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Vol.1, Issue 9 FREE

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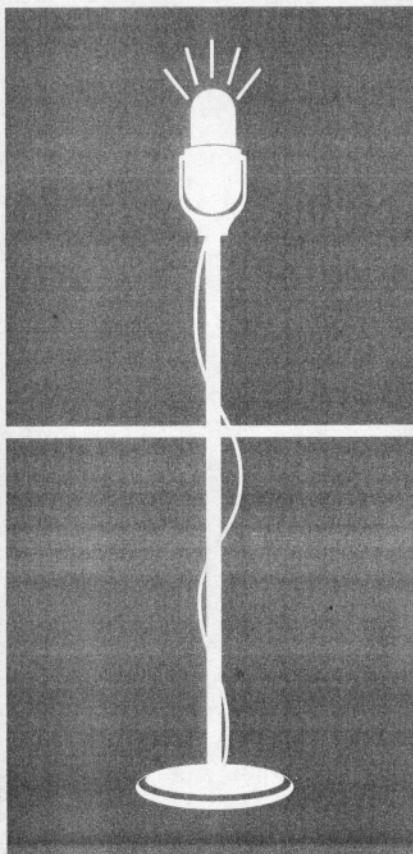
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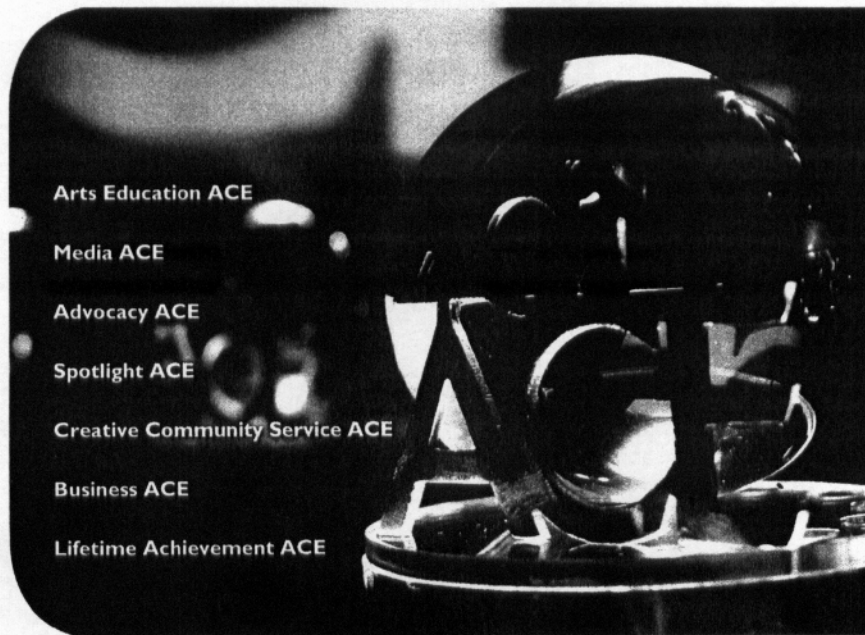
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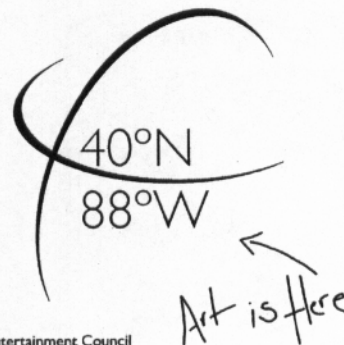
40 North | 88 West

ace awards

celebrating outstanding contributions to Champaign
County's Arts, Culture and Entertainment

10.23.08 | 5:30pm

The Highdive
51 East Main Street
Champaign, IL



Champaign County Arts, Culture & Entertainment Council

40 North ACE awards

40 North | 88 West, Busey Bank, The Buzz and WAND TV are proud to welcome you to this fourth annual event to recognize outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Champaign County.

- 5:30-6:00p | **house music** and latin jams by dj Doctor J
- 6:00-7:00p | **ace awards**, Nathan Rice, announcer
- 7:00-7:30p | **salsa lesson/demo**, Dance 2XS Caliente
- 7:30-9:00p | **UIUC Latin Jazz Ensemble**, Tito Carrillo, director
- 9:00-10:00p | **dj Doctor J**
- 10:00-? | **dj Kosmo**

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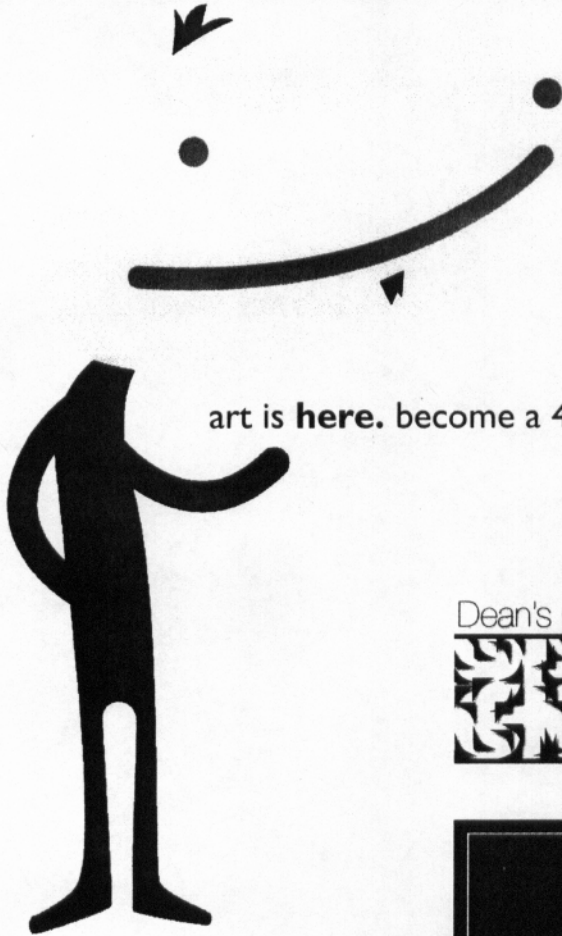
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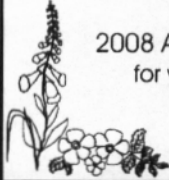
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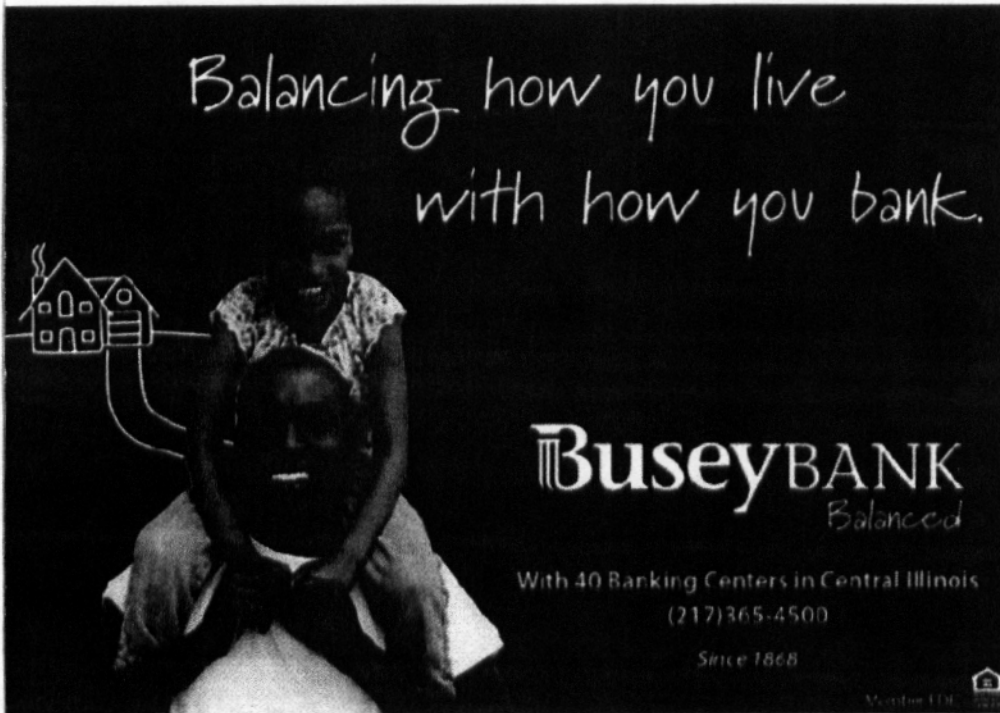
ace award planning committee

