



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Rochester, NY, November 3, 2009 – 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 \$3,954 in Strategic Opportunity Stipends was awarded for work occurring from November 2009 through February 2010 that will significantly enhance artists' careers. Over \$10,000 in requests from seventeen artists was received for this highly competitive grant program. Stipends, which ranged from \$200 to \$600, were awarded to the following artists:

- Gloria Betlem, visual artist, of Livonia, for “Wild Central Florida: The Preserved, The Restored & The Vanishing”, an exhibit of paintings focused on environmental issues;
- Cecilia Charlton, potter, of Middlesex, for travel and materials related to an apprenticeship with the Rochester Folk Art Guild;
- James Hansen, dancer and choreographer, of Rochester, for travel to Santiago, Chile to perform and present his choreography with the Cuerpo Escrito Dance Company;
- Kim Lesslie, visual artist, of Rochester, for her first solo exhibit of her photography at the Rochester Medical Museum and Archive;
- Mary Lewandowski, performance artist, of Rochester, to perform at the New Orleans Fringe Theater Festival in collaboration with Ian Downey;
- Sonja Livingston, writer, of Rochester, to read in the renowned TRUE STORY: The Nonfiction Reading Series at KGB Bar in New York, NY;
- Ruben T. Ornelas, dancer and choreographer, of Rochester, for travel to Puebla, Mexico to present work at the international Festival Rodará;
- Carla Rodriguez, visual artist, of LeRoy, to exhibit her photography at the Lower Mill and Galleries in Honeoye Falls, NY;
- Rebecca Kay Smithorn, musician, of Rochester, for mentorship study with a professional conductor and a culminating opportunity to conduct a full-length performance;
- Joseph Sorrentino, visual artist, of Rochester, for exhibitions of photographs of rural Mexico in Mexico City.

“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 March through June 2009, is January 27, 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.*