

Turn art-making into community-building?

CULTURE CLASH
RON ROLLINS



Lots of us in the Midwest have long since grown

tired of the "Rust Belt" moniker that's become attached to our region, but I recently heard a use of the term that excited my interest.

A couple of local arts administrators were talking about a conference in Cleveland called "Rust Belt to Artist Belt," by an organization there called CPAC, the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture.

CPAC's executive director is somebody well known in Dayton arts circles — Tom Schorgl, the one-time chief of Culture Works who left here about a decade ago to head the Cleveland nonprofit. Funded by some heavy-hitting foundations in northeast Ohio, CPAC's mission is to build the local arts community by studying the day-to-day needs of individual artists and small-to medium-sized arts organizations, then figure out creative solutions for them. For instance, Schorgl said, CPAC found ways to help provide affordable health insurance for self-employed artists.

"Economic development and recovery are important, and we've studied how the economic activity of arts and culture in northeast Ohio contribute," Schorgl said. "We help artists and arts and culture organizations improve their business practices, and focus on the artist as entrepreneur."

Lately, CPAC's main focus has been working with oth-

er agencies to help restore run-down neighborhoods — in particular, Collinwood and Detroit-Shoreway — by helping artists and their families to move into some of the city's thousands of vacant homes. Turn art-making into community-building? Other cities have done it.

Thus the "Rust Belt to Artist Belt" workshops. The first one was to help bankers, developers, zoning officials and Realtors understand "how artists work and what they do, sort of demystify them; what happens when artists move into a neighborhood? What do they need?"

The next session was for artists, to help them approach and work with the sort of people who could help them move into and improve neighborhoods that needed new blood.

The effort has attracted national press attention; a recent Wall Street Journal story praised CPAC and Cleveland's efforts and pointed at progress.

What can smaller cities such as Dayton do?

"Look inward first and don't rush to copy another community," Schorgl said. "Assess what you have that is indigenous and strong and build on that. What's your brand? Appalachian art? Dance? And be sure you're building partnerships beyond the arts and culture center, into the larger community. Evaluate, and don't be afraid to fail.

"And remember you have to be in this for the long term; you won't fix anything in just a few years."

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-2165 or rrollins@DaytonDailyNews.com.

Celebrations

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Anniversary



GEORGE & JEAN SCHAUER 55TH ANNIVERSARY

Bud & Jeannie of Clayton OH were married on October 2, 1954. George originally from Canton OH retired from Frigidare in 1979. He has been active in Scouting and many clubs & hobbies. Jean retired from Red Lobster in 1985. She is active in the Charming renewal & in Parish ministries. Both are avid Volksmarchers in which they recently completed a mini marathon. May the Lord continue to bless their marriage & many heartfelt thanks from their children for all you do for us! Much Love from all the Schauer's.



EARL & LOUISE SHEPARD 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Earl and Louise (Malone) Shepard will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 10, 2009. They have three sons Rick (Dena) Shepard, Tom Shepard, and Todd Shepard. Four Grandchildren, Audra (Nick) Lamb, Eric Shepard, Emily Shepard, and Ross Shepard. A celebration with family and friends will be held at the First Baptist Church in New Lebanon. On their Anniversary their Children and Grandchildren wish them many more Happy Years to Come.



RON & PAT SEIGLA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On October 3, 1959 in Cincinnati, Ohio residing in Centerville for 48 years. They celebrated By sharing a Hawaiian cruise in June, 2009 with their family. They are the proud parents And grandparents of Tami (Tim) Parks, Tad and Troy and Tari (Scott) Whitaker, Emilee and Chase. Ron has practiced Pharmacy in the Dayton area for 50 years and volunteered as a Firefighter, captain and paramedic with Washington Township Fire Department. Pat retired from Star Bank. Ron is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and they both are Active in the Order of the Eastern Star.

JOHN & SHARON COOPER HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Married 50 years ago on September 12, 1959! LOVE your children and grandchildren: Pam, Mike, Cameron, and Nolan; Jeff and Linda; JoAnn, Lowell and Trevor!



RONALD & NANCY KELTZ 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ron and Nancy were married October 4, 1959 at the Church of Christ in Paris, IL. They will celebrate this special occasion with family. We love you both and wish you continued health and happiness!

Wedding Engagement

LOIS STEWART & JONAH BASKIN WEDDING

Lori Elizabeth Stewart and Jonah Tyler Baskin were married on Saturday September 5th, 2009 at the Dayton Art Institute. Lori is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. David Stewart of Beavercreek, Ohio and Jonah is the son of Kim Lukey of Huber Heights and William Baskin of Oregon, Ohio. Lori Stewart attended Beavercreek High School and Ohio University where she graduated with a business degree in Marketing and Merchandising. Jonah Baskin attended Northmont High School and Wright State University. He is serving in the Coast Guard and is stationed in Kodiak, Alaska. They will reside in Kodiak, Alaska after the wedding.



NAVES/ELDER ENGAGEMENT

Paul and Nancy Naves of Butler Township are excited to announce the engagement of their daughter Samantha Elizabeth Naves to Gordon Joseph Elder III, son of Gordon and Judy Elder, also of Butler Township. Both are graduates of Vandalia-Butler High School, class of 2007. Samantha is a student at Wright State University majoring in Political Science. Gordon is serving in the U.S. Navy and is currently stationed in Jacksonville, FL. The engagement took place on August 16, 2009. The wedding date has yet to be set.

Birthday



ORA LEE HOLLEY HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

Ora Lee Holley, wife of the late James B. Holley, Mother of seven children, 16 grand children, 35 great grand children and 3 great-great grand children. Family and Friends plan on having a lovely celebration

Celebrations

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Your announcement must be received by 5pm, 11 days prior to the requested publication date.

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