

NAP BIDS FAREWELL TO PHILADELPHIA'S MAYOR NUTTER



Deputy Mayor Everett Gillison, on behalf of Mayor Michael Nutter, accepts a gift presented by National Arts Program® Executive Director Jackie Szafara at the awards reception which took place in City Hall.

This beautiful watercolor of City Hall was painted in the spring of 1984 and has hung in our offices since the very first National Arts Program®, which took place in the City of Philadelphia's Civic Center in 1985. Our founder purchased this piece directly from the artist, Kass Morin.

While discussing ways to thank Mayor Michael Nutter for all the support he has given to our show over the past 8 years, Kathleen Jamieson, our President, suggested that we track down the artist and see if she would be willing to personalize a custom print for the Mayor. We thought this would be the perfect gift, but worried that finding a participant from a show taking place over 30 years ago might prove to be a challenge.

Thanks to a quick internet search, we were able to locate the artist, now Kass Morin Freeman, right in Lansdale, PA. Our Executive Director decided to give it a shot and called her, only to be completely dumbfounded by her response. Not only did Kass remember the National Arts Program® exhibit in detail, but she was now a well-known watercolor artist and teacher. She also happens to be a retired City of Philadelphia school teacher who long after that original show in 1985, had gone on to live and work in the city. Being a huge fan of Mayor Nutter, Kass was thrilled to let us reproduce the painting stating that, "once a city girl, always a city girl."

Her father, who worked as a city police officer, was the one who encouraged her to enter the exhibit. He has since passed away, but she said he would have enjoyed this honor for her and so we had an extra print made to hang next to her father's badge on the wall in her brother's home.

While the City of Philadelphia bids farewell to Mayor Nutter, it ushers in new Mayor, Jim Kenney, with the hope that our show will continue on its current path. As the pilot exhibition of the National Arts Program®, we have always been extremely proud of this show and the employees who take part. Over 200 employees and their family members display their artwork yearly and allow the public into their personal lives for just a short time. We are also grateful for the successful partnership with the Art in City Hall Program, especially NAP Coordinator Tu Huynh, who have not only helped sustain this show, but continued to find creative ways to improve the experience for everyone involved.

University of Maryland Medical Center Celebrates Third Year

The UMMC C2X Healing Arts Team does it again! The National Arts Program® staff were so honored to attend the Third Annual University of Maryland Medical Center's NAP Reception and Awards Ceremony. There were 180 artworks on display throughout the Weinberg Atrium and they added both beauty and interest to this busy space. This year, additional display panels were added just inside the hospital's main entrance to catch the attention of visitors that might not otherwise have ventured through the exhibit space.



The well-organized awards ceremony was attended by an estimated 250 guests and included live piano and harp music.

This was the first year that Lauren Davis of the C2X team coordinated the event, but her hard

work and attention to detail made the show a success once again. We are also grateful to Kerry Sobol, Director, Patient Experience, for her continued support and guidance.



Each year UMMC selects professional artists from their local community to act as the judges for this exhibit. This year the judges were Loring Cornish, Laura DeNardo and Elaine Weiner-Reed. These artists are excited about the concept of the program and they take their jobs of selecting the winners very seriously. In fact, the judges even attend the awards reception to help announce the winners and present the awards personally.

The exhibit represented employees from dozens of medical center departments and their families. This show celebrates everyone equally while helping to connect the patients and caregivers through art.

STATE OF COLORADO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT JOINS NAP

After learning that the US General Service Administration (GSA) already hosted small annual employee art shows, it was only logical for the NAP to reach out to discuss the opportunity of partnering with them. The GSA "After Hours" show, only in its third year, already offered the ground work for an employee exhibit providing the opportunity for them to display their artwork publicly and receive awards, seven in total including a 'Best of Show'. The premise for the show, which usually featured around forty pieces of art, was the idea of employees using their creative talents outside of work, on their own time.

Once "After Hours" coordinator Janet Paladino realized what the NAP could offer the participants, she knew that partnering with us was the right move in order to allow the show to flourish. By joining with the NAP, GSA was able to open the eligibility of the exhibit up to immediate family members of employees, all while being able to provide additional awards, including sixteen cash prizes. Adding this to the administrative support and personal guidance each venue receives, the show was sure to be the best yet. Janet stated, "our first year working with the NAP was a tremendous

success!" The exhibit featured 113 pieces of artwork, a 65% increase from their 2014 exhibition!



One of the elements that made this year so successful was the inclusion of family members, providing a new depth to the show while giving employees the opportunity to include people from their personal lives. Benjamin Morgan (pictured above), who won Second Place in the Youth 12 & Under category, is the perfect example of this. He shared that he would be using the prize money to buy a better camera to continue to work on his photography.

Bringing communities together through art is exactly what the NAP strives for and we are excited GSA has joined our program!

TEEN 13-18 ARTISTS



"As I See Myself"
Alicia Rosario
Works on Paper



"Reach Beyond Your Own Grave"
Paige Joelson
Sculpture

Great Showing in Raleigh / Wake County, North Carolina

Thirteen years and the City of Raleigh is still going strong. Stacy Bloom Rexrode, Block Gallery Coordinator, did a beautiful job organizing the exhibit her first year. Located on the first and second floors of the Raleigh Municipal Building, The Block Gallery offers visitors and employees a convenient way to enjoy art as they go about their day. Over 6,000 employees from the City of Raleigh and Wake County and their families are invited to participate in the show each year making for a wonderful collection of work.

The opening reception for the exhibit was held on December 4th and an estimated 200 guests were in attendance. This was a festive event that included catering, live music and tied into First Friday events happening in Downtown Raleigh. Winners were announced during this reception, but Mayor Nancy McFarlane also arranged to recognize the winners and personally hand out prizes in January at an official council meeting. One such winner is artist John Johnson a City Fire Department employee who took home Second Place in the Intermediate category for his work on paper entitled 'Out with a Friend' (pictured right). This is one of the many beautiful works that can be seen hanging in the NAP exhibit now through January 15th. The NAP would like to congratulate John and all of the participants for sharing their exceptional talents with us.



John Johnson poses with his winning piece at the opening reception of the exhibition.

AND THE BEST OF SHOW WINNERS ARE...



Teen 13-18

University of Maryland Medical Center - Madlyn Regimbal

Adult Amateur

Adams County - Zachary Reece

Fulton County - E. Richard Clark

Philadelphia - Caroline Kim

Raleigh / Wake County - Celina Mount

The University of Chicago Medicine - Sigourney Sneed

Adult Intermediate

Orlando International Airport - Jenna Slater

Adult Professional

Cheyenne - Ron Tibbits

Lubbock - Eddy Grigsby

Seminole County - Elizabeth Jones

State of Colorado Federal Government - Aaron Heinen

UF Health Jacksonville - Kristen Vore

From top left clockwise:
"Muertos on the Farm" by Zachary Reece (Works on Paper);
"Glow" by Celina Mount (Photography);
"West Texas Story" by Eddy Grigsby (Works on Paper)



IN THE NEWS THIS QUARTER

Art Isn't Just Good For The Mind, It's Good For The Body Too

My dad was the one who had just had brain surgery, but I also needed to heal. While he recovered in Cedars-Sinai Medical Center I found myself roaming the halls which, luckily for me, were adorned with a museum-quality art collection, including the work of Paul Klee, Marc Chagall, Helen Frankenthaler and Robert Rauschenberg.

21 Hacks To Help You Organize Your Art Studio In 2016

There's never a better time to organize your studio than the week after New Year's Day. The gifts have been opened, vacations have ended and resolutions have been set. Your creative space has either recently been neglected in favor of holiday revelry or filled to the brim with new materials collected over days of Secret Santas and bargain shopping.

Unique teaching technique helps visually impaired children enjoy art

A new Fund for the Arts program called Arts for Kosair Kids is giving local children opportunities they wouldn't normally have. LKY's Jennifer Baileys learned more about this unique teaching technique that allows visually impaired children to enjoy the arts. Though it may appear to be any other class of young children working on an art project, the students at the Visually Impaired Preschool Services are enjoying a new way of looking at art, using senses other than sight.

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THE National ARTS PROGRAM®

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The National Arts Program® was established in 1982 to identify, showcase, and reward the visual artistic talent in America. Today we sponsor 82 venues across the country with steady growth.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

(From top left to right clockwise)

Kristen Bates, "Ribbons", Amateur, Mixed Media
Parnian Maroufi, "Animal Face Collection", Teen 13-18, Painting
James Overstreet, "Contributions", Intermediate, Painting
Carolyn M. Davis, "Twist & Shout", Professional, Craft
Katie Graham, "Seeking New Heights", Amateur, Photography