Laura Auteberry
Todd Fusco
Patrick Harness
Anna Hochhalter
Bradley Jenks
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6 buzz

Champaign-Urbana's Alternative Weekly
Every Thursday in The Daily Illini

16 OCT 2008

Dear Steven,

As I mentioned, I'd like to make a donation to 40North as a thank you for your work with the business community on behalf of Artists. Because of your organization my work was included in a

collection recently assembled by the Art Consultants "Integrated Art" for the new Care Clinics.

I think I can speak for most or all artists in this community when I say that 40North helps us not only in the financial aspect of our efforts but also in engendering a real sense

of artistic community and respect for Art's role in that community.

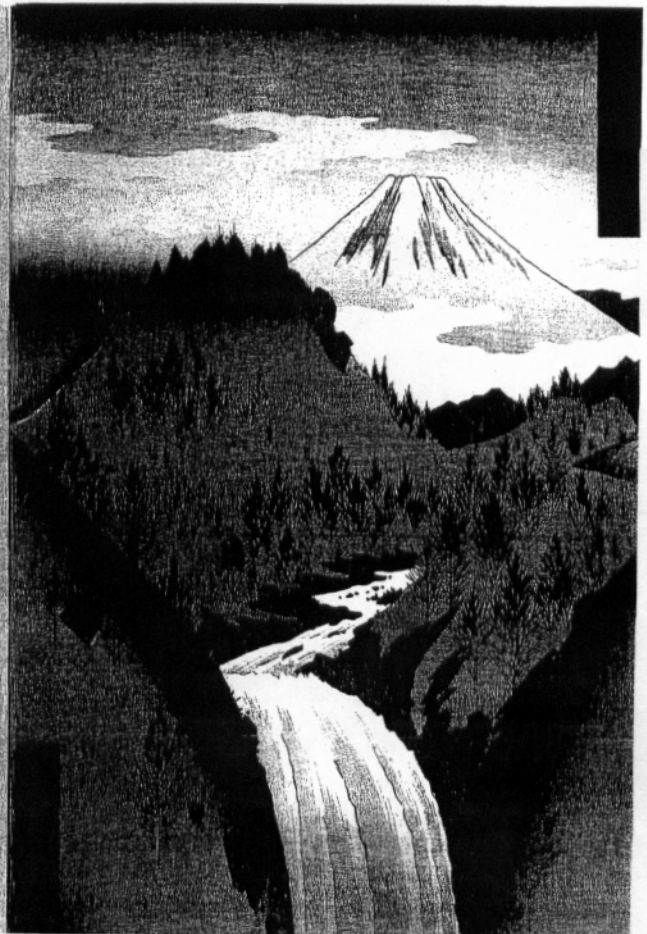


Ando Hiroshige (1797-1858)
Fuji from the Mountains of Isu
From the series Thirty-six Views of Mt. Fuji
Woodblock print
© Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, UK
The Bridgeman Art Library

Thanks again +
I hope this helps
you well



W. H. H. H.



10/19/08
News Gazette

The power of the arts

Workshop aims to be catalyst for civic engagement, change

By MELISSA MERLI
mmeliss@news-gazette.com

When animosity and lack of trust were tearing apart an Ohio community, the Americans for the Arts paid for a theater troupe to go in and bring about change. Sojourner Theater worked with the local arts agency to identify different sectors of the city and county that needed to be engaged in the process of building trust. Represented among the 20 groups involved were farmers, the city council, the county board, African-Americans and schools.

Theater members met separately with the groups, interviewing them about their perceptions of each other and the issues. Based on those talks and feedback, the troupe developed monologues.

"Ultimately a performance was created from all those monologues," said Pam Korza, co-director of Animating Democracy: The Power of Arts and Civic Engagement, a nonprofit arts advocacy organization.

"It was performed as the centerpiece at a community conference attended by 250 people," Korza said. "It became a catalyst as to actions that needed to be taken around these issues."

Now Korza and Sandy Agustin, artistic director of the Neighborhood House in Minneapolis, will bring an Animating Democracy workshop and clinic to Champaign on Oct. 27-28. They are designed for anyone interested in using the arts for civic engagement and social change. (Please see sidebar for details.)

"What we're hoping is that where there's already fertile ground for

sort of extending the role of the arts as an agent for civic engagement and social change, we can bolster that by lending some national context to work already being done locally," Korza said in a telephone interview. "Where there's interest and not yet a lot of activity, we hope we can open up folks' eyes to this potential."

Animating Democracy goes beyond voting and volunteering to get people to connect to others in their communities to work on issues in common, through the arts.

Examples of how the arts can be used, offered by 40 North 88 West Champaign County Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council, the main sponsor of Animating Democracy here, include:

— A youth theater group presents a play in response to escalating school violence.

— An art museum partners with the African-American community to refocus public attention on issues of race with an exhibit documenting the history of lynching in the United States.

— A development project threatens displacement of low-income residents, leading a neighborhood arts center to create projects that create public dialogue and affect the everyday lives of the residents.

"It's not so much a matter of getting people to a single event but engaging them in the conceiving and planning of a project," Korza said. "Often we talk about thinking broader than a single event — more a trajectory of activities."

Korza said Americans for the Arts hears from the National Civic League and similar organizations that civic leaders are increasingly realizing the importance of working from the ground up, or of engaging citizens more frequently. The typical town forum is not necessarily drawing people out, especially minorities, she said. The arts appeal to people in a different way.

Please see THE ARTS, F-2



Joe Storch

Last year's stage design at the Soma Ultralounge, where 40 North's three previous ACE Award ceremonies took place. The fourth annual ceremony is set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Highdive in Champaign.

If you go

What: Animating Democracy: The Power of Arts and Civic Engagement, a workshop and clinic.

Who: Artists, arts-organization staff, board members and volunteers, educators, public officials, community organizers, arts presenters, social workers, and any organization or individual interested in incorporating arts strategies to achieve civic and social goals.

