



Cambridge Arts Council

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2008

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## Cambridge Arts Council Announces 2008 Grant Recipients

Cambridge, MA – With a total of \$55,000 to grant this year from the City of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, Cambridge Arts Council (CAC) awarded 32 grants through a competitive process. Funding goes towards a wide variety of creative and innovative projects that are of outstanding artistic quality and demonstrate community benefit.

Announcing the recipients, the **Honorable Mayor E. Denise Simmons** lauded the vitality of the Cambridge cultural community, saying, "The arts enhance the lives of everyone living and visiting Cambridge, and express the unique character of this community. Cambridge understands that funding for the arts and the creative economy is vital to the livelihood of our city."

A volunteer panel of Cambridge residents and arts professional with expertise in the arts reviewed all applications for 2008, ensuring that the voice of the community is integrated into the decision-making process. Applications were submitted in three discipline areas: Music & Literature, Theater & Dance, and Visual Art/Film & Video.

The **2008 CAC grant recipient projects** span from dance, to theater, film, music to site-responsive visual artwork, creating a myriad of opportunities for everyone to connect with the arts, all year long, and throughout Cambridge's vibrant neighborhoods. Upcoming programs include:

**Ralph Brancaccio's "Y Project,"** a temporary public art installation developed to promote a greater understanding of social issues surrounding the HIV/AIDS epidemic (Spring/Summer 2008).

**Community Art Center's "The Recognized Girl,"** an exhibition of self-portraits by teen girls designed to engage participants to reflect, research, and examine popular images of women and to compare and consider their own unique images (Spring 2008).

Captioning for **Ayisha Knight-Shaw's play, *Hey Sistah, Welcome Home***, which deals with difficult issues such as rape, anorexia, and body image, to be performed during Deaf Awareness Week (September 21-27, 2008).

**RiverSing 2008**, the fifth annual celebration of autumnal equinox, presented by the **Charles River Conservancy** and Revels, Inc., brings music, puppetry, and light to the Weeks Memorial Footbridge next to the Charles River (September 21, 2008).

### **The Complete List of 2008 CAC Grant Recipients:**

#### **MUSIC & LITERATURE**

Back Bay Chorale, Concert of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*  
Cambridge Community Chorus, 2008 - *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*  
Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, 2008 Public Concert Series  
Charles River Conservancy, RiverSing 2008  
Handel & Haydn Society, Educational Outreach Series  
North Cambridge Family Opera, *Powers of Ten* Festival Chorus/CSF  
Passim Folk Music & Cultural Center, Culture for Kids  
Tunefoolery Concert Ensembles, Music Scholarships for Participants

#### **THEATER & DANCE**

Actors' Shakespeare Project, *The Tempest* with A. Epstein at Miller's Crossing  
Akhra: The Dancing Grounds, Inc., *He Who Burns*  
Art of Black Dance & Music, *Teaching About KWANZAA* - Documentary  
Ayisha Knight-Shaw, *Hey Sistah, Welcome Home* (Captioning)  
New Repertory Theater, New Rep on Tour (Cambridge Public Schools Engagements)  
Prometheus Dance, Inc., 2008 Elder's Dance Ensemble *Sacred*  
They Gotta Be Secret Agents, *Poste Restante* - 2008 World Premier  
Underground Railway Theater, Page to Stage, A Young Playwrights Festival

#### **VISUAL ART / FILM & VIDEO**

Aspberger's Association of New England, AANE Art Exhibitions  
Ralph Brancaccio, "Y Project" - Temporary Public Art Installation  
Cambridge Arts Council (PAYC), Public Art Youth Council (Spring 2008)  
Community Art Center, Inc., "The Recognized Girl" - Film Diaries  
Yetti Frenkel, Cinquain Poetry & Fold-out Book Project  
Karen Frostig, *Legacy of War* - Visual Art Exhibition  
Thomas Gearty, *Twice Seen* - Visual Art Exhibition  
Lumen Eclipse, LE: 60 - 1st Annual 1-Minute Film Festival  
North Cambridge Artists' Open Studios, 11th Anniversary Portfolio & Brochure  
Anna Wexler and Nadja Oertelt, Co-Producers, *Awaken* - Documentary

#### **PASS GRANTS**

Agassiz Baldwin Community  
Cambridge Family and Children's Services  
Cambridge Public Schools, Visual and Performing Arts Departments  
Community Art Center

#### **More about Local Cultural Councils**

The Cambridge Arts Council is part of a grass-roots network of 329 local councils that serve every city and town in the state. The program is the largest, most decentralized one of its kind in the United States. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each local council. Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. Projects include concerts, exhibitions, radio and video productions, field trips for schoolchildren, after-school youth programs, writing workshops, historic preservation efforts, lectures, and festivals.

## 2008 Grant Panelists

CAC gratefully acknowledges the volunteer panel of Cambridge artists, educators, arts administrators and professionals who participated in this review process.

Music & Literature: Janet Axelrod, Aliyah Gary, Shelley Neill, Kiera Wilhelm

Theater & Dance: Rosanna Alfaro, Alan Brody, Brenda Divelbliss, Karen Krolak, Rosalind Thomas-Clarke

Visual Art/Film & Video: Phyllis Bretholtz, Jennifer Gilbert, Archy LaSalle, Calvin Lindsay, Jr., Andrew Mroczek

**Press Photos: 300 dpi photos are available for download at**

**<http://www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?AlbumID=215>**

**Click "Download large version."**

For more information on the CAC Grant Program, please visit

[http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org/community\\_grants.html](http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org/community_grants.html) or

call 617-349-4385. The deadline for the 2009 CAC Grant proposals is October 15, 2008.

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The CAC Grant Program is funded by the City of Cambridge and receives an annual allocation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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