



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO AWARD NEARLY 1 MILLION DOLLARS TO ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRAMS AND ARTISTS

Dayton, Ohio – on November 30, 2009 - The Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District (MCACD) will award nearly \$1,000,000 in District funds to support major arts and cultural organizations, special arts and cultural projects by small and mid-sized arts and community groups, and individual artists residing in Montgomery County at a news conference to be held beginning at **10:30 AM at the Dayton Cultural & RTA Center located 40 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd.**

- 18 Operating Support grants to major arts and cultural organizations \$ 600,000
- 30 Special Project grants to small and mid-sized arts and community organizations \$ 140,000
- 10 Individual Artist Fellowships to visual artists \$ 55,000

This is an investment in the community and the amenities that are offered in Montgomery County.

Operating Support grants are awarded through a formula process to arts and cultural organizations with budget size in excess of \$500,000. These organizations include: Aullwood Audubon Center, Dayton Art Institute; Dayton Ballet; CityFolk; Dayton History Inc; Dayton Contemporary Dance Company; Dayton Opera; Dayton Visual Arts Center; Boonshoft Museum of Discovery; Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra; Greater Dayton Public Television (Think TV); The Human Race Theatre Company; K-12 Gallery For Young People, The Muse Machine; Rhythm in Shoes; Victoria Theatre Association; WDPR (Dayton Public Radio) and We Care Arts. Support is also provided to the Schuster Center.

Special Project grants are awarded in four program categories including Visual Arts, Performing/Literary Arts, Cultural/Multi-Arts and Education. Grants are awarded based on review criteria that include project quality, project impact/benefit, project evaluation, appropriate budget and the ability of the applicant to complete and manage the project. Thirty organizations producing a variety of arts and cultural projects throughout Montgomery County have been awarded funding this year (see attached list).

This year's **Artist Fellowship program** focuses on visual arts. A total of ten artists will receive fellowships, including nine Fellows (\$5,000 awards), and one Lifetime Fellow (\$10,000 award). These Montgomery County residents create art through painting, sculpture, ceramics, film, photography, multi-media, and fabric/fiber. (see attached list).

NEWS RELEASE



Local teacher, visionary and theater impresario Sheila Ramsey is the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award (Lifetime achievement nominations do not have to be in the fellowship category).

The Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District is a special purpose unit of government created under Ohio Law. The MCACD is dedicated to providing financial support to Montgomery County arts and cultural organizations and individual artists. The Montgomery County Commission appoints a fifteen member Board of Trustees to oversee the allocation of these funds and to recommend programs that result in the equitable distribution of the MCACD's annual budget of \$1 million.

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Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District

2009-2010 Grant Recipients

2009-10 Special Project Recipients

Bach Society of Dayton
Catholic Education Collaborative
City of Vandalia
City of West Carrollton
Culture Works
Dayton Carvers Guild
Dayton Gay Men's Chorus
Dayton International Festival
Dayton Jazz Orchestra
Downtown Dayton Partnership
East End Community Services
Gem City Ballet
Gem City Chorus (Sweet Adelines)
Home Based Arts
Hope Community Arts Center
Involvement Advocacy – Blue Sky Project
Jazz Advocate
Kettering Children's Choir
Learning Tree Farm
Miami Valley Council for Native American Indians
Miami Valley Dance Company
Miami Valley Firefighters
Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra
Oregon District Business Association
Residence in Praise
St. Margaret's Church
Town Hall Theatre
United Irish (Dayton Celtic Festival)
Wright Dunbar, Inc.
YWCA, One Monday Morning Concert Series

2009-2010 Artist Fellowship Recipients

Tim Borgert
Susan Byrnes
Stefan Chinov
Christine Klinger
Carrie Longley
Mark Lyons
Penny Park
Shon Walters
Joel Whitaker

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sheila Ramsey

2009-2010 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Shelia Ramsey

Sheila Ramsey, from her earliest years, has been like a magnet - attracting, entertaining and teaching everyone lucky enough to be in her sphere. In a career spanning nearly three decades, Ms. Ramsey has shown herself to be a gifted and superb performer, teacher, director, administrator, and champion of the arts.

In addition to being an actress, teacher and director Ms. Ramsey was instrumental in the creation of the Muse Machine. She has performed with the Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, to name a few. She has performed around the country and overseas and has been an inspiration to many. She has a tireless passion for the arts and most recently she founded the Dream Keeper Theatre Company to give voice to the black experience. She is one of the great talents of our age. She is not only a first-rate director but a master teacher, innovator and trailblazer.

Ms. Ramsey's dedication has served Montgomery County students, audiences, and art patrons for many years, and the 2009 Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District is honored to recognize her for her wonderful passion and enthusiastic sharing of her talent.