When and where: Workshop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Champaign Public Library on the principles and best practices of arts-based civic engagement and dialogue; clinic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 28 at the 40 North 88 West offices, 1817 S. Neil St., Suite 201, C. will provide participants

a chance to receive one-on-one advice and consultation from workshop presenters Pam Korza and Sandy Agustin.

Cost: \$50 per person and \$35 for each additional staff attending from a single organization or office. The fee covers both days' activities; attendance at the Oct. 28 clinic is optional. A number of free scholarships are available.

For information or to register: Contact Steven Bentez by calling 251-5841 or e-mailing sbentez@40north.org.

Sponsors: Americans for the Arts, 40 North 88 West Champaign County Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

ACE Awards to fete area's cultural life at new venue

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — The fourth annual ACE (Arts, Culture and Entertainment) Awards ceremony will take place starting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Highdive, 51 E. Main St. C.

The awards recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions to the cultural life of Champaign County. A panel of independent judges representing a cross-section of the community selected seven winners for 2008; they will be announced and the awards given out at the ACE Awards ceremony.

Tickets are \$20 each and may be purchased online at www.40north.org and at the door. Discounts are available for groups. For information or to buy tickets, call 351-9841.

For 2008, the ACE Awards event has grown in size, offering a first-ever "after-party" following the ceremony. Guests will be treated to complimentary tapas by English Hedgegrove and a free mojito bar by Bucardi. Live music will be provided by the University of Illinois Latin Jazz Ensemble (Tito Carrillo, director), with a salsa dance lesson by salsa dancers from Danco 2XS Caliente.

A multimedia presentation, sponsored by WAND-TV and Esynabolic Visual Communications, will feature brief profiles of the ACE Award winners.

"The ACE Awards have always been about celebrating the arts in Champaign County, so we decided to take it up a notch this year," Megan Wolf, 40 North director of resource development, said in a news release.

"The ACE Awards after party will give everyone the time to hang around after awards, groove to some great music and congratulate the award winners."

The seven ACE Award categories are: education, media, advocacy, spotlight, creative community service, business and lifetime achievement. Each winner will receive an ACE, a sculptural piece designed

Please see ACE AWARDS, F-2

THE ARTS

Continued from F-1

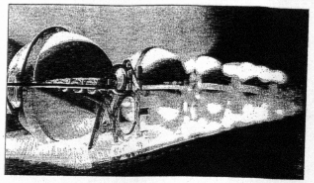
"They can make things more fun but also provide more of a safe space for, let's say, a Latino population whose cultural norms are different than the typical town meeting we do," Korza said. "Creating an arts-based setting may be more inviting and welcoming."

Champaign-Urbana is the fourth community to which Animating Democracy has come. The others were Los Angeles, Miami and Columbus, Ohio.

"We gravitated to communities where local community agencies had expressed interest in our work," Korza said.

That interest here was expressed by Jennifer Armstrong, former director of 40 North 88 West, who had seen a presentation on Animating Democracy and asked that it be brought here.

The first phase of Animating Democracy was funded by the Ford Foundation, and the pilot program for the four communities including Champaign-Urbana is being funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Joe Storch

The ACE Award trophy was designed by Champaign native Andy Warfel, an environment designer who does work nationwide.

ACE AWARDS

Continued from F-1

by Champaign native Andy Warfel and crafted in polished clear acrylic and digitally routed aluminum plate by IDJ of Atlanta, Ga. The awards also feature hand-blown finishing by sculptor Jose Marquez of IDJ.

The title sponsors for the fourth annual ACE Awards are Bussey Bank, The Buzz and WAND-TV.

The ACE Awards ceremony is taking place during national and Illinois Arts and Humanities Month, a celebration of culture in America. Coordinated by Americans for the Arts nationally and the Illinois Arts Council statewide, it is the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation.

For more information, visit online www.arts.illinois.gov/ace/ACEMonth/ah/includes/intro.htm.



Beset Sabourin photos/for The News-Gazette

Brian Hagy accepts his 40 North 88 West ACE award for education Thursday at the High Dive in Champaign. Hagy won for his work using the Prompting Theater to teach theater to individuals with developmental disabilities.

ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

10/24/2008

'Rainforest's' heroes honored

Winners have contributed to area culturally

By MELISSA MERLI
mmerli@news-gazette.com

CHAMPAIGN — Looking back 50 years to when he and his wife first arrived in Champaign County, Carl Altstetter said he would not have called the area a cultural wasteland or swamp.

"It was more like a savannah — rather sparse. Now it's a lush, tropical rainforest of the arts," Altstetter said Thursday night at the Highdive in Champaign.

His comments came as he and his wife, Nadja, accepted the ACE (Arts, Culture and Entertainment) Award for lifetime achievement for their volunteer work with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Guild, which supports the orchestra's educational and fund-raising efforts.

Six other individuals and organizations received ACE Awards at the glitzy ceremony, which drew more than 250 people. Among the win-

ners was Mike Ross, executive director of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, in the category of Advocacy ACE.

"We have fought many a good fight together in the culture wars and we will have more in the future," past advocacy ACE winner Cody Sokolski said in introducing Ross. "But let me say that in Michael we have a major star in the arts firmament."

Sokolski said Ross, now in his 11th year at Krannert, creates a platform for the arts without borders or boundaries. In turn, Ross thanked three community elders for their guidance: architect and University of Illinois professor emeritus Jack Baker, musician and former UI administrator Dan Perrino and jazz-family matriarch Erma Bridgewater; and his "fabulously creative" wife and son, Taya and Miles.

Other ACE Award winners:

— Spotlight: Scott Schwartz and Adriana Cuervo, director and assistant director of the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music at the UI, for the attention they bring to the arts. Among other things,

Schwartz and staff plan American Music Month, coming up next month, and take educational programs into area schools.

— Creative Community Service, for an artist who makes an impact on the arts beyond the art he or she produces. The winner, Champaign visual artist Patrick Harness, works as a volunteer for the Boneyard Arts Festival, Artists Against AIDS and 40 North 88 West Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council, the main sponsor of the ACE awards.

Harness got a laugh when he thanked 40 North co-directors Megan Wolf and Steve Bentz for "creating a great working environment for the nonpaid, ordinary person with limited financial resources and even less time.

"I think you're celebrating the fact everybody can do something," he said.

— Education ACE: Brian Hagy, who works at the Developmental Services Center and 15 years ago founded The Prompting Theater, which gives developmentally disabled adults the opportunity

to perform. He said the arts offer people a "whole different approach to how people can interact with each other." He cited the motto of The Prompting Theatre: "A disability does not imply an inability."

— Media ACE: Yu "Ian" Wang and The Rantoul Press. Wang volunteered a year ago to write a column on the arts for The Rantoul Press that he titled Art Equals Life. Wang also is chairman of the board of directors of the Spurlock Museum, collects art and curates local exhibitions. He won an ACE Award in 2005.

— Business ACE: Jeff Melander, who formed Precision Graphics in 1977, which has one of the largest staffs in the Midwest creating illustrations for textbook publishers. Melander supports a wide array of arts organizations. He said he recently promised himself to do five things in the arts that he usually doesn't do, and urged others to do likewise.

"If you go to performances at Krannert all the time, go to a performance at the Virginia Theatre or Station Theatre," he said.

