

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **For immediate release**

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### **CPAC announces first Creative Workforce Fellows**

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The Community Partnership for Arts and Culture (CPAC) has announced a roster of 20 outstanding Cuyahoga County design, craft, media, mixed media and visual artists plus two alternates selected to receive the first-ever Creative Workforce Fellowships (CWF).

The purpose of the CWF program is to sustain Cuyahoga County's rich history of arts and culture by supporting its creative workforce and providing an environment that nurtures creativity and innovation. The one-year fellowships honor each artist with a \$20,000 award to conduct research and development work and receive business-support services. According to Americans for the Arts, Greater Cleveland is home to 779 arts related businesses with a workforce that tops 7,000. These businesses and individuals contribute to the County through the sale of exported goods and services, which yields new state and local tax revenue, and by revitalizing neighborhoods and enriching the lives of residents.

CPAC launched the Creative Workforce Fellowship program with a grant it received from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC). CAC is the special unit of government established to receive and distribute the local tobacco tax dedicated to arts and culture support. Artists 18 years of age and older in all visual media who have been living in the county for two or more continuous years were eligible to apply; the 248 applications

submitted were evaluated May 18-19, 2009 by a peer panel of experienced artists from outside the Northeast Ohio area during adjudications to which the public was invited.

The winning artists are: (painting) Amy Casey, Donald E. Harvey, Michelle Anne Muldrow, Seth Rosenberg; (drawing) Lawrence Channing, Andrea Joki; (sculpture) Charmaine Spencer, Olga Ziemka; (photography) Bruce Checefsky, Lori Kella, Douglas Lucak, Julius Lyles, Nancy M. McEntee; (mixed media) Angela Oster; (wood) James Jubal Harris; (glass) Michael Mikula, Mark Sudduth; (fiber) Nina Vivian Huryn; (fashion design) Valerie Mayen; and (film) Laura Paglin. Two alternate artists were selected (industrial design) Michel Ina and (mixed media) Melissa Daubert, in the event a CWF recipient is unable to accept their one-year fellowship.

The awards in visual arts, media, mixed media and design represent the first cycle of the fellowships. The second cycle, planned to begin in July 2009, will focus on performing artists (dance, music, theater), literary artists and interdisciplinary artists.

CPAC, a Cleveland-based nonprofit organization, works to improve the lives of all Northeast Ohioans by ensuring the artistic and economic success of greater Cleveland's arts and culture community.

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