



*Creative Collaboration*

Kennedy Heights Arts Center

2012 *Annual Report*

# From the President

Dear Friends,

One of the goals at Kennedy Heights Arts Center is to “create opportunities for joyful discovery and collaboration.” When artists, students and community members pool their talents and work together to reach a common goal, it creates rich benefits for individuals and communities alike.

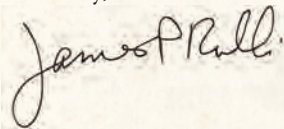
Creativity thrives on diversity, tension, sharing and collaboration. We stretch, grow and learn look at things in new ways. The creative process is equally important as the artistic outcome.

2012 was a year ripe with creative collaboration. With guidance from artist-in-residence Migiwa Orimo, groups of diverse adults and youth listened to one another, shared ideas, and together created installations on the art center’s lawn using various media. Three local photographers took a fresh look at portraiture and engaged us in thoughtful dialogue about the judgments we make. Teen artists worked as a team to design and create a garden mural, and in the process, made a lasting positive impact on a neighborhood.

Whether you know it or not, as a member of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center family, you collaborate with us when you visit the gallery, take a class, join us at an event, or spread the word about our organization. Our goals are met, and our vision is brought to life, through constant teamwork between our devoted donors, volunteers, staff and community members.

We thank you for your continued collaboration and generous support.

Sincerely,



James P. Rulli  
President, Board of Directors

Cover photo: Youth paint a truck at the 2012 Art Parade. Photo by Tom Kinsel.



## A Champion for the Arts Center

As a founding member of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center, Jeane Goings modestly describes her role there as a “cheerleader.” In reality, though, said KHAC Director Ellen Muse-Lindeman, Jeane is a true “champion for the arts center,” and so has been awarded this year’s Kennedy Award by the art center’s Board of Directors.

Jeane Goings’ roots in the Kennedy Heights Arts Center run deep: she was among the center’s “founders” more than 10 years ago, a core group that raised \$40,000 needed to match a \$50,000 grant from the City of Cincinnati, and thus secure the old Kennedy mansion on Montgomery Road and ensure a future arts center that thrives today.

Over the decade since, Jeane has continued her ardent support of the arts center, Ellen said, by chairing the annual fund campaign, serving on the board of directors, and in general connecting as many of her friends as possible – and their support, in turn – to the arts center.

It’s not just the Kennedy Heights Arts Center that has benefitted from Jeane’s championship-level of community service. In 2008 she was named a Cincinnati Enquirer “Woman of the Year” for her service to numerous local organizations, including the YWCA, the Wellness Community of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, League of Women Voters, the Urban League, NAACP, Charter Party, Mental Health Northwest, and the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

A native of Louisville with a master’s degree in social work, Jeane and her husband William Goings, a pharmacist, moved to Kennedy Heights more than 50 years ago, among the first African-American families to venture into the neighborhood that actively courted integration amid the civil rights struggles of the late 1950s.

“We just wanted a neighborhood where our kids could go to school, and ride their bikes,” Jeane said. When the Goings moved in during that turbulent era, “some folks moved out, but many welcomed us. We have wonderful neighbors” on Iris Avenue, Jeane said, including Lee DeRhodes, a volunteer gardener for the Kennedy Heights Arts Center. Meantime, the three Goings “kids” have all since grown, earned advanced college degrees like their parents, and given Jeane and William five grandchildren.

Thanks to efforts of loyal volunteers like Jeane, her grandchildren are among those who get to take a variety of classes at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center which, as Jeane said, “has programs for all ages, and for all talents.”

By Jean Kinney



Jeane Goings describes herself as a “cheerleader” for the Arts Center. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography.

## 2012 Artist-in-Residence Migiwa Orimo

Being a leader is a common aspect associated with teachers of all kinds. Migiwa Orimo, however, considered herself an assistant during her time as 2012 Ohio Arts Council Artist-in-Residence at Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

“In the beginning, without being a leader, I knew facilitating conversations between the students was important,” says Ms. Orimo. “When the projects started taking shape, I was an assistant because it was not my work.”

During her four-week residency, Ms. Orimo guided a core group of adults, as well as students of all ages, in developing concept-based installations exploring the theme of communication. Each participating group was given a space of 3x3x7 square feet – about the size of a phone booth – to create a unique environment. The result was five highly interactive, mixed-media installations involving painting, drawing, photography, knitting, writing, recorded sound and video.



Core group member Ally Nurre puts the finishing touches on her group's installation.

design and Japanese literature, she began to reflect her education into installations and other artwork. A two-time recipient of the Individual Artists Fellowship, the Ohio Arts Council awarded Orimo an Individual Creativity Excellence Award for her interdisciplinary art projects in 2008.

The residency project honored and incorporated a broad range of experiences and expressive styles. As one participant reflected: “We built community through our art. I don't think any of us had imagined what we were going to accomplish together!”



Visual artist Migiwa Orimo was KHAC's 2012 artist-in-residence.

When asked about her goal for the residency, Ms. Orimo explained: “The process was more important than the outcome. Everyone brought their separate backgrounds together, collaborating, listening, conflicting, delighting, but still having fun. My main goal was to explore the process of listening to one another, coming up with ideas and concepts from nothing, created together by strangers.” She believes that through the learning process, no matter how artistically inclined, some ideas will fail, but that's an important part of the creative process.

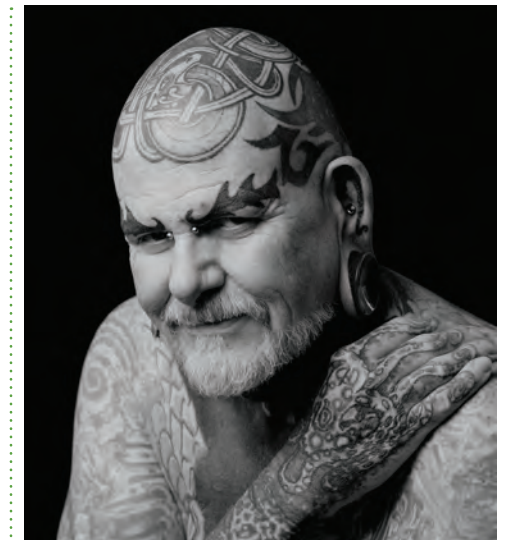
Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, Migiwa Orimo has lived in Yellow Springs, Ohio since 1981. After studying

## Let's Face It

What's in a glance? What can we learn, what can we know, by simply looking at someone?

It's a strange but important question given that we're a nation obsessed with faces. We believe that we can know a lot about a person's character, thoughts and intentions by his or her appearance. But really, what is in a glance?

Three local photographers, Melvin Grier, Michael Kearns and Michael Wilson, addressed these issues in an exhibit of remarkable large-scale, black and white portraits, presented as part of FotoFocus, a bi-annual regional celebration of lens-based art.



Some viewers were surprised to learn that “Robert” loves gardening and classical music. Photo by Melvin Grier.

The thought-provoking show, entitled Let's Face It, involved a bit of a social experiment. Each of the individuals photographed in the show also answered ten identical questions on a questionnaire. Viewers were asked before reading the questionnaire to study the portrait and consider what opinions they make about the character of the person pictured.

Invariably, the viewer learned that their initial impressions bore little resemblance to the often provocative, occasionally hilarious and sometimes sober answers provided by the subjects. This gulf between the viewers' preconceived assumptions and the reality of the subject's response instilled a depth within this exhibit which elevated this show beyond the average portraiture exposition.

“When I first walked into the gallery an image from across the room caught my eye – his subtle smile, the relaxed look, I felt as if Gordon was right in front of me,” commented visitor Tony Arrasmith. “Then I read his story. It gave the image additional depth that kept me frozen an additional five minutes. This process repeated itself for the next 40 minutes, image after image. Each portrait was more than strong enough to stand on its own, but getting their story, their perspective on the questions posed, that was what made the exhibition so meaningful for me.”

In short, Let's Face It demonstrated the simple but oft forgotten lesson that you can't judge an individual by appearance alone, and that the average individual's beliefs are far more complex, and unpredictable, than we typically assume.

Exhibition sponsors: James and Patricia King, Lennell and Pamela Rhodes Myricks, and Foto Focus.

**FOTOFOCUS**

## 2012 Art Exhibitions

- **Beyond Emancipation**  
An exploration of African-American history and culture through contemporary art.
- **Inspired: Student Art Exhibition**  
Imaginative artwork by students, grades K-12, from KHAC and area schools.
- **Cold Hands/Warm Heart**  
Annual winter juried show featuring works by local artists.

- **A Gathering: Installations by Migiwa Orimo**  
Selected components of installations involving a combination of painting, drawing, sculpture, text, sound and video.
- **We Create**  
Painting, photography, wood, fiber, jewelry, and more by members of the Kennedy Guild.
- **Joyce Clancy Legacy Exhibition**  
An exhibit honoring the memory of Joyce Clancy, an influential figure in Cincinnati's ceramic community.

## Teens Make an Impact through Public Art

Students at Kennedy Heights Arts Center “hogged” the spotlight this summer with public art projects in downtown Cincinnati, Over the Rhine and Avondale.

Directed by instructor Cedric Michael Cox, students, ages 10-16, collaboratively designed and created three art installations in public spaces. These projects allowed teen artists to explore and develop diverse forms of art-making, while connecting with peers and making an impact on the world around them.

The students’ most unique canvas was a large fiberglass pig. The young artists painted the animal figure as part of the city-wide Big Pig Gig coordinated by ArtWorks. Entitled Pigasso Serenade, the colorful swine features musical notes and instruments in a style inspired by the work of Pablo Picasso. The pig spent the summer on display in the new Washington Park directly across from Music Hall, before returning to be permanently installed on the grounds of the arts center.

The musical theme continued in a downtown art exhibit. In celebration of the World Choir Games, our students created music-themed, abstract paintings on canvas inspired by the works of Pablo Picasso, Juan Gris and Cedric Cox. Their paintings, displayed in empty store windows in Tower Place, welcomed the world visitors and helped Cincinnati put its best foot forward, showcasing the wonderful diversity in our community.

In our largest project of the summer, Kennedy Heights Arts Center partnered with Gabriel’s Place, a non-profit working to provide food security in the Avondale neighborhood. Students worked together to paint a mural on the four sides of a tool shed in the organization’s community garden. The vivid work of art celebrates the Gabriel’s Place mission to provide a safe and nourishing gathering place for the Avondale community.

These projects are mutually beneficial to both the teen artists and the public. Teens benefit from new artistic experiences and public acknowledgement of their talents, while community members enjoy a more vibrant environment.

Bill Witten, executive director of Gabriel’s Place, said of the mural project: “Through the leadership of Cedric Cox and the imagination of the student artists, you created an illustration that provided us with an instant conversation piece, since the mural captures the essence of the work and programming being provided at Gabriel’s Place. This artwork continues to provide a sense of pride for the community.”

KHAC teen artists gather around Pigasso Serenade, their painted pig.



Student Ally O’Malley paints the Angel Gabriel in a mural at Gabriel’s Place.

## Beyond Emancipation

Nine artists reflected on recent history of African-Americans in Beyond Emancipation, a stunning exhibit presented in partnership with Juneteenth Cincinnati. The exhibition honored the 25th anniversary of Juneteenth Cincinnati. “Juneteenth” or “Emancipation Day” celebrations are held across the country annually on or near June 19th as an occasion to celebrate one of the most important events in American history: the end of slavery in America. Cincinnati has held an annual Juneteenth festival since 1988.

Curator Barbara Gamboa brought together paintings, photographs and three-dimensional work by Cincinnati artists Jimi Jones, Melvin Grier, Jymi Bolden, Terrance Hammonds, Robert Harris, Kelly and Kyle Phelps, Thom Shaw and Michael Todd. From stark woodcuts by the late Thom Shaw depicting urban violence and drug use to Jimi Jones’ painting celebrating the Obama presidency, the work explored themes of heroes, hopes and dreams.

A selection of historical photographs lent from Cincinnati families supplemented the artwork, and together, these images took the viewer on a journey through history and culture, recognizing and celebrating the connection between past and present.



Jimi Jones’ “Crossing the Delaware”, a modern take on Grant Woods’ “Daughters of the Revolution”, celebrates the Obama presidency, with Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin looking on.

“As the nation observes Black History Month, Beyond Emancipation acknowledge(d) that sometimes it’s hard to keep hope alive,” remarked CityBeat’s Kathy Schwartz. “But even more, the show celebrate(d) the fact that hope has always been there and always will be.”

## Cards for a Cause



Ella creates a print on her Valentine’s Card using paint and shaving cream.

In 2011, a student at the art center came up with the idea of creating art to do good deeds in the community. This sparked an annual tradition at KHAC to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day through creativity and charitable giving. Instead of sleeping in on this school holiday, 25 local students spent the day making art, assisted by high school volunteers from Ursuline Academy. The students created handmade Valentine’s Day cards, each with a personalized message, utilizing two unique printing techniques introduced by art instructor Kelly Langdon.

The kids decided to give back by selling their one-of-a-kind cards in KHAC’s gift shop and donating all proceeds to a local charity. The 2011 beneficiary was The Caring Place, a local food pantry. This year, the students discussed what organization they would like to support and selected The Scratching Post, a no-kill shelter for cats located in Silverton.

“It was fun to make the cards,” said one student, “and it is nice for kids to think about helping others.”

We are not only proud of the work created by these youth, but also moved by their desire to share their talents to make a difference in the community.

# Thank you to all our donors

Your ongoing support is vital as we continue to provide enriching arts and cultural experiences for diverse people of all ages. Thank you to all who share and continue to support our mission of *enhancing the life of the surrounding community*.

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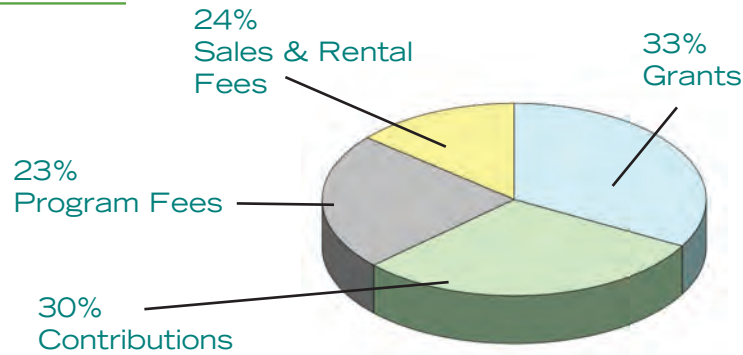
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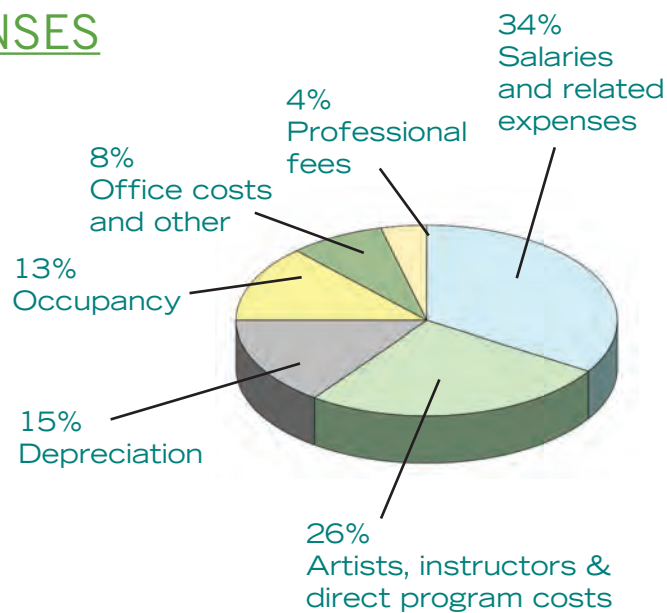
# Financial Report

Kennedy Heights Arts Center operating funds for year ended December 31, 2012

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$202,567
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$212,640
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$723,828
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$170,410

# Volunteer Honored

If you happen to go past the Kennedy Heights Arts Center late some evening, and think you hear something going bump in the night, it could be resident ghost Bertha (say some of the more creative imaginations around here). But more likely it's the still very-alive Eric Bertelsen, Kennedy Heights Arts Center's Volunteer of the Year.

Eric has been involved with the arts center since its first days a decade ago; he enjoys cooking, and offered to help cater for the grand opening. One thing Eric has come to love about helping at the arts center is that he's contributing to the part of town where he lives with his wife Lorrie (on Dryden Avenue), works as a pharmacist (at Target off Ridge Avenue), and now volunteers.



Volunteer Eric Bertelsen helps install nearly every exhibit in the KHAC galleries. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography.

Originally from Westerville, Ohio, Eric has carved out an important role for himself at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center as a volunteer exhibitions manager of sorts. He got involved with helping to hang artwork, then grew into more responsibility over the years.

Today, "Eric installs almost all of the art exhibitions in our gallery, working with the guest curators and sometimes curating himself," said arts center Executive Director Ellen Muse-Lindeman. A friend of photographer Gordon Baer, Eric was largely responsible for getting Baer's fascinating (and acclaimed) collection of human interest photos into the gallery earlier this year.

Eric's pharmacy shifts last 10 hours, so when he arrives at the arts center to begin hanging a show, it's after hours, and dark, and quiet – which is just how he likes it. "There's something about being in that building after 10 at night; it's so peaceful. There's a good vibe there."

Being so involved with hanging a show means Eric often works closely with exhibiting artists. "I get their 'back story.' I really like that," he said. Then, getting to see the incoming artwork unloaded from a van or truck is like seeing what's under the tree on Christmas morning, he said.

In turn, artists have expressed their appreciation for Eric's acquired skill. "He uses his exacting eye to make sure every painting, every photograph is hung at the right level and every art object is placed just so. Artists praise him. Many have gone out of their way to let me know how much they enjoyed working with Eric and what a big help he was," said Ellen.

Volunteering at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center means Eric gets to contribute to the neighborhood he lives and works in and where he and Lorrie raised their two children, he said, and he relishes that the arts center "is open to all types of art, and is a welcoming place to everyone."

By Jean Kinney



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