MELISSA MERLI: ART BEAT

ACE Awards honor real people's real contributions



Where do I start? Let's begin with Thursday evening and the fourth annual ACE Awards ceremony at the Highdive. I found it hard to get through the crush of people. Attendance was double last

year's ceremony. "I was thrilled. The crowd was fantastic," said Steve Bentz, director of operations for 40 North 88 West, the main sponsor of the awards. "It was an honor to be in the room to see the people who got the awards receive that acknowledgement and be in front of their peers and general public and just be thanked for what they were doing."

People not into the arts might view the whole thing as a lot of mutual admiration and back-slapping, but Bentz pointed out that some real people received awards.

"Seeing Brian Hagy get up there — there was a lot of surprise and happiness for him and that program. A lot of people were pleased to see that program get that acknowledgement."

Hagy, who has been active in the Urbana-based School for Designing a Society and the Zoo Improv Theater Group, received the Education ACE for founding The Prompting Theater, a troupe for developmentally disabled adults.

"I've had utter joy for 15 years because of this troupe, which has grown from seven to 26 members," he said upon receiving the trophy. "It's been an honor to work with a group that brings passion to what they love doing."

Another wave went through the crowd when Patrick Harness, a painter, won for Creative Community Service.

"Everybody in arts presenting has worked with Patrick in so many capacities," Bentz said. "He's worked at so many things. He's donated many of his pieces."

Bentz and I also enjoyed the reception given Carl and Nadja Altstetter for their volunteer work for the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Guild.

"They're two people not known by everyone in the arts community and wider community, but they've had a huge impact," Bentz said. "She said in the video that she played for the symphony for 30 years and has volunteered for it for many years. They've just been bedrocks."

Before each winner received the ACE trophy, designed by Andy Warfel, a video interview of them was shown. WAND TV shot the interviews at the Cinema Gallery in downtown Urbana and spent five hours editing them, Bentz said.

Because of the video profiles, each winner knew beforehand that he or she was to receive an ACE. Anyone may nominate a person for an ACE Award. The winners are chosen by a panel of judges.

none tell the tale of a monk tempted by a beautiful witch in Max Von Schillings' other worldly, 20th-century orchestral melodrama, "The Witch's Song," according to a news release from the orchestra.



IANNONE

The orchestra encourages concertgoers to dress up, too.

The "Fright Night" concert is not a pops but rather classical-music concert, with music director and conductor Steven Larsen having made Halloween-themed choices for the program.

Chief among them is "The Witch's Song," which he heard performed by

Iannone, a native of Wisconsin, has appeared in performances across the United States but spends much of her time in the Midwest. She has acted at the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, the Skylight Opera Theatre, Light Opera of

Broadway. The concert with "Hallucinations" — a news release from the orchestra. The concert was composed the vi: 1981 Kenneth I States." In 2001 the Pulitzer Prize 2. His other w scores for Franc "The Red Violin." Also on the prc — "The Witch" man opera "Har posed by Engelb piece personifies gerbread Witch.

ART BEAT

Continued from F-1

Bentz said the judges this year were impassioned during the adjudication session. "There were lots of strong feelings," he said. "It's not taken lightly. They really worked to get those choices."

The judges were Harold Allston, Danda Beard, Linda Evans, State. Sen. Mike Frerichs, Julie Gunn and Diane Schumacher.

Bentz said he believes attendance increased at the ceremony because the ACE awards are becoming more established. "People are looking forward to it. It's fun to see people get up and get thanked and acknowledged in this way."

The idea for giving out ACE Awards to acknowledge outstanding contributions to the arts in this community came from Cynthia Fallon, a volunteer for 40 North 88 West, and Jamie Driver, a former member of the board of directors of 40 North 88 West, the Champaign County Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council.

"Cynthia told me she's very proud of how far it's come," Bentz told me.

Another highlight for me was Advocacy ACE winner Mike Ross's acknowledgement of people who have been in the community for a long time — elders who he said represent the spirit of the ACE Awards and who have inspired him the past 11 years in his tenure as director of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. They are Jack Baker, Dan Perrino and Erma Bridgewater.

That showed a lot of class. Ross also called C-U a "fabulous, culturally rich micro-urban community" and went on to say, "It is without equivocation that I view this community as the most cool micro-urban community in the country."

Ross should know; his business takes him many places. He's now the incoming chairman of the board of directors of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and an active member of the American Arts Alliance and the Illinois Arts Alliance. He was recently appointed to the Illinois Humanities Council board of directors.

Bentz noted that Ross might be at the "top of the pyramid" here in the arts community, but like Hagy, "he's a real guy."

Bentz said a planning committee will review how the fourth annual ACE Awards went and start planning for

next year. The planning committee is made up of Laura Auteberry, Todd Fusco, Patrick Harness, Anna Hochhalter, Bradley Jenks, Ellen Kirsanoff, Jody Littleton, Rod Reid and Janet Soesbe.

Pow! Bam! Wow!

Before the ACE Awards, I rushed over to Krannert Art Museum for the opening of "Out of Sequence," the exhibition of comics by 65 artists curated by local comics artists/scholars John Jennings and Damian Duffy.

The exhibition design by Lyn Rice Architects of New York nearly knocked me over. It's supposed to look like a comic book, and it does.

The panels, posters and other works are displayed between guidelines or grid lines in the shade of blue that's not picked up by cameras that shoot graphic art for printing. The guidelines are represented by blue string stretched horizontally and vertically on the gallery walls.

This exhibition, which showcases comics by minority and other underrepresented voices in comics, has wide appeal. Take your kids and expect to spend time perusing everything. The show will be there through Jan. 4, 2009.

Children's lit festival

After neglecting my old house for a long time, I had to spend early October weekends priming and painting basement windows. So I didn't get to the first Youth Literature Festival on Oct. 2, 3 and 4 on the UI campus, even though I wanted to hear some of the authors, particularly Marc Aronson, who wrote "Art Attack: A Brief Cultural History of the Avant-Garde."

It's aimed at young adults but attracting a lot of older readers.

The list of 20 authors and illustrators brought to the festival was quite impressive.

Organized by the College of Education, the festival took some of the writers and artists into 44 area schools. More than 2,000 students were involved in the in-school readings and activities. The last day of the festival featured activities such as puppetry, storytelling, musical performances, poetry readings and book signings at various venues across town, including the South Quad. An estimated 1,200 people attended that free all-day celebration. More than 400 volunteers

helped out. The idea for the festival came from Mary Kalantzis, dean of the College of Education.

"The dean is excited about the initial feedback and results," education Professor Violet Harris, who also helped organize the event, said in a news release. "She is anxious to bring people together to discuss when the next festival will be held and how it will be configured. The school visits were an enormous hit."

Some ideas for the next festival are to have more of the visiting authors' books available and to bring the writers together for roundtable discussions.

Asian art

There are at least three displays of Asian art here in C-U, not to mention the newly reconfigured Asian art gallery at Krannert Art Museum.

Through Thursday, the Asian American Cultural Center, 1210 W. Nevada St., U, has "To the East," an exhibition of photographs, mixed media and abstract paintings by Lei Shanbhag, who grew up in an artist family in mainland China and came to the United States in 1989.

Her pieces are displayed throughout the center, in conference rooms, computer rooms and the lounge. At the reception last Sunday, the center served Chinese food and provided live entertainment. It was a nice event.

