

## Art Speak Accomplishments

We are on the verge of mounting Over Night Art for the third time.

This time the theme is "Ridges "

Think bridges over the Piscataqua

Think bridges from city government to the community

Thinks bridges for funding solutions through out the region

21 artists submitted proposals for 6 commissions

Five will be in town with one at Pease this year at the corner of International Drive and Corporate drive.

We raised \$25,000. For this endeavor. Most notably with the exceptions for a \$6,000. and a \$5,000. Contribution the remaining amounts were substantially single individuals giving between \$100-\$500.

These folks value the quality of life we have and want to support the efforts to preserve those qualities.

It must seem you are 'accepting' money on our behalf frequently. That is accurate but the individual amounts are modest for the most part. From every day citizens.

## Youth and Education

Art Speak secured a grant from the Nh State Council that funded ArtWorks which has introduced Portsmouth Middle School Students to local careers in the arts by creating partnerships between the school district locally owned and run businesses and

local artists. All of whom are contributing to the Greater Portsmouth Creative economy.

Art Speak celebrated youth art month (March) by arranging for the students art to be displayed in downtown businesses.

This is the second year we have affected the 'show' and judging by the reaction of the businesses and the students this will go on for a time to come.

## Public Art

Art Speak Developed and presented "Fired Up" a symposium to celebrated Portsmouth 1<sup>st</sup> new permanent public art piece in 20 years.

Art Speak also developed an Art Acquisition policy for the City. This will assist the City going forward when offers of donations are made. There is a context as to how to evaluate those donations, and assess their value and recommend placement.

Though budgetary constraints quashed the per cent for art for Fire Station 2- it should be noted that we had received 38 proposals from artists across the country.

## Our Cultural Community

The Portsmouth Museum of Fine Arts opened in July

Vintage Christmas – a collaboration between Strawberry Banke and the Music Hall and local businesses was cited by the Boston Globe as "one of the top ten things not to be missed in NE"

Strawberry banke also partnered the Harbor Light Productions to the and present Lamplight Dialogues

Being re present Thursday, Friday, Saturdays and Sundays through May 23. This project won 5 spotlight awards.

### **The Music Hall**

The Music Hall quietly and capably raised \$9m towards their goal of \$13m to complete renovations and restorations to the Hall it self and the new space the Loft on Congress Street.

They too found that much of those funds were raised from everyday individuals concerned about maintaining this cultural economic engine.

### **Seacoast Rep**

Purchased the Mill Pond center which will allow for increased programming, rehearsal space and education.

### **The Discover Center**

Under the aegises of the Portsmouth Historical Society the Discover center has opened as a full service visitor center. It has hosted events with subjects from opera to slave trade. They also co occupy their space with the African American Cultural Center and the Star Island Corp.

Though many organizations have reduced employee numbers and spending. Lights are on there is some one home in our cultural venues.

Pontine Theatre and the N Theatre Project continue their successful co occupancy at WEST on Islington Street.

The Players ring remains vital and an active presence on the cultural landscape.

## Per the Wire

The growth of the Seacoast's theater community has been mirrored by swelling interest from local audiences. But even with demand on the rise, many theatre venues are struggling to cover their costs.

This holds true for all of our cultural organizations large or small.

## Lemon Story.