



Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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First BEAN Dinner Yields Micro-Grants for Three Art Projects

Brattleboro, Vt.—Attendees at the first BEAN (“Brattleboro Essential Arts Network”) Micro-Grant Dinner at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center on September 19 awarded grants totaling \$800 to three local art projects. The winning proposals were submitted by alumni of the New England Youth Theatre, In-Sight Photography Project, and early childhood educator Cyndal Ellis.

According to BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld, approximately 80 people paid \$10 each to attend dinner at the museum. Over dinner, which was prepared and served by Brattleboro’s Elliot Street Café, guests read and discussed 24 proposals submitted in advance, and then voted for the ones most deserving of the dinner proceeds. “We were taken aback by the number of proposals we received and by the number of people who showed up for dinner and to vote,” said Lichtenfeld. “Obviously, this type of direct, democratic, community-based approach to arts philanthropy resonates with people in our area.”

Alumni of Brattleboro’s New England Youth Theatre, including Jessica Callahan, Nick Bombicino, James Gelter, and Abbey Hadden, received a grant of \$300 to help produce three shows that will tour to local schools. According to their proposal, the shows

“combine theatre and literacy in a fun and exciting way.” Brattleboro’s In-Sight Photography Project received a grant of \$300 to support its new Mobile Digital Program, which offers youth who are unable to commute to In-Sight an opportunity to learn about photography. Early childhood educator and dance instructor Cyndal Ellis received a grant of \$200 to support a creative movement class for young children with a focus on global dance and music. All three winners will give brief presentations at the next BEAN Dinner on the impact of their grants.

“Our goal with this program is to galvanize support for projects that contribute to the vitality of art and/or artists in our community,” said Lichtenfeld. “We are pleased to have gotten off to a good start, and we look forward to hosting another dinner within a few months.” For more information about BEAN Micro-Grant Dinners, visit www.brattleboromuseum.org or the Elliot Street Café.

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center’s 2010-2011 season is provided by BMAC members and Entergy Vermont Yankee, Foard Panel, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Sam’s Outdoor Outfitters, and People’s United Bank. The Museum’s exhibits and gift shop are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Wednesday. Regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students. Members and children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Each season features compelling new exhibits of contemporary artwork by regional and internationally acclaimed artists, complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and other public programs. Located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142, the Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 802-257-0124 or visit www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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