Through Nov. 3, the Illini Union Art Gallery, 1401 W. Green St., U, has the exhibition "In Front of the Colored Clouds," featuring contemporary Yunnan art, mainly oil paintings, from China. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog.

The other show, "The East Meets the West," is on view through Nov. 9 at the Springer Cultural Center, 301 N. Randolph St., C. It features comparative needle art from Yu "Ian" Wang's collection of more than 400 pieces created by Asian and Midwestern artists. Two-time ACE Award winner Wang curated it and the Illini Union show.

It's interesting to note that both Shanbhag and Wang have medical degrees in China. They both live in Champaign.

News-Gazette staff writer Melissa Merli can be reached at 351-5367 or mmerli@news-gazette.com.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

The opportunities for arts and business groups to work together in Champaign County are vast. Arts organizations, with their large audience base, could encourage their members and audiences to patronize local shops and restaurants - further solidifying the economic strength of the community. Identifying and focusing on significant, common issues will be important to the success of any arts/business collaboration. Evidence of informal collaboration already exists between the arts and business communities, with arts organizations patronizing local businesses and local businesses in turn supporting arts groups when asked to do so. Developing and nurturing this type of collaboration will result in expanded benefits to both groups - providing arts organizations with the opportunity for audience and membership development and business with a wider target market.

Champaign County is positioned to take advantage of collaborative opportunities due to the launch of its new arts, culture and entertainment council. *40°North/88°West: Putting Champaign County's Culture on the Map* now serves both the arts and the business communities by establishing a central location for information, resources and programming.

ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER

Results from the Working Together survey are intended to provide a factual understanding of the economic and social impact that arts organizations and individual artists have on their local communities. In addition, the survey provides insights into sources of arts funding, identifies areas of shared opportunity and profiles the current relationship between businesses and the arts. In 2002, the Working Together survey was conducted in Champaign County. The information gathered provides the basis for dialogue between local artists, arts organizations and businesses with the goal of developing mutually beneficial relationships - true collaborations between arts and business at the community level.

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WORKING TOGETHER 3

(Building Community through the Arts)



A PROJECT OF THE ILLINOIS ARTS ALLIANCE FOUNDATION

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

A community's economic development growth is dependent not only on quality infrastructure such as roads, utilities, water, but also on the arts. The arts display the fullness of the quality of life within a community and also distinguish it from all other communities. Champaign County is fortunate to have a wealth of arts organizations that set the standard for the quality of life within central Illinois.

*-Roger Pontifex
Senior Director of Regional Business Management at Illinois Power*

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation commissioned an economic impact study of the nonprofit arts on a statewide basis. With the generous assistance from Convention, Sports & Leisure International, we can isolate the results for Champaign County. These figures are derived by establishing the direct effects of the purchases made by the organizations which then filter through the economy through re-spending to create the indirect effects. Together the direct and indirect impacts comprise the total economic impact. Commercial arts venues, individual artists, and audience spending associated with arts attendance make the actual economic impact of the arts in Champaign County much higher.

TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

*Champaign County:
\$33.7 million*

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

ORGANI ZATI ONS • BACH; BAROQUE ARTISTS OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA • BARKSTALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • BOLTINI • CENTRAL ILLINOIS ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCERS • CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT • CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT - TASTE OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL • CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT - SPRINGER CULTURAL CENTER • CHAMPAIGN URBANA BALLET • CHINA ART CAFE • CONSERVATORY OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS • C-U STORYTELLING CLUB • C-U STAFFPORT • ILLINOIS FOLK DANCE SOCIETY • KAJANTE GALLERY • KRAMNETT ART MUSEUM • KRAMNETT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS • MAMA FOUTCH BAND • MIDWINTER ART & DESIGN • PARKLAND ART GALLERY • PARKLAND COLLEGE/WORD MUSIC ENSEMBLE & CHAMBER SINGERS • POLARIS ENSEMBLE • SINFONIA DI CAMBIA • SP ROCKS MUSEUM • THE CANOPY CLUB • THE INKJIVE • THE IRON POST • U OF I AMERICAN AMERICAN CULTURE PROGRAM • U OF I ASIAN EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SERVICE • U OF I CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES • U OF I CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STUDIES • U OF I COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS • U OF I DEPARTMENT OF DANCE • U OF I DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE • U OF I SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN • U OF I SCHOOL OF MUSIC • URBANA COUNTRY DANCERS • URBANA PARK DISTRICT • URBANA-CHAMPAIGN INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER • VIRGINIA THEATRE • WEST • WILLL • WILLIAM STARBUCK PLANTARIUM

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

- Excellent response rate (77%), with 44 of the 57 surveys distributed returned.
- Most respondents are non-profit arts organizations, primarily in music.
- Annual operating budgets vary with half under \$50,000, 37% between \$50,000 and \$500,000, and 12% over \$1 million.
- Total annual operating expenses for the organizations surveyed is \$15.6 million.

WHAT THE ARTS CONTRIBUTE LOCALLY

Arts groups are making a meaningful and multifaceted contribution to Champaign County. Improving the quality of life is perceived as the single most important contribution that the arts provide to the local community. The arts improve the quality of life in Champaign County in a number of ways:

- Through the people they employ
 - The organizations surveyed employ 1,400 people - 70% of whom live in the local community.
- Through the people they involve in the community
 - There is strong volunteer participation in arts organizations, with 1,675 people volunteering - nearly all from the local community.
- Through the people they bring into the community
 - The total annual audience for the organizations reporting is an estimated 634,000.
 - Just over half of the audience lives locally - within five miles of the organization - while the other half are comprised of people coming from a greater distance.
- By making improvements to their property
 - Half of the organizations made improvements to their property in the past year - with a total value of over \$2.3 million.
- By patronizing local businesses
 - Arts groups spent \$1.5 million last year on basic services such as printing and catering.
- Through the services which they provide to the community
 - Arts organizations provide a variety of services to the community. Contributions to education and to local community and civic organizations are particularly noteworthy.

"I would like to see the result of the Working Together project very quickly grow into one of the important pillars of the Champaign-Urbana art scene. By pillars I mean things that are inescapable proof of the vitality and verve of the arts, culture and entertainment."

*-Jon (Cody) Sokolaki
CEO of Cody Holdings and Board Chair for 40'North/18'West:
Putting Champaign County's Culture on the Map*

EDUCATION

- 73% supplement educational programming in the local schools. This is done through:
 - In-school performances and lectures
 - After-school classes, workshops, and instruction
- Over 75% of the respondents offer classes or workshops as part of their primary programming. These classes are offered most often to adults on a group basis. In addition, a variety of other educational services is offered to the community. Examples include:
 - Artist lectures
 - Demonstrations
 - Free concerts
 - Summer camps

ARTS FUNDING

- Responding arts organizations in Champaign County earn much of their income.
 - Earned income (ticket sales, workshops, etc.) is the primary source of income (44%) followed by government grants (26%) and individual donations and fundraising efforts (23%).
 - Corporate and foundation grants account for only 8% of income.
 - Fundraising and marketing/audience development are viewed as the primary issues facing organizations at this time.

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

- Schools and colleges are perceived to be the most positive characteristics of the community for residents and visitors in Champaign County.
- The quality of arts activity is ranked third as the most important community characteristic.
- Public relations is considered the most significant barrier to attracting new visitors to arts organizations in Champaign County.

