

PRESS RELEASE

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Bellevue Arts Museum Celebrates One-year Anniversary on June 18, 2006!

Bellevue, WA – On June 18, 2006 Bellevue Arts Museum will celebrate the first anniversary of the Museum's opening. With the help of many community leaders and supporters, the Museum has had a very successful first year. The exhibitions have been very well received, the attendance has exceeded expectations, the membership numbers are at 2,600 and growing, the events for families and children have been extraordinary, and this year marks our 60th anniversary of Bellevue Arts Museum organizing the Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair, a benefit for Bellevue Arts Museum programs..

“This past year there has been a whirlwind of positive activity at the Museum. The Board of Trustees, the staff and I are committed to presenting an in-depth examination of craft in the context of diverse cultures as well as contemporary design. The regionally, nationally and internationally acclaimed exhibitions have inspired our visitors. We could not have had such success without help from key philanthropist individuals, business leaders, corporations, board members, donors, docents, guild members, volunteers and the support of our members.”

Michael Monroe, Executive Director, Bellevue Arts Museum

In these past few months the Museum has produced an astounding amount of high-quality exhibitions. By June 18 we will have presented 14 exhibitions, seven of which have been organized by Bellevue Arts Museum and produced three exhibition catalogs--a huge feat given the Museum's resources. Bellevue Arts Museum is actively fulfilling the Museum's mission to be the center for the exploration of art, craft and design through our exhibitions, educational programs and partnerships. The public's support for the Museum has been impressive, both with the number of visitors and through fundraising.

“In its first year, the Bellevue Arts Museum has created great excitement in executing its sharp new focus - all just in time to be the cultural anchor for the emergence of downtown Bellevue as a destination for fun and entertainment.” Jim Tune, Executive Director, ArtsFund

A Few Facts:

- The Museum has greeted more than 75,000 visitors since June 18, 2005
- Museum membership is at 2,600 and is increasing with new members as well as renewing members
- More than 60 educational programs produced including: lectures, workshops, and activities for families
- Presented 14 exhibitions in one year, organized seven of the exhibitions and produced three catalogs
- Planned and organized two successful Free Family Day events co-sponsored by the City of Bellevue
- Several outreach activities: showcased student exhibitions from Sammamish High School, Roosevelt High School, Art with Heart and City of Bellevue Parks Department
- Added new members to the Board of Trustees: John Frank (Microsoft) John Hepler (Tiffany & Co.) George Grubb (Easy Link LLC)
- Celebrating our 60th anniversary of the Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair to benefit and produced by Bellevue Arts Museum—the largest arts fair in the Pacific Northwest.
- The Museum Docents and volunteers produce KidsFair which is held every year in conjunction with the Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair
- The Museum has more than 80 docents, seven new and two docents are celebrating their 30 year anniversary with the Museum. A teen docent program has been revitalized and we have plans to expand the program . Given tours to more than 75 groups of all ages and offer tours in German, Dutch and French.
- Museum docents worked in partnership with the Junior League of Seattle in bringing the NW Art for the Schools program to Eastside schools.

“This last year has been amazing and exceeded our expectations. In the past few months, I have witnessed the Museum develop into the core cultural activity here in Bellevue and the greater Eastside. The Board of Trustees are grateful for the community support we have received and the positive responses from the public. We look forward to attracting more visitors, members and donors as we enter our second year.” Angela Sutter, Board Chair, Bellevue Arts Museum

Current Exhibitions:

Studio Glass: Decorative and Functional Objects
On view until October 1, 2006

Wrapped in Color: Kimonos by Tim Harding, Jackets by Jon Eric Riis
On view until September 24, 2006

Upcoming Exhibitions:

On Mapping: New Perspectives with a Common Thread
June 8 - September 3, 2006

Garry Knox Bennett: Call Me Chairmaker
July 6 - November 26, 2006

Mohamed Zakariya, Islamic Calligrapher
September 21, 2006 - February 18, 2007

Dim Sum at the On-On Tea Room: The Jewelry of Ron Ho
September 21, 2006 - February 18, 2007

American Tapestry Alliance Biennial 6
October 6, 2006 - January 7, 2007

William Morris: Native Species
October 19, 2006 - April 29, 2007

Turning Wood Into Art: The Jane and Arthur Mason Collection
December 12, 2006 - April 8, 2007

Barbara Cooper: Regeneration (working title)
January 16, 2007 to April 29, 2007

Bellevue Arts Museum

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of the fine art of craft and design. An emphasis is placed on regional craft artists as part of the national and international conversation on fine craft and design. Bellevue Arts Museum is located at 510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. The Museum's main information line is 425.519.0770 and website is www.bellevuearts.org

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