

2003
GOVERNOR'S AWARDS IN THE ARTS

2003
Governor's Awards in the
Arts
Recipients

Bill and Josephine D'Amato Richardson
Milner Award

The Judd Family
Naomi, Wynonna and Ashley
National Award

Arturo Alonzo Sandoval
Artist Award

Community Trust Bank
Business Award

Montgomery County Council for the Arts
Community Arts Award

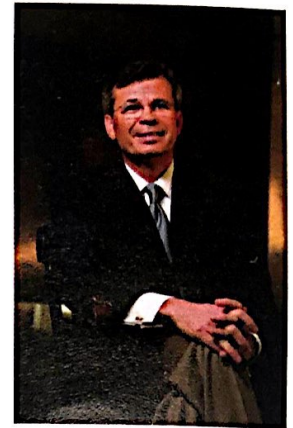
Vernell Bennett
Education Award - Individual

Kentucky Shakespeare Festival
Education Award - Organization

Lestel Childress
Folk Heritage Award

City of Berea
Government Award

Business First of Louisville
Media Award



March 11, 2004

Dear Fellow Kentuckians,

It is a great privilege to honor the 2003 recipients of the Governor's Awards in the Arts for their outstanding achievements and contributions. Among this distinguished group we find artists that have placed Kentucky on the map for artistic excellence in performing, visual and traditional arts. We have individuals that have made it their life's work to build community and enhance our children's education through the arts. It's also important to applaud this group of arts organizations, local government, business and media for the roles they play in creating cultural vitality and developing a strong economy for Kentucky.

The arts are a worthy investment in our future. Cities and counties with vibrant arts and cultural amenities are the communities that attract business to Kentucky. Through the arts we teach our children to be creative, to be problem solvers and to be team players — the most important skill sets necessary for tomorrow's workforce. It is the arts that forge partnerships between the public, private and non-profit sectors to enrich the lives of all Kentuckians.

Please join with me in celebrating the power of the arts in Kentucky and paying tribute to the 2003 Governor's Awards in the Arts recipients.

Ernie Fletcher

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernie Fletcher". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Governor,
Commonwealth of Kentucky

Community Arts Award

Montgomery County Council for the Arts

Arts opportunities in Montgomery County were very limited in the early 1990s. "We had a drive-in theater, a movie theater and cable TV," says Montgomery County Council for the Arts executive director Cay Lane, "and that was pretty much it."

The lack of arts programming, an economic depression and a jobless rate of almost 20 percent led people in Montgomery County to take action, forming an advisory committee to the local Recreation Commission. What started out as an eight member advisory committee evolved over the last 12 years into a non-profit, community-based arts organization. The Montgomery County Council for the Arts is now an organization with a 30 member board of directors, two part-time employees, and a membership of over 600 individuals and businesses from the Gateway to the Mountains region.

"Back in 1991 there were very few opportunities for the arts," Lane says. "Since then we have gone from maybe a festival and two or three events per year, to 11 annual events, 12 exhibits and about 25 other presentations and programs throughout the year."



Working with local schools, the Council has increased arts opportunities for children by sponsoring annual student art exhibits, dance and theater performances. Mini-grants are also provided to schools to bring in authors, storytellers, and the work of several visual artists. Providing a creative outlet for school children is particularly important because, as Lane points out, "Not everybody is cut out to be an athletic star. This gives those who are interested in the arts, an opportunity to perform and excel through such things as our



Everyone is "centerstage" at the Summer Playhouse Theatre Camp under the direction of Jansje Huyck.

theater camp or our community children's youth chorus. (It gives them) different methods of getting out and showing their talent."

The Montgomery County Council for the Arts' support isn't limited to schools and children's programming, however. With their support, other local arts groups have formed including the Gateway Regional Band and Sterling Singers. Others, like the Sterling Players and the Gate City Fine Arts Guild, have reestablished themselves adding to the mix of cultural offerings in the Montgomery County area.

With the guidance of the Council's African American Advisory Team and a community Migrant Coalition Team, several jazz, gospel and theatrical performances with Hispanic or African American themes have been sponsored. The Council also works with the local health department to develop "cultural tool kits" with information about Japanese and Native American cultures to present to area daycares and preschools.

Collaboration has been the key to their success. "It's very much a team effort. Nobody comes into our board or into the organization to just get something out of it for themselves, because there is a lot of hard work," says Robin Carrington, president of the Executive Board. "They come in with the idea that it is good for the community, it's good for our youth, and it's good for senior citizens and everybody else. It's that feeling of giving back to the community that the board has in mind. We've got something wonderful in our little town and because of that, you'll find that in the grocery stores, the veterinarian offices, the beauty shops and the pharmacies, people are talking about the arts, and it's exciting to be a part of that."

Last year the Council sponsored an historic post card exhibit put together by a California man whose mother still lives in Mount Sterling. Through the years, he'd collected over 2,000 old postcards of the town. The exhibit was held at the Council's Gallery for the Arts on Main Street. Carrington testified to its resound-

ing success. "We were really practically a fire hazard, we were so packed in there. Art just brings people together. It's all about finding connections with others."

The Gallery for the Arts has proven to be one of the Council's greatest successes. Since opening in 1997, the gallery has been home to over 80 exhibits ranging from very traditional to cutting edge contemporary works. The gallery has featured local, regional and national artists and continues to be a great learning resource for arts groups and students, including those from Morehead State University. The gallery also features a retail space where artists from the area can display and sell their work.

With the success of the gallery and the standing room only crowds, the Montgomery County Council for the Arts realized that the organization had outgrown its space. With the support of Mount Sterling and Montgomery County governments, they recently purchased an abandoned, historic church across the street from their current gallery. The new facility will be called the Gateway Regional Center for the Arts. The plan is to use the space for theatrical, music and dance performances, and will include an expanded gallery, a resource library and a studio for classroom instruction through Morehead State University.

Finding the resources to restore the building will enable them to further expand op-



Quilt show on display in the newly purchased church that will become the Gateway Regional Arts Center.

portunities for participation in the arts in the region. It will require teamwork and commitment, both of which seem to be in abundance in Montgomery County. Says Carrington, "Almost everyone wants to work together and I think it is because they recognize the nurturing the arts provide. It's a benefit. People in our community don't have to go outside of Mount Sterling/Montgomery County in order to get exposure to the arts. We can appreciate what we have right here in our own community."



First Friday Opening Reception for Gallery for the Arts livens the atmosphere for Mt. Sterling's Main Street.

Community Arts Award Past Recipients

- Elmer Lucille Allen*
- Wayne Smith*
- Mary Yeiser*
- Bowling Green-Warren County Arts Commission*
- G. Caliman Cox*
- Emily Wolfson*
- Ft. Knox Alumni Performing Arts Center*
- Donna Bradley-Morton*
- Rowan County Arts Council*
- Elizabeth Paxton*
- Fohs Hall Community Arts Foundation*
- Dorothy Brockman*
- John Edmonds*
- Tom Sternal*
- Appalshop*
- Jenny Wiley Theatre*
- Ashland Area Art Gallery*
- Princeton Art Guild*
- Cumberland County Arts Council*
- Living Arts and Science Center*
- Roots & Heritage Festival*
- Billie Jean Osborne*
- Kenneth H. Clay*
- Paramount Arts Center*
- Sandra Kilijian*
- Master Musicians Festival*
- Covington Community Center*
- Jarrett Boyd*
- Louisville Central Community Centers*