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Ten Regional Artists Receive Funding Through the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester

Rochester, NY, February 22, 2010 – The Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, in partnership with the New York Foundation for the Arts, has awarded grants to ten artists from across the region. A total of \$4,190 in Strategic Opportunity Stipends was awarded for work occurring from March through June 2010 that will significantly enhance artists' careers. Over \$16,000 in requests from 27 artists was received for this highly competitive grant program. Stipends, which ranged from \$260 to \$560, were awarded to the following artists:

- **Roberley Bell**, visual artist, of Batavia, for a solo exhibition at ALAN (art center) in Istanbul, Turkey;
- **Robin Cass**, glass artist, of Rochester, for a glassblowing demonstration/performance at Urban Glass, a non-profit glass school and artist facility in Brooklyn, NY;
- **Larry Merrill**, visual artist, of Rochester, for a month-long artist residency at the Jentel Foundation in Banner, Wyoming;
- **Jen Moon**, visual artist, of Rochester, for a residency with the Visual Studies Workshop Artist in Residence Program;
- **Sean O'Connell**, potter, of Rochester, for a solo exhibition of functional ceramic art at the Firehouse Gallery/Genesee Center for the Arts and Education;
- **Brian O'Neill**, visual artist, of Rochester, for a mentorship with internationally acclaimed master painter, Anthony Waichulis of The Waichulis Studio in Mountain Top, PA;
- **Heather Roffe**, dancer and choreographer, of Rochester, for the creation and performance of a new choreographic work to be performed at the Society for New Music's 2010 Vision of Sound concert;
- **Masha Ryskin**, visual artist, of Honeoye Falls, for a solo exhibition at Maison de La Culture Maissonneuve in Montreal, Canada, which is an established nonprofit arts center.
- **Kista Tucker**, dancer and choreographer, of Brockport, to direct workshops and set her choreography on the Cambridge Contemporary Dance company in Cambridge, England;
- **Cadence Whittier**, dancer and choreographer, of Geneva, to produce a dance concert at The Cracker Factory (a Geneva not-for-profit).

"These funds support the important work of our region's artists, helping them take advantage of career opportunities that ultimately benefit the economy and artistic richness of our region as a whole," said Sarah Lentini, President and CEO of the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester.

Strategic Opportunity Stipends, available to artists from all creative disciplines, are awarded three times per year. Artists from the following ten counties may apply to the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester: Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

The deadline for the next SOS round, for opportunities from July through October 2010, is May 25, 2010. Applications are available on the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester's website, www.artsrochester.org. For information about this grant program, call the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, (585) 473-4000, or visit www.artsrochester.org.

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*The **Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester** is a nonprofit corporation serving arts and culture in the 10-county greater Rochester region. Our mission is to strengthen and promote the region's creative sector through grant programs, constituent services, and special initiatives; and to act as an advocate, planner, and funder, supporting artistic vitality and cultural diversity throughout the region. For more information about our programs and services, visit www.artsrochester.org.*