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- Nearly 70% of respondents contribute to civic and community organizations, primarily by having staff members serve on committees and boards. Among the many organizations that benefit are: Chamber of Commerce, Champaign County Cultural Consortium, Boy and Girl Scouts, Downtown Merchants Association, Urbana Business Alliance.
- Nearly 70% of the respondents sponsor annual community events. These include: Champaign-Urbana Days, Day-In-The-Park, Symphony at Sunset, Taste of Champaign, and many more.
- 50% of organizations provide arts programming for special populations. The primary recipients of these programs are: ethnic minorities, economically disadvantaged persons, seniors, and at-risk children.

CHALLENGES TO COLLABORATION BETWEEN BUSINESS & THE ARTS

- Lack of time, insufficient opportunities to communicate, and private agendas are viewed as the most significant factors that make collaboration difficult between arts and business groups.
- However, 43% of responding artists have asked local businesses for support - and have generally received a positive response.

INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

RESPONDENTS - INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

- Excellent response rate with 123 artists surveys returned.
- Most respondents are visual artists followed by musicians.
- The majority of respondents are 40 years of age or older and are Caucasian.

ARTISTS ARE COMMITTED TO CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

- 58% of responding artists have lived at their present address for six years or more.
- 98% are registered voters and 88% vote regularly.
- 73% own their living spaces and 60% own their workspaces.
- Art is the primary source of income for over half of these artists.
- 67% indicate that personal ties, including employment, are the most important reasons for remaining in the area. 45% identify cultural activity as the most important reason.
- Artists spend an average \$1,200 per year on basic services such as printing, supplies, and catering. Most of these expenditures are made locally.

EDUCATION

- 54% of responding artists supplement educational programming in the local schools. This is done through:
 - After-school classes, workshops, and instruction
 - In-school lectures and performances

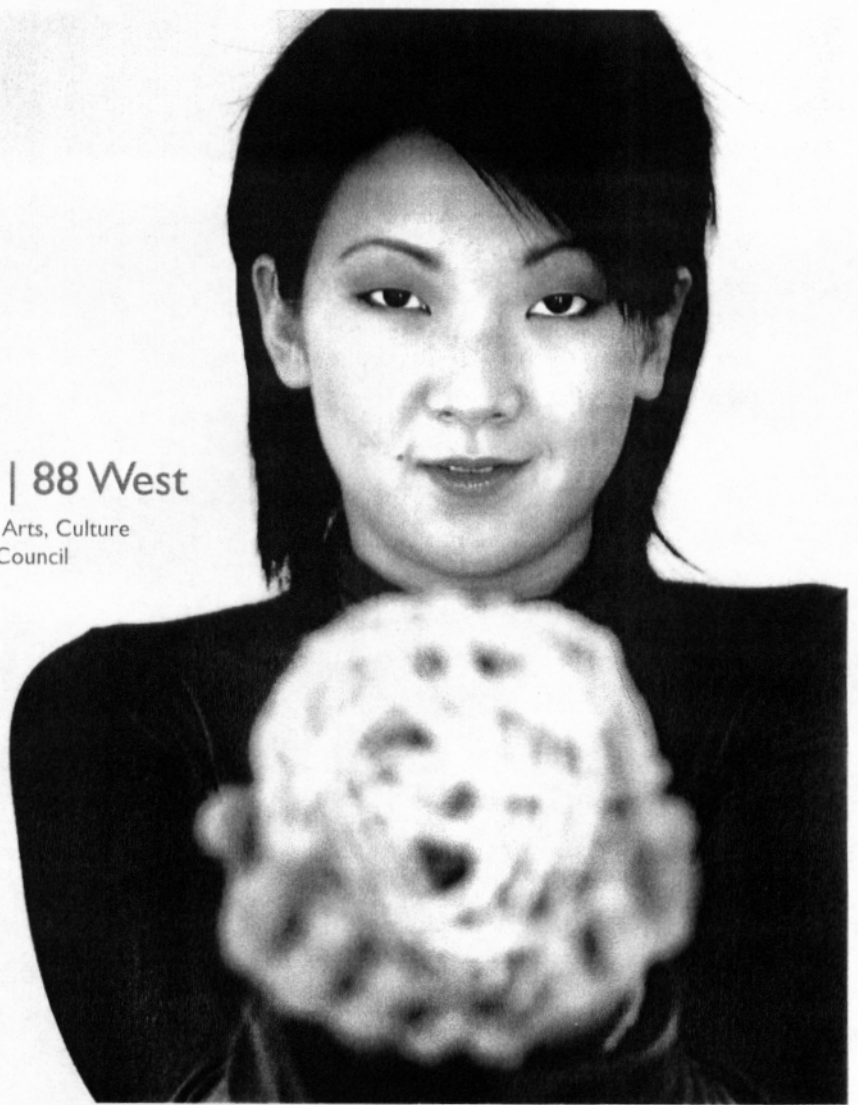
- 54% of the respondents also offer classes or workshops as part of their primary programming. These classes are offered on a group or individual basis, and several offer classes free of charge.

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- 57% of respondents volunteer for civic and community service organizations. Organizations that benefit include: Afrikan Arts Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, Champaign County Arts Consortium, National Society for Arts & Letters, Nature Conservancy, Rotary, and Volunteer Council.
- 31% of respondents provide programs for special or in-need populations. Senior citizens and ethnic minorities are the primary recipients of these services.

40 North | 88 West

Champaign County Arts, Culture
and Entertainment Council



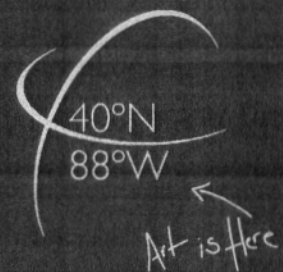
art lives **here.**

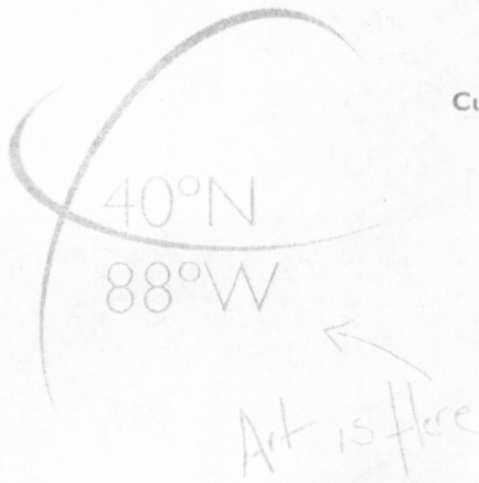
see it.

create it.

support it.

watch how it helps our community grow.





Cultivating creativity in Champaign County

- information
- collaboration
- advocacy

40 North | 88 West — Champaign County’s Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council — is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to fueling the growth and well-being of Champaign County by nurturing its arts, culture, and entertainment community. It seeks to do this by **advocating** for the individuals, organizations, and enterprises in Champaign County that constitute its arts, culture, entertainment community; by serving as an extensive repository of **information** about our County’s arts, culture and entertainment; and by fostering **collaboration** between members of the arts, culture and entertainment community and between that community, business, government, and the public at large.



