Canal Children’s Book to be Re-released

First published in 1970 and out of print for many years, Herons Bend Productions of Rochester is making the classic children’s book, *The Erie Canal*, available once again. The not-for-profit company is currently featuring Peter Spier’s limited edition book of the popular song “Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal” or “Low Bridge, Everybody Down” with beautiful companion water color illustrations. As Herons Bend states and their website shows, the book “brings to life the people living and traveling along the Erie Canal”. “Peter Spier came to New York from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1952. Since that time he has established himself as one of America’s most gifted book authors and illustrators. Among the many prestigious awards he has won are the Caldecott Medal, Caldecott Honor Award, Christopher award, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the American Book Award”. To see the illustrations for yourself and to order a copy of this edition before they disappear, go to

http://www.heronbendproductions.com/html/erie_book.html

Writer on Creative Economy to Speak in Albany

The Center for Economic Growth and The Stakeholders, Inc. are co-hosting an event on September 24, 2009 entitled “*Who’s Your City?*” based upon the new book by Richard Florida, well-known author, economist, and consultant. The full title of the book, “*Who’s Your City? How the Creative Economy is Making the Place Where You Live the Most Important Decision in Your Life*”, itself provides a good introduction to some of the findings of Mr. Florida’s research. Attend the session, read the book, and explore where Albany and perhaps other Canalway Corridor communities fit into Mr. Florida’s life-stage rankings. For more information on the event, including sponsorship, or the work of Richard Florida click <http://www.informz.net/ceg/event.asp?eid=3414> for registration or <http://creativeclass.com/>. General Electric is the Presenting Sponsor for the event.

Proctors Theatre in Schenectady Receives National Award

Front page above the fold news in the July 19, 2009 *Schenectady Gazette* announces a special honor for Proctors Theatre. The League of Historic American Theatres has selected Proctors as the “Outstanding Historic Theatre in America” for 2009. “In selecting Proctors for this award, our award jury of historic theatre experts has acknowledged a theatre of exemplary vision and dedication to its community,” said Fran Holden, executive director of the League as quoted by the *Gazette*. From preservation and economic development to green energy solutions and a winter Green Market, Proctors has shown a commitment not only to their historic property and their audience but also to the larger community in which they are a part. Realizing the importance of Proctors to downtown Schenectady, the community in turn has also supported the theatre with an investment of more than \$10 million made from the Metroplex Development Authority.

Ray Gillen, Chairman of Metroplex said in the *Gazette* that “Proctors is a frequently celebrated success that is one of the first stops when it comes time to show off Schenectady to investors and companies. ‘It’s been a catalyst for a lot of additional development downtown and throughout the county’.” Congratulations to Proctors and to the Canalway community of Schenectady for this incredible honor! For more information on the League of Historic American Theatres, go to their website at <http://www.lhat.org/>. For the League’s inventory of historic theatres in New York State click http://www.lhat.org/theatre_inventory/NY.asp. Twenty historic theatres in canal communities are listed on the League’s inventory including Proctors. The League will be presenting a forum with Proctors October 18 – 20, 2009 entitled “It Takes a Village” which will investigate “the complicated and inter-connected work of community and cultural development” according to the forum brochure, and in 2011 Proctors, with the Stanley Theatre in Utica and the Troy Music Hall, all Canalway Corridor communities, will host the League’s Annual Conference. Exciting things to look forward to in the Canalway Corridor!

Register for NYS ARTS Summit 2009 by August 15th for Savings

Early Bird Registration to NYS ARTS Annual Summit ends August 15th for the September 22nd and 23rd event at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady. The theme for this year’s forum is “Innovation and Technology: Building Social Capital” and will offer workshops in collaboration with the Arts and Business Council including a session covering cultural tourism. Organizers are also suggesting that attendees bring their laptops to take full advantage of the step-by-step instruction in the sessions exploring the social media applications of Facebook, Twitter, blogs, Flickr, and others. A conference agenda is now available on the conference website with the full schedule being offered soon.

<http://www.theallianceny.org/Summit09homepage.html>.

Portion of Gallery Proceeds to Support Saratoga National Historical Park

The exhibit “*Views from Saratoga Battlefield.... Conserving Historic Landscapes*” opens with a reception on Saturday, August 1, 5-8pm at the Arts Center Gallery in Saratoga Springs. A project by the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, the show offers views from the National Park site located in the Canalway Corridor community of Stillwater by 27 local artists. The *Schenectady Gazette* newspaper reports that the project was organized by artist Pat Goodale who loves to visit the park throughout the year and is inspired by the light in the various park settings. The artists, all known for their landscape painting, selected different vantage points, seasons, and times of day to offer an exhibit of extraordinary depth and understanding. The exhibit will be at the Arts Center Gallery, 320 Broadway in Saratoga Springs until September 26, 2009. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the landscape conservation of the Agricultural Stewardship Association, Saratoga PLAN, and the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield.

<http://www.saratoga-arts.org/exhibitions.htm>,

http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2009/jul/03/0703_artshow/

New York State Cultural Data Project: Building Strength Through Information

Do you want to be able to show supporters of your organization the impact of the arts sector in New York State? The collection of accurate data about the sector is the first step in the process and that requires participation from organizations throughout the state in the New York State Cultural Data Project (CDP). More than 375 organizations have started using the on-line system to date and project developers hope to increase that number following a series of free demonstrations and discussions. Upcoming sessions in the Canalway Corridor include August 17th in Buffalo, August 18th in Ithaca, August 20th in Utica, August 21st in Syracuse, and September 23rd at the NYS ARTS Summit in Schenectady. For a complete schedule of demonstration and discussion sessions throughout the state click

<http://www.nysculturaldata.org/news.aspx> Besides New York, the CDP is being used in Pennsylvania, Maryland, California, Illinois, and Massachusetts providing the hope that this system will eventually offer a look at the arts sector on a national scale. For more information on how this data collection system can benefit your organization as well as the arts community go to the link for the project, view the on-line training modules, and register for a demonstration near you. <http://www.nysculturaldata.org/home.aspx>

Painter Profiled in Ken Burns Series on National Parks

The Ken Burns film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* will be shown on PBS stations across the country starting September 27, 2009, and artist Chiura Obata is one of the artists profiled in the six episode series. "My paintings, created by the humble brush of a mediocre man, are nothing but expressions of my whole-hearted praise and gratitude" artist Chiura Obata said of his work in an excerpt from episode five. "The highly-acclaimed paintings of Yosemite by Obata, a Japanese immigrant, gave Americans a fresh perspective through which to see their beloved landmarks." As in the larger national parks, artists in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor can play a key role in providing expression to our experiences in and of the beautiful cultural landscapes of the region.

<http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/about/>, <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parknews/obata.htm>

For a short preview of the film go to the following link. <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/>

Arts Events Exploring History, Place, and the Creative Economy

July 25, 10am – 3pm

Share your Rochester photos and stories for fall exhibition, George Eastman House, Rochester

Click www.eastmanhouse.org for additional information

July 26 – October 4

2009 Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition, Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester

Click <http://mag.rochester.edu> for additional information

July 26, 1 – 5pm

Art Show and Sale, NY Ludovico Sculpture Trail, Seneca Falls

Call (315) 568-1510 for additional information

July 30, 6pm

Lecture/Book Signing on *The Birth of American Tourism*, Albany Institute of History and Art

Click www.albanyinstitute.org for additional information

Until August 5

"Then and Now: Contemporary Artists Revisit the Past" Exhibition, Arkell Museum, Canajoharie

Click www.arkellmuseum.org for additional information

August 8 & 9

Brockport Arts Festival, Main Street

Call (585) 473-4482 or click www.rochesterevents.com for additional information

August 8 – October 9, 2009

"Arts & Crafts of New York: Highlights from the Permanent Collection" at Everson Museum, Syracuse

Click www.everson.org for additional information

October 3, 9:30am – 4pm

Plein Aire at Saratoga, Saratoga National Historic Park, Stillwater

Call (518) 664-9821, ext. 224 for additional information