



BRADFORD COUNTY REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program
Annual Awards Ceremony Cancelled – Another ARTLESS WEDNESDAY



The Bradford County Regional Arts Council canceled its annual PA Partners in the Arts Awards Ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2009 due to concerns stemming from the PA budget impasse. The event was to be held at the Keystone Theater in Towanda this Wednesday to honor the 33 arts/cultural projects and/or programs receiving funding for the 2009-2010, program year.

The Bradford County Regional Arts Council (BCRAC), working in partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), is pleased to award \$30,000 to the 21 PA Partners in the Arts PROJECT Stream applicants for this year (those recipients are listed below), but the grant allocations for the 12 recipients in PROGRAM Stream remain in question until a state budget is passed; a budget that includes funding for the PA Council on the Arts and funding at a level that allows for these grants to be awarded. BCRAC and the following grant recipients are hopeful that a positive resolution will be found very soon as their programs and projects are either on hold, will have to be eliminated or will proceed but in a scaled down version, with far less impact and outreach: Box of Light Theatre (Columbia County), The Children's Museum (Columbia County), Endless Mountains, Council of the Arts (Wyoming County), Endless Mountains Music Festival (Tioga County), Endless Mountains Theatre Co. (Susquehanna County), Fabulous 1890's Weekend (Tioga County), Greater Wyalusing Chamber of Commerce/North Branch Arts Festival (Bradford County), Home Textile Tool Museum (Bradford County), The Main Link Arts Program (Bradford County), Old Mill Village (Susquehanna County), Sullivan County Council on the Arts (Sullivan County), Wyalusing Community Corp./Blue Heron Gallery (Bradford County).

The PA Partners in the Arts Ceremony would have honored and celebrated the project stream grantees, but would not have been able to include the program stream grantees as those funds remain in question. Legislators and County Commissioners from the 7 counties served by the PPA program (Bradford, Columbia, Montour, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming), had been invited to attend the event and assist in awarding the grant checks. Also slated for the evening's events was a presentation in honor of BCRAC's Arts in Education Program; Mary Krench, art teacher from Snyder Elementary (Sayre, PA) and Chinese Puppeteer, Hua Hua Zhang were to be on hand to speak about their yearly artist in residence experiences at the school. BCRAC staff were to recognize the school's commitment to and enthusiasm for the artist in residence program and celebrate the five year partnership between artist and school staff; this recognition and presentation will take place at the school if funding for the program becomes available (funding for this and all BCRAC residencies is dependent upon the PA state budget and funding for the PA Council on the Arts).

The Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program is a small grants program that allows regional partners and the state to work together to make a significant impact on arts and cultural opportunities at a local level. This year, the BCRAC received 38 grant applications totaling over \$90,000 in requests (from both PROJECT and PROGRAM streams) with \$30,000 available (to PROJECT stream only) from the PA Council on the Arts, to re-grant. Applications were evaluated in July by a panel of community volunteers representing the seven counties served.

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is a program of the PA Council on the Arts, a state agency. It is funded by the citizens of Pennsylvania through its annual legislative appropriation and administered locally by the BCRAC. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

PROJECT Stream Grantees:

Artists' Open House Weekend—Susquehanna County - The Artists' Open House & Studio Tour

Athens ArtsFest—Bradford County - Annual Arts Festival in Athens, PA

Bengal Association of Bloomsburg—Columbia County - Bengali New Year Festival of dance, song, music, and food

Bluegrass by the Lake Festival—Bradford County - Annual Bluegrass Festival

Bonnie Gale - Susquehanna County - Traditional willow basketry workshops

Borough of Berwick - Columbia County - Summer Concert Series

Bradford County Chamber of Commerce - Bradford County - Mural painting along Main Street.

Bradford County Heritage Association—Bradford Co. - PA Heritage Festival

Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. - Columbia County - Downtown ArtWalk

Eastern Delaware Nations, Inc.—Sullivan County - Pow-wow - American Indian heritage, culture and continued presence in the Endless Mountains Region.

Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center - Tioga County - Deacons of Dixieland concert

Hamilton Gibson Productions - Tioga County - Reader's Theatre

Jubilate Choir - Columbia County - Choral Performances

Montrose Community Chorale—Susquehanna County - Choral performance

Rekindle the Spirit, Inc. - Bradford County - Summer arts workshops for kids

Sally Wiener Grotta - Wyoming County - "Pennsylvania Hands" Exhibits

Stillwater Poetry Festival - Columbia County - Community Poetry Festival

Troy Youth Arts Group - Bradford County - Summer Arts Camp for kids

Valley Chorus—Bradford County - Festival of Carols

Wellsboro Community Concert Association—Tioga County - Concert series

YMCA of Bradford County—Bradford & Sullivan Counties - Music and storytelling at Bradford & Sullivan county senior centers.