40 North | 88 West — Champaign County's Arts, Culture & Entertainment Council — began as a true community effort: local residents saw a need for an umbrella organization that represented the art that lives here. After a year of engaging numerous community members in discussion, private meetings and weekend retreats, the consensus was that the County needed an arts council. There are so many artists, artistic venues and organizations that thrive in the area; however, an organization was needed to facilitate collaborative efforts, inform the public of the local arts community, and act as an advocate for local arts, culture and entertainment.

The resulting organization — 40 North | 88 West — was launched in October of 2002 with the mission of **cultivating creativity in Champaign County.**

Throughout its six year history, 40 North has remained committed to fostering a vibrant, thriving environment for the arts, culture and entertainment that stimulates Champaign County's growth and enriches the quality of life for everyone, making our community a great place to live, work and play.

40 NORTH VALUES

We believe:

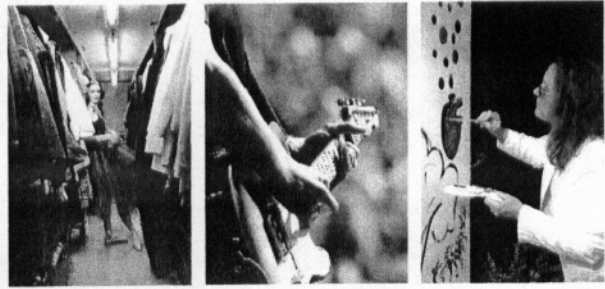
- the arts are fundamental to the quality of every life.
- the arts must be accessible to all.
- diversity in all its forms is essential to a vibrant creative community.
- the arts must be integral to the education of our children.
- the arts are a vehicle for social change.
- the arts are a catalyst for economic development.
- artists must be recognized, valued, and compensated for their work.
- art is a powerful vehicle for collaboration among individuals, organizations and businesses.

Community and Municipal Support

In 2008, 40 North | 88 West saw its membership double while receiving: a 300% increase in general operating support from the Illinois Arts Council • a new grant awarded by the Illinois Arts Council in support of the *Poetry Out Loud* National Poetry Recitation Contest (a program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation) • an over 60% increase in private donor contributions • strong corporate support for its signature events • expanded friend- and fund-raising growth at events like the Nathan Gunn CD Release Party and the Masquerade Ball • renewed fiscal support from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • a 100% increase in fiscal support from the City of Champaign • was awarded a generous support grant by the National Endowment for the Arts to bring *Animating Democracy* — a workshop of Americans for the Arts — to Champaign County.

The 40 North Strategic Plan — Summary

This plan represents the culmination of a series of public focus groups, surveys, board retreats & private meetings held in the winter of 2008. Following extensive review and revision, the plan was adopted by the 40 North board on July 9, 2008. It is intended as a living document — a working guide that informs decision making and facilitates evaluation of 40 North practices and programs throughout the period of implementation.



GOAL I: Crossing Boundaries

Initiate and promote cross-cultural engagement through arts, culture and entertainment.

Strategies:

1. Initiate and promote programs, collaborations and practices among local arts organizations, educational institutions, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and municipal bodies which incorporate cross-cultural engagement.
2. Build awareness internally and across the community of local cross-cultural arts, culture and entertainment.
3. Build stronger relationships with local cultural organizations, arts groups and advocates.

GOAL II: Strengthen Champaign County's arts, culture and entertainment communities

Strategies:

1. Present programming that serves local arts, culture and entertainment communities.
2. Explore ways to strengthen organizational capacity of local arts, culture and entertainment communities.

GOAL III: Spreading the Word

Promote arts, culture and entertainment as integral to the community.

Strategies:

1. Present programming which promotes arts, culture and entertainment as integral to the community.
2. Increase the visibility of Champaign County's arts, culture and entertainment and of 40 North | 88 West.
3. Increase advocacy efforts to promote arts, culture and entertainment as integral to the community.
4. Work with local business/nonprofit communities to incorporate arts, culture and entertainment in their plans.

GOAL IV: Explore ways in which 40 North can impact arts education in our community

Strategies:

1. Establish committee dedicated to exploring ways in which 40 North can impact arts education in the County.
2. Assess community arts education needs and existing resources.
3. Act as regional representative organization for national Poetry Out Loud program.
4. Partner with existing organizations to establish pilot programs serving to further the goals of arts education.

Plan Appendices: Administrative Plan – Increasing Organizational Capacity
Membership Structure Revision
Creative Growth Strategies

Member Benefits

40 North membership offers artists, arts organization staff, arts educators, art lovers and supporters of all kinds a handy portal to what's happening in our creative community. An annual membership — **free as of Fall 2008** — guarantees you'll stay in touch with the vibrant arts, culture and entertainment making Champaign County a great place to live, work and play.

As a 40 North member, you receive:

- eNewsletters and eBlasts, all linked to www.40north.org, an easy-to-use website featuring a Community Calendar packed with local arts offerings, a News page filled with timely information on all-things-arts in Champaign County, and much more.
- Invitations to roundtable discussions, networking events and professional development workshops.
- For artists, arts-related businesses and organizations, a free listing in the 40 North Champaign County Arts Directory, including contact info, a link to your own website, along with a description of your art.
- Up-to-the-minute information on 40 North programs like:
 - Final Friday/First Friday Socials
 - Creative Conversations
 - ACE Awards
 - Poetry Out Loud
 - Boneyard Arts Festival



Other Member Services

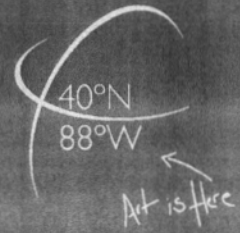
In addition to the basic benefits of free 40 North membership, we offer the following individual fee-based services "a la carte" to area artists and arts organizations and businesses:

Artist and Arts Business Webpages

A dedicated webpage linked from the 40 North Arts Directory is available to all County artists and arts-based businesses and organizations for \$40 a year. These expanded pages can include complete links, sample images or sound files, artist statement and bio, education, awards and past shows, and other promotional text.

Banner Ads and Featured Artist Spots

Champaign County artists, arts organizations and arts-related businesses are offered banner advertising at very competitive rates on www.40north.org. 40 North will begin offering a new featured artist program in the coming months to help our County's creatives further market their work to the general public.



40 North Member Categories:

- Artist
- Individual
- Household
- Student
- Business
- Organization



(April 16-19, 2009)

BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL

Produced annually by
40 North | 88 West —
Champaign County's
Arts, Culture and
Entertainment Council

— the Boneyard Arts Festival is a four-day event that showcases the broad range of creative activity flourishing in Champaign County. The festival promotes innovative, mutually beneficial partnerships between area artists (of all

backgrounds) & business, demonstrating how the arts stimulate both cultural *and* economic development.

More than a traditional arts walk, the Boneyard Arts Festival is a unique countywide event that takes place in dozens of venues (over eighty participated in 2008!) throughout Champaign, Urbana, Campustown, Mahomet, Savoy, Dewey, Rantoul and St Joseph. Sculptors, weavers, photographers, painters and other visual artists join musicians, dancers, actors, poets and other performers in sharing their creativity in a wide variety of venues — from cafes, galleries and cultural houses to retail stores and salons.



The festival, now in its seventh year, began as a gallery walk organized by artist/journalist/educator and 40 North board member Jenny Southlynn. What started as a thirteen-site art reception has since grown into a countywide event featuring venues — both traditional and non traditional — like these:

Anita Purves Nature Center • Aroma Café • Art Mart • Asian American Cultural Center • Blind Pig • Blues Barbecue • Boltini • Boneyard Pottery • Butterfly Beads • Cafe Kopi • Christine Rich • Cinema Gallery • Community Center for the Arts • Cowboy Monkey • Crane Alley • Downtown Champaign • Downtown Urbana • English Hedgerow • Escobar's • Glass Lake Studio • Great Impasta • Green Street Studio • H2O Salon • Heartland Gallery • Illini Media • International Galleries • Iron Post • Jim Gould • Kennedy's • Krannert Art Museum • Klose Knit Yarn Shop • Krannert Center for the Performing Arts • Lincoln Square Village • Milos • National City Bank • Pages For All Ages • Parkland Art Gallery • Phillips Recreation Center • Prairie Village • Radio Maria • Silvercreek • Spurlock Museum • Station Theatre • Urbana Middle School • UC-IMC • Urbana Free Library • Wind, Water & Light, and many, many more.

5th Annual
ACE Awards • October, 2009

40 North proudly hosts the annual ACE (Arts, Culture and Entertainment) Awards to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions to the cultural life of Champaign County. Winners are announced and the awards given out at a special event held every October, National Arts & Humanities Month.



Now entering its 5th year, 40 North's ACE Awards pay tribute to the incredible individuals, artists, businesses & organizations that are helping **art live here** in Champaign County.

A panel of independent judges representing a broad cross-section of the community select the seven ACE Award winners, who are then announced at a special ceremony held during the month of October.

The ACE awards honor the achievements of Champaign County's entire creative community — its patrons, educators, volunteers and supporters.

The seven ACE Award categories are: Education, Media, Advocacy, Spotlight, Creative Community Service, Business and Lifetime Achievement.

ACE Award winners each receive an ACE, a stunningly sculptural piece designed by Champaign native Andy Warfel and crafted in polished clear acrylic & digitally-routed aluminum plate by ID3 of Atlanta, Georgia. The ACE awards also feature hand-hewn finishing by sculptor Jose Marquez of ID3.

Nominees for the ACE Awards are not limited to, but can include: artists, students, faculty, non-profit administrative staff, business owners and employees, elected and appointed officials, and other individuals and organizations actively supporting the arts, culture and entertainment of Champaign County. You must be 18 years or older and a resident of Champaign County to be eligible to win an ACE Award.

"I think the arts are as healthy here as I could ever remember, and I've been in Urbana since 1940." My only regret is that I'm not twenty so I could be part of it!"

— Lifetime Achievement
ACE Award winner Dan Perrino

**Boneyard Arts Festival • First Friday • Final Friday • ACE Awards • Professional Development Workshops
Open Critiques • Roundtable Discussions • Creative Conversations • Poetry Out Loud, and much more**



Workshop Series

From *Money Matters, Contracts and More* to *Entrepreneurial Arts Organizations and Artists: Developing New Capacities that Will Increase Participation, Contributions and Earned Income*, 40 North offers a variety of useful workshops for artists, arts organizations, business people and others interested in learning how to present their work on the internet, find venues, market themselves, negotiate contracts and much more. 40 North partners with organizations like Parkland College, The UIUC Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Krannert Art Museum, the University of Illinois and others to offer professional development opportunities that truly make a difference to the individuals helping our creative community grow.

a few 40 North collaborations:

A Call to Arts Open Critiques (with Krannert Art Museum) — Visual, performance, and literary artists come together to present work and participate in open critiques held at locations throughout Champaign County. These introductory critiques provide challenging and insightful observations about new works, and offer exciting opportunities for artists to interact and network.

S.P.E.A.K. Café — Co-sponsored by the African American Studies program, Krannert Art Museum, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, and 40 North, S.P.E.A.K. (song, poetry, expression, art, and knowledge) Café is a student-run, open-mic public space for hip-hop and Black Power expression on the themes of Race, Roots, and Resistance.

Boneyard Arts Festival Social (with the Urbana Business Association) — brings artists and venues together to interact as they explore ideas for performance and exhibits to be featured during the Boneyard Arts Festival.

Poetry Out Loud (with the Illinois Arts Council, Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts) — A nationwide poetry recitation program and contest, *Poetry Out Loud* encourages youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance, which help students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary heritage.

Downtown Festival of the Arts Walk and Craft Activity (with the Champaign Park District) — part of the annual Downtown Festival of the Arts, held every August.

Community Forum on Arts Education (with the Champaign County Cultural Consortium) — shared results of a statewide study revealing broad disparities in the amount of arts education provided in public schools — and began a local dialogue.

Urbana Public Arts Task Force Luncheon (with the Urbana Public Arts Task Force) — offered artists and other stakeholders the opportunity to give input on the Urbana Public Arts Program. Attendees were invited to participate in discussion on the role of the arts in people's lives and provide input on how a Public Arts Program could best serve Urbana.

Illinois Arts Council Forum (with Naomi Jakobsson) — helped local organizations, institutions and artists understand the Illinois Arts Council's grant process and other resources.

Business Strategies for Artists Workshops (with Parkland College) — a series of professional development workshops for artists wanting to learn how to further promote and protect their work.

Boneyard Arts Festival late night spACE (with Krannert Center for the Performing Arts) — For late-night revelers, an immersive arts event featuring live interactive environments, light and sound installations, art exhibitions, performance pieces, dance, and live music, as well as special surprises from local and touring guest artists.

MLK Community Day (with the University of Illinois' Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Symposium) — brings together the UIUC campus and local arts community residents to reflect on, discuss and plan ways to advance Dr. King's vision.

Art lives here.
40 North helps it thrive.

Here's how:

advocate

40 North works with local government and state legislators to garner support for the arts. It participates in partnerships with the Illinois Arts Council and the Illinois Arts Alliance, and various national arts organizations such as Americans for the Arts and the Association of American Cultures.

collaborate

40 North encourages connections across artistic disciplines and between public and private sectors. Through professional development opportunities, online calendar and Directory tools, networking events and eNewsletters, new and interesting partnerships and projects are produced and mutual goals are reached.

inform

40 North promotes awareness of the extraordinary quality, quantity and diversity of arts, culture and entertainment in Champaign County by hosting the annual Boneyard Arts Festival and ACE Awards, offering artist work shops and launching public awareness campaigns.

elevate

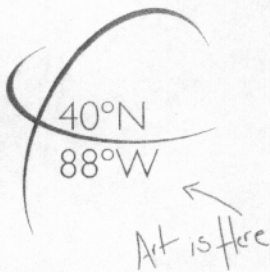
We all benefit from a strong arts community. Here's how art stimulates growth in Champaign County*

\$33.7 million is the total economic impact of not for profit arts in Champaign County. That's right, 30 MILLION DOLLARS. And commercial art venues, individual artists, and the spending that accompanies arts makes the actual impact of the arts much higher.

Local arts organizations surveyed employ **1400** people - most of whom live in the local community. They live, play and spend here.

Half of those arts organizations made improvements to their property in the past year - to the tune of over \$2.3 million.

The total annual audience for the arts organizations reporting is an estimated **634,000**. Over half that audience lives locally (within five miles of the reporting organization).



*from a 2002 study — *Working Together 3* — a project of the Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation