

## FY 2008 Public Impact Grants

### **\$10,000 Grants**

#### **Christina Cultural Arts Center** - Wilmington

The mission of the Christina Cultural Arts Center is to make affordable arts education accessible to youth from low-income families in a safe environment conducive to learning. CCAC has been doing this in Wilmington for 61 years. They serve neighborhoods with high rates of violence and high numbers of children in poverty, many of whom fall below state standards in reading and math. More than 1,700 students spend their after-school hours at CCAC taking music, dance, drama and visual arts classes. New efforts are underway to target outreach to middle and high school urban males. CCAC's family-centered environment encourages life-long learning, fosters creativity, celebrates African American heritage, and builds skills through artistic expression.

#### **Smyrna-Clayton Heritage Association** – Smyrna

The Smyrna-Clayton Heritage Association, with the dual goals of promotion of the arts and historic preservation, restored and now manages the historic Smyrna Opera House. In just a few short years their season has grown from 5 to 50 offerings, attendance from 500 to 10,000, a volunteer base from 20 to 100, with memberships now approaching 400. The Smyrna Opera House is a true community center providing a gallery for student and adult art shows, a home for dance and theater classes, a showcase for local performers, a venue for regional and national entertainers, free concerts for school children, and the perfect setting for seminars, business meetings, and social occasions. SCHA recognizes that a community is made up of many individuals, institutions, businesses, churches, and clubs and the Smyrna Opera House is becoming the center of it all.

#### **Newark Arts Alliance** – Newark

Newark Arts Alliance's mission – to develop community through the arts - is accomplished by creating arts programs throughout Newark with an emphasis on reaching a diverse audience with low-cost activities. The NAA's strong presence in their community is felt through its exhibitions, art classes, performances, poetry readings, and public art projects which have changed the face of downtown. They created *Camp Imagine*, a free summer art camp for low-income kids and *Art to Go* which brings free art programs to parks, libraries, day care centers, schools, and teen treatment centers for children who don't or can't come to their studios. They're successfully bridging the gap between town and gown that is typical of a university community. The Newark Arts Alliance encompasses all that their community represents.

### **\$7,500 Grant**

#### **Delaware Theatre Company** – Wilmington

In addition to its fine season of classical and contemporary works for the stage, the Delaware Theatre Company reaches out to the community in creative and meaningful ways. This past year *Connections*, *Viewpoints*, and *TalkBacks* illuminated productions via audience conversations with scholars, directors and actors. DTC's extensive outreach and educational programs served 5,200 students last year through programs such as *Delaware Young Playwrights Festival* which professionally presented the works of six of 550 script submissions from middle and high school students; *Totally Awesome Kids* provided weekly acting classes for 41 children with cognitive disabilities culminating in a public presentation of their original play; and *Arts Across the Curriculum* employed the arts as learning tools for 150 youth incarcerated at the Ferris School.

### **Rehoboth Beach Film Society**

Rehoboth Beach Film Society connects people in Delaware with the art of independent film in numerous ways. In its ninth year, the annual Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Festival sold nearly 17,000 tickets to 217 screenings of 137 films from 28 countries. The Film Society's membership now exceeds 1,200 and they have significantly expanded their programming to include film initiatives for youth, teens, and adults around the county. Year-round programming now includes: *Third Thursday Theater* - a monthly film series for kids at the Rehoboth Library; *Student Film Series* – a bi-monthly meeting of high school and college students who view and discuss film, work on area film projects, and coordinate the student film component of the festival; *Film Camp* – held at Del Tech Owens Campus; *Cinema & Art* – with the Rehoboth Art League a focus on films that bring art and artists to the big screen; *Film at the Beach* - outdoor screenings at the Rehoboth bandstand; *Delaware Roots* – in partnership with the Milton Historical Society; *Screen Stories* – book/film discussions at the Lewes Public Library; *Screen Cuisine* – dinner and a film at Georgetown's CHEER Center, and *The Art House Theater* – a partnership with Movies at Midway that brings independent film to the local Cineplex every week of the year.

### **Grand Opera House**

The Grand Opera House has a significant economic, artistic, and historic impact on the city of Wilmington. Its 14 subscription series provide performances ranging from world culture to classical music dance, and more to audiences of all ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds. The Grand reaches thousands of children through its Schools of Music and Dance, Summer Children's Theater and other educational programs. The Grand provides a home to Opera Delaware, the Delaware Symphony, First State Ballet, the Paul Green School of Rock and others, and through its partnerships with community organizations, such as The Ferris School for Boys and the Arden Concert Guild, The Grand extends its reach further. The 200 annual events taking place at The Grand, contribute significantly to the energetic arts scene in downtown and the local economy. The Grand, one of the oldest opera houses in the country, is a National Historic Landmark theatre which remains open and available for use by the entire community.

### **\$5,000 Grant**

#### **Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts** – Wilmington

The DCCA's mission is to present exhibitions, offer exposure to the creative process, provide educational opportunities and extend innovative programs to a diverse community. In the past year, their Arts Residency Programs placed artists in 6-8 week residencies with organizations such as the A. I. Dupont Hospital for Children, the YWCA Homelife Center, and the Alzheimer's Association of Delaware. Contemporary Connections reaches underserved students through four public school projects each year. As a partner in the Wilmington Mural Arts Project, they joined with Howard High School of Technology and the City to work with community organizations, schools, and firefighters to create a mural at Wilmington Fire station #1, DCCA's exhibits and programs such as the free Art Salad lecture series and their Summer Arts and Spring Break Camps reach a wide diversity of participants.

#### **Rehoboth Art League** – Rehoboth Beach

The Rehoboth Art League, a 1,300 member organization, provides exhibitions and instruction in fine arts and crafts to a broad spectrum of Sussex County residents. Classes, lectures, and concerts take place on their historic grounds, while free art lessons are provided off-site for 300 low income children at 7 locations across the county. RAL links preschools and libraries through art lessons, places artists in classrooms, works with Hispanic community groups, provides studio space for the Southern Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning, and features the work of 250 children in the largest student exhibit in the area. Recent public art projects and a Plein Air Paint Out, in conjunction with Rehoboth Main Street, have generated a lot of enthusiasm and support.