



Entertainment

## Delco arts organizations unite (video)

Monday, February 6, 2012

By Margie Royal

Delaware County is filled with artists and artistic treasures and boasts a diverse mix of culture, history and arts organizations. In 2009, it was decided to form an advocacy group for the arts in Delaware County and, 18 months ago, the Delaware County Arts Consortium (DCAC) was formed.

Delaware County Arts organization leaders may have realized that working together might help each other survive in these tough economic times. In 2009, organization leaders began visiting each other's venues for monthly meetings to share goals, exchange ideas and plan for the future of the Delaware County Arts Consortium (DCAC), the name they have chosen for themselves.

Leaders from the following organizations: Brandywine River Museum, Community Arts Center, Darlington Arts Center, Delaware County Symphony, Hedgerow Theatre, International Ballet Classique, Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation, Main Line Art Center, Media Arts Council and Media Theatre are among the founding members of the Consortium.

The group is under the umbrella of the Philadelphia Cultural Alliance that represents more than 231 arts organizations in Philadelphia and the adjacent counties.

For the first time all the cultural non-profit organizations in Delaware County are coming together to share information and promote arts advocacy to local county and state government officials. The primary goal is to highlight for Delaware County residents all the creative and cultural activities happening right here in Delco..

The major and secondary non-profit arts organization no longer wish to remain small independent fiefdoms, but are now socially and organizationally fused and nourished by a common vision and goal -- to help the arts flourish in Delaware County.

All the members feel that the variety and quality of the arts in Delco is amazing and that it adds a great deal to the quality of life.

“The Media Arts Council's mission is to support local artists and integrate a variety of arts into the life of the community. We are part of the Delaware County Arts Consortium for the same reason; we believe that all artists deserve and need support and that the county residents benefit

from their efforts. MAC is proud to be part of this dynamic group that represents a cross spectrum of the arts,” said Judy Fowler, Executive Director, MAC.

Patrick Ward, Media Theatre’s executive director, added, that the DCAC is “moving toward formalization. We need to define what are the requirements and eligibility standards (for DCAC) and need to work in concert with each other and promote each other.”

Rachel Ammon, Main Line Arts Center’s Communication Director, added, ”Anything we can do to promote the arts around us only benefits us all.”

Josie Singer, Executive Director of the International Ballet Classique, agreed. “Working together benefits arts groups and enhances skills of the artists,” she said.

You may notice an official informational flyer entitled “All Roads Lead to the Arts in Delaware County,” in the lobbies of DCAC arts venues. The flyer shares a few facts about the impact of the arts in Delaware County.

According to the flyer: there are more than 30 non-profits arts and cultural organization in Delco that pump \$25,925,269 into the local economy. More than 439,178 attendees and 70,801 school children enjoy Delco arts and cultural offerings. These organizations also create 1,450 jobs. More than 4336 different cultural events were produced last year.

DCAC is now in the process of planning the next steps of its growth.

At the Feb. 1 meeting in the McNichol Room Life Center building at Neumann University, a topic of discussion was how to go about expanding the Consortium to include other non-profit cultural organizations that make their home in the County.

DCAC will make a formal presentation to Delaware County Council members at the Council’s Feb. 14 meeting.

For more information on the DCAC, call Deborah A. Krull, Esquire, at 610-627-1010 or e-mail [dkrull@dkrulllaw.com](mailto:dkrull@dkrulllaw.com).

URL: <http://www.delconewsnetwork.com/articles/2012/02/06/entertainment/doc4f30021fc95b331598470.prt>

© 2012 Delco News Network, a [Journal Register](#) Property