

# artnews



(From left) Robert Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts; Mary A. Becht, Director of the Broward Cultural Division; Broward Cultural Council Member Margaret Mitchell Armand; and Mayor Josephus Eggleton Jr.

## Broward County Greet National Arts Leaders

Broward County was the focal point of the nation's arts and cultural scene in January when approximately 125 arts leaders converged on our community for three days of meetings. The representatives of a number of leadership groups from *Americans for the Arts* participated in numerous work sessions, attended receptions and exhibits, and toured a number of the County's cultural venues and public art installations.

"We welcome this opportunity to demonstrate the depth and breadth of our cultural offerings, and thank *Americans for the Arts*' Chair Stephen Spiess and President and CEO Robert Lynch for choosing to hold this important national meeting of arts leaders here for the very first time," said Broward County Mayor

Josephus Eggleton Jr. in welcoming the attendees. He took the opportunity to tell the arts leaders about Broward County's extensive accomplishments and ambitious agenda for advancing the arts on a local level.

Participants in the meetings included *Americans for the Arts*' board of directors as well as leaders of the United States Arts Federation, the Public Art Network Council, the Emerging Leader Council and the Arts Education Council. *Americans for the Arts* is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in the United States. With offices in Washington and New York, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

## Cultural Consortium Awards Fellowships to Broward Artists

Five Broward County artists are among the recipients of 2007 South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowships for Visual and Media Artists. They include Robert Friedman and Ray Azcuy, each of whom received \$15,000 awards, as well as Louis Davis and the husband-and-wife team of Suzanne Scherer and Pavel Ouporov, who received \$7,500 fellowships. Azcuy also received the fellowship in 2001.

The Consortium also awarded fellowships to six visual artists from Miami-Dade County, two from Palm Beach County and two from Monroe County. The \$15,000 fellowships are the largest such awards provided by local arts agencies in the United States. From Miami-Dade County, the recipients are Alexander Heria (\$15,000), Billie Grace Lynn (\$15,000), Maria Martinez-Cañas (\$15,000), Theresa Diehl (\$15,000), Leila A. Leder Kramer (\$7,500) and Jonathan Peck (\$7,500). Palm Beach County recipients are Katie Deits (\$7,500) and Walter Hnatysh (\$7,500). In Monroe County, the recipients are Richard Haden (\$7,500) and Leo Gullick (\$7,500).

The awardees were selected during a two-panel tiered process that included the participation of regional and national arts experts. Selection by the regional panel was totally anonymous, based solely on the quality of the artists' work as evidenced by slides or video/films submitted. The regional panel

included Eric Freedman, a 2006 fellowship recipient from Broward County, and Jorge Santis of the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale. The recommendations were forwarded to a national panel composed of David Cabrera, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Bill Fagaly, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans; Theaster Gates, University of Chicago Arts Programs, Chicago; and Kelly Gordon, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.

An exhibition featuring the works of the recipients will be presented at the Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach from July 20 to September 9. The South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowships for Visual and Media Artists is a cooperative project funded in part with the support of the *National Endowment for the Arts*, the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, the Boards of County Commissioners of Broward, Miami-Dade, Martin and Monroe counties, and the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

### Light Project Debut Caps 30 Year Celebration of Public Art and Design

Brilliant emerald-green lasers and multi-colored LED lights lit up Fort Lauderdale's Huizenga Park for the first time on a crisp, late January night as the *Broward Light Project*

made its debut. The dedication of the spectacular light-based work by public artist Dan Corson wrapped up a year-long celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Broward Cultural Division's Public Art and Design Program.

"It has been a whirlwind year for us," said Mary A. Becht, director of the division. "We have welcomed support and partnerships from the Downtown Development Authority, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida Power and Light and many other city hosts (including Coconut Creek, Coral Springs, Davie, Hollywood, Lauderdale Lakes, Miramar, North Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Sunrise); voluntaryvoluntary involvement from community members; and much media attention – resulting in a series of successful events and making us aware of the great interest and appreciation for public art."

The celebration featured the St. Thomas Aquinas High School marching band, dancers from the Dillard Center for the Arts and music by the Gold Coast Jazz Society. Approximately 400 people attended the evening's festivities.

The Broward County Commission's Cultural Council commissioned Corson to create the work. It features two permanent components. *Luminous Conjunctions* consists of energy-efficient LED lights that illuminate the trees lining the plaza when they are triggered by motion



Without question, 2007 is off to a great start – in part because public art and design continues to make a splash in our community, both figuratively and literally.

The unveiling of Dan Corson's high-profile *Broward Light Project* in downtown Fort Lauderdale offers one glittering example. So too does the recent dedication of Ritsuko Taho's magnificent fountain and other wonderful works in the ArtsPark at Hollywood's Young Circle. These new additions clearly show that our cultural community is pulsing with creative energy. You can read about both events in the *ArtNews* section.

This issue also takes a look at the many exciting developments on the cultural scene in Coral Springs – including the 10th anniversary of the Coral Springs Museum of Art, the continuing popularity of the Coral Springs Center for the Arts and the rapid growth of the city's public art program.

Elsewhere, "Cultural Close Up" features the enthusiastic women of Brazilian Voices and we profile the fascinating artists Suzanne Scherer and Pavel Ouporov, who are among the latest recipients of the South Florida Cultural Consortium Visual and Media Artist Fellowships.

As always, the rich diversity and exceptional creativity found in Broward County continues to shine! Culture is Countywide in Broward. ★

Sincerely,  
Josephus Eggelton Jr.  
Broward County Mayor



(From left) South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship winners Louis Davis, Pavel Ouporov, Suzanne Scherer, Robert Friedman and Ray Azcuy



*Illuminated trees lining Huizenga Plaza are an integral component of the Broward Light Project.*

sensors located around the park. *Emerald Laser Lawn* also uses motion sensors to trigger laser light projections of a variety of patterns on the plaza's central lawn.

This is the first Florida installation for Corson, whose work has been exhibited in Washington, California, Oregon, Maine, Nevada and Hawaii. Internationally his creativity has been on view in The Czech Republic, England, Australia and Madagascar. He recently returned from a residency in Italy.

## Highly Anticipated ArtsPark Officially Opens in Hollywood

With new works by renowned Japanese artist Ritsuko Taho as the focal point, the eagerly awaited ArtsPark at Young Circle in downtown Hollywood was dedicated in March.

Originally conceived as part of Broward County's Community Cultural Plan 2010 in response to a community-identified need for hands-on facilities for arts and culture, the ArtsPark was seeded with \$5 million in park bond funding from the Broward County Board of County Commissioners in 2002. The 10-acre park is located at Hollywood Boulevard and U.S. 1.

The focal point of the ArtsPark is a spectacular fountain designed by

Taho in collaboration with project designer Margi Glavovic Nothard and architect Marvin Scharf. Taho's design concept, *Millennium Springs*, consists of three components: A water sculpture within the fountain along with sound art and an ornamental ceremonial rope encircling a large baobab tree in the park; a dream wave pattern sculpture, which is incorporated into the park's walkway design; and an e-sculpture that will be accessible to people all over the world via the Internet.

## Richard Jay Simon Chairs Cultural Executives Group

The new chair of the Broward Cultural Division's Cultural Executives Committee (CEC) is Richard Jay Simon, executive and artistic director of the award-winning Mosaic Theatre in Plantation. Simon received his degree in theater from Ithaca College and studied at Boston University, Hangar Theatre Lab Company and Merry-Go-Round Playhouse. He has written several plays and directed numerous others, including *The Elephant Man*, *Amadeus*, *Art*, *BecauseHeCan*, *The Pull of Negative Gravity*, *Proof* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*, to name a few.

Prior to founding Mosaic Theatre, Simon's career included positions at Court Theatre, Chicago Dramatists



*Richard Jay Simon*

and Bailiwick Repertory in Chicago; and with Atlantic Theatre Company, Kitchen Theatre, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, Hangar Theatre and Clark Theatre in New York. The CEC meetings, held three times a year, are designed to keep the directors of arts organizations informed about important issues and opportunities within the cultural arts community.

## Three Artists Complete Airport Video Installations

The Broward Cultural Division's Public Art and Design Program recently celebrated the installation of three original video artworks at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The works – *Personal Mappings of the Objective World*, *Momentum* and *Passage of Time*, are part of the airport's public art video collection and can be viewed on the plasma screens of Concourse B in Terminal 1.

*Personal Mappings of the Objective World*, by Miami-based filmmaker Konstantia Konstaxis, projects a fractured view of Broward County, as if seen through a kaleidoscope, broken down into four different locations. The locations were photographed by different cameras running simultaneously in one day from sunrise to sunset, observing movement and interaction of people with the space. Time/chronology is the organizing principle behind the piece, as well as patterns and rhythms of public activity.

*Momentum*, by South Florida filmmaker Mark Moormann, presents a narrative that unearths the unique history of Broward County by crafting visual connections between its past and present. By comparing and contrasting many of the region's historic landmarks,



*Ritsuko Taho's fountain is a central element of the new Hollywood ArtsPark.*



Jose Luis Ocejo



Mark Moormann



Konstantia Konstaxis

the artist produced a presentation that entertains and enlightens, providing viewers a broader perspective on the area's unique natural and human histories.

*Passage of Time*, by cinematographer Jose Luis Ocejo, focuses on several locations around Broward County, including the Hillsboro Lighthouse, Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, the Winterfest Boat Parade and the County's beaches through a technique of time-lapse cinematography, in which each film frame is captured at a rate much slower than the rate of playback – creating a different and almost magical perspective of ordinary life for the viewer.

### Cultural Division Revamps Website

The home page of the Broward Cultural Division's website has introduced a colorful, new look and several new features to explore. The site spotlights the latest



developments on the County's arts and cultural scene as well as links to a wide array of information and resources.

As this issue of *Cultural Quarterly* went to press, the featured item on the home page told visitors about the dedication of the *Broward Light Project* – complete with clips of news coverage, a photo album from the dedication event and additional background on the initiative. A new "Cultural Highlights" section on the page provides links to announcements of seminars and workshops, *Calls to Artists* and the current issue of *Cultural Quarterly*.

To check out the developments for yourself, visit [www.broward.org/arts](http://www.broward.org/arts).

### 18th Annual Encore Awards Salute Cultural Achievements

ArtServe has announced the 2007 honorees for its yearly celebration of the vibrant South Florida arts and cultural scene – the Encore Awards. The 18th annual event, with title sponsor BankAtlantic, will take place on May 18 at the Hyatt Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. Award recipients are scheduled to include the following:

- Individual Leadership – Bonnie Barnett and Chris Wren
- Business Leadership – Ruden McClosky, P.A.
- Government Leadership – City of Tamarac
- Arts Administrator – Joy Satterlee
- Arts Collaboration – Riverwalk a&e
- Artist of the Year for Community Impact – Tony Thompson

- Special Recognition – Michael Goodman

### THE MORETTI AWARD

The Moretti Award, presented by the Cultural Foundation of Broward, will go to Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir. ArtServe also will present a President's Award, which will be announced at a later date.

For information about sponsorship packages, program advertising opportunities, silent auction donations and tickets to the event, call ArtServe at (954) 462-8190.

### Work Begins on New Edition of Family Arts and Ride Guide

A new edition of the popular *Family Arts and Ride Guide*, published every other year by the Broward Cultural Division, is being prepared for publication in time for the 2007-2008 school year. The booklet lists all of the Broward County cultural organizations that offer arts programs for families and children. It incorporates contact information, a description of the discipline and the projects associated with each organization. To encourage residents in all parts of the County to participate, a Broward County bus route map is included.



The cultural arts disciplines covered by the *Family Arts and Ride Guide* encompass the visual and perform-

ing arts, folk arts and crafts, media arts, history, archeological and natural science museums and much more. Classes, arts camps, exhibits, performances and many other types of events are referenced in the brochure. The current version of the guide is available in the Publications section of the Cultural Division's website at [www.broward.org/arts](http://www.broward.org/arts). You can also request a copy by calling Terrie Ford at (954) 357-8007.

### Prime Site on Riverfront Donated to Broward Center

A group of investors has donated a prime piece of land on the Riverwalk in Fort Lauderdale to the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. The gift is appraised at \$3 million. Located immediately south of the Broward Center, the donated site overlooks the New River.



The contributors with officials of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Pictured above are contributors Frank J. Abdo and Joel Altman (second and third from left) and Jack Abdo (second from right), along with Broward Center President and CEO Mark Nerenhausen (left), Broward Performing Arts Foundation Chairman Robert B. "Buddy" Lochrie Jr. (third from right) and Performing Arts Center Authority Chairman Ray Rodriguez (right). Contributor Alan Levan is not shown.



### Show Us Your CQ!

With our increasingly diverse population and thriving travel industry, it's natural to assume that readers of *Cultural Quarterly* can be found far beyond the borders of Broward County. If you

have a copy of our magazine in your bag or briefcase on your next trip, we encourage you to snap a photo and send it to us. We'll publish the best results in a future issue.

To start the ball rolling, Samantha Rojas, public relations writer for the Broward Cultural Division, submitted the photo above from a recent trip to her native Trinidad. The backdrop is Hasley Crawford Stadium in Port of Spain.

Let us see where you read *Cultural Quarterly*! Send your photo along with your name, e-mail address and a brief description of the scene to Jody Leshinsky at [jleshinsky@broward.org](mailto:jleshinsky@broward.org).

### Short Takes...

► The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society appointed **Richard C. Borges** as executive director. His career includes positions as executive



Richard C. Borges

director of the H.H. Franklin Foundation in Tucson, Ariz.; the Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vt.; the Upper Midwest Conservation Association, Minneapolis; and Old York Historical Society in York, Maine. He is a former board member of the American Association of Museums.

► **Patrick J. Flynn** has been named executive vice president of development for the Museum of Discovery and Science and Blockbuster IMAX



Patrick J. Flynn

Theater in Fort Lauderdale. The long-time South Florida resident was formerly managing director of Florida Grand Opera in Broward and Palm Beach counties. He is a member and past chair of the Broward Cultural Council.



Lucricia Welters

► **Lucricia "Lu" Welters**, founder of Jubilee Dance Theatre, was recognized recently by JM Family Enterprises and Southeast

Toyota Distributors as the Arts and Culture honoree in the 2007 African

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## George Bolge: 'One of The Oldest Living Directors in the Business'

In a career spanning more than three decades in the museum business, George Bolge has seen, done and heard it all. He has opened two museums and helped grow a third to adult status. He has curated countless exhibitions – and stayed up until the wee hours before the openings making sure that exactly the right painting is hung on just the right wall that's painted in precisely the right color. He has published innumerable catalog essays and articles on art history, wined and dined scores of donors and shared his consulting expertise with institutions across the country.

Outspoken with an unfailing wit, he's not afraid to say what he thinks – and never takes himself too seriously. Any conversation with him will easily be the most entertaining you'll have all day – or maybe all year.

Caught at his desk on a recent morning, he is characteristically self-deprecating from the start of the interview. "Whatever you've done at this point in your career, whatever image or personality you have, there's little chance of correcting. When I fly in airplanes now, I'm no longer frightened. I'm happy with the results," he says.

"When guys reach this age (65) and have done wonderful things, they then either do some damn stupid things or the Feds catch up to them," he continues, laughing. "I want to do nothing to affect what I've accomplished so far. In my younger times I didn't mind crawling out on a limb. But when you're an old man you look silly."

There's little danger that a man with Bolge's credentials will fall into such a trap – or out of a tree. He joined the Fort Lauderdale Museum as



executive director in 1970 when it was located in a Las Olas Boulevard storefront. During his 18-year tenure, he drove the construction and opening of the award-winning Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale facility in 1986. (He now holds the title of Director Emeritus.) He was executive director of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts from 1991-95 and, in 1995, became executive director of the Boca Raton Museum of Art – where he was at the helm for the building and launch of its stellar new facility in Mizner Park in January 2001.

A resident of Parkland, Bolge keeps his oar in Broward County's cultural waters as a member of the Broward Cultural Council's Public Art and Design Committee. "Here I am back home," he quips. He was involved in the initial stages of the County's public art program 30 years ago, which took its first steps by "strategically placing monuments – major works of art." He still subscribes to this philosophy. "I'm the resident 'plop art' guy. I've been trying to solve this dilemma of public art vs. fine art. Public art has become a generic thing. But I believe it provides us an opportunity to discover some of the most talented artists of our time – today's Michelangelos and da Vincis.

"You want to give vent to creativity in the city, but you also have to show people something that's really good. We're always on that precipice," he continues. "This area can only excel and be competitive with New York and Chicago by the quality of what we can show."

While he may differ at times with his colleagues on whether to commission new works by emerging artists or purchase pieces by established names in the field, he is in full agreement about the value of public art's role in our community. "It makes a wonderful environment. This program has given the community a foot up. It's one of the best programs in the country," Bolge observes. "It has raised the level of cognizance in the community and given us a level of pride."

In a career that's far from over, George Bolge can look back with the confidence and security that comes from a job – in fact, several jobs – well done.

"I'm one of the oldest living directors still in this business," he jokes. "It's not only building two museums from scratch with good collections and not having them go belly up. The corporate and foundation money has become more difficult to raise and we have to rely more on what we bring in at the front gate, but I'm still very enthused by this area. South Florida is a very energetic place. I have a sense of pride in this community."

And despite his protestations to the contrary, he's likely to keep going out on limbs – and saying what he wants. "I can get away with it," he confesses, with another laugh. "People say, 'Oh, that's just George.'" ★ – Leon M. Rubin

# CITY CORNER

## ARTNEWS

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American Achievers program. A choreographer and former dancer with the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Philadanco (Philadelphia Dance Company) and the Lula Washington Dance Company, she is committed to encouraging and educating aspiring dancers of all