

NEWS RELEASE

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23 Pinellas County Artists Awarded Grants in First Cycle to Support their Careers and Value their Contributions to our Community

The Pinellas County Cultural Affairs Department is pleased to announce that 23 Pinellas County artists have been selected to receive funds totaling \$21,251.00 from the *Professional Development Individual Artist Grant* program. A panel representing each artistic discipline, and a representative from the Cultural Council, evaluated and scored the applications, then recommended funding which was approved by the Council on March 13th, 2008. The grant awards are for amounts up to \$1,000, and have recently been revised to offer grants to artists twice yearly to provide financial assistance for projects to advance or enhance the professional development of Pinellas County artists. Grants have been awarded to the following artists:

2008 Individual Artists Grant Projects and Awards

Cid Bolduc, visual artist from Gulfport, received \$1,000 to attend Montserrat Encaustic Conference & to produce rack cards or brochures; **Beth Brier**, a performing artist from Dunedin, received \$1,000 for training with the School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts; **Sarah Butz**, a visual artist from Clearwater, received \$500 to attend conference workshops at *Convergence*, a biennial textile/fiber arts conference; **Michelle Cartaya**, a visual artist from Palm Harbor, will use her \$750 grant award for art supplies and equipment to expand and complete her artistic projects; **Francine Ditton**, visual artist from Clearwater, received \$1,000 for materials and supplies to complete 18 large scale paintings and 6 large scale drawings; **Robert Bruce Epstein**, a visual artist from Redington Beach, received \$1,000 to purchase CAD 3-D modeling software and a notebook computer to realize design projects; **Robert Getz**, a visual artist from St. Petersburg, received \$1,000 to build inventory of framed images, matted prints and use Shozam Website Gallery Generator Software; **Elizabeth Indianos**, a multi-Media performing artist from Tarpon Springs, received \$1,000 to complete a multi-faceted project, "Waiting for Guacamole" with musicians, dancers, designers, and reworking of the website; **Carol Jenrette**, visual artist from Seminole, received \$1,000 to create a permanent photography booth to document her jewelry pieces; and **Mark Kerstetter**, a visual artist from St. Pete, received \$1,000 to purchase power tools to enhance the work he creates from salvaged wood.

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Additionally, visual artist from St. Petersburg **John Kohlburn** was awarded a grant for \$952 to purchase an easel to accommodate large canvasses, plus brushes and paint; **Antonia Lewandowski**, a literary artist from Largo, received \$750 to fund a 40-page chapbook to be read and disseminated (free) in low-income middle and high schools, plus sold at public readings; **James MacEachern**, a media artist from St. Pete, is receiving \$1,000 to purchase the Final Cut Pro 6.0 Editing Program for video production; and **Melissa Miller Nece**, a visual artist from Palm Harbor, is receiving \$1,000 to support her marketing plan, materials, assorted colored pencil and artist crayon sets.

Other awardees include **Elizabeth Minor**, a visual artist from Clearwater, who received \$500 to purchase a digital camera to document her artwork and enable printing of full color brochures; **Elizabeth Neily**, a media artist from Gulfport, received \$799 to purchase Adobe Premier Pro CS3 digital editing software; **Yoko Nogami**, a visual artist from St. Petersburg, received \$1,000 for tuition & travel for her Vermont Studio Center Residency and month-long studio access and interaction with other artists, plus the purchase of supplies; **Gus Ocamposilva**, a visual artist from Clearwater, received \$1,000 to purchase equipment and supplies for iron and resin sculptures; **Judith Salmon**, a visual artist from Gulfport, received \$1,000 to purchase equipment, rent the facilities and obtain the service of a master printmaker at Bleu Acier; **Robert Simone**, a visual artist from St. Petersburg, will use his \$1,000 award for tuition and travel to a 10-day advanced landscape painting workshop offered by artist Scott Christensen; **Sherrie St. James-Bastien**, visual artist from Oldsmar, will use her award of \$1,000 to purchase welding equipment and supplies for metal sculptures; **Hermann Trappman**, a visual artist from Gulfport, received \$1,000 for the purchase of a Canon zoom telephoto lens EF 100-400mm F4.5-5.6 6L IS USM; and visual artist **Michael Chomick** from St. Petersburg received \$1,000 to purchase a 13" MacBook computer to realize new projects. \$ 1,000.00

Panelists will soon be meeting to select the second cycle of artist applicants for 2008. If you are an artist living and working in Pinellas County, and have not received an Individual Artist Grant in the last three grant cycle years, you are eligible to apply for the next round of grants. The applications will be available for the *Professional Development Individual Artist Grants* this fall for 2009 project proposals. Please phone Cultural Affairs at 727.453.7860 if you need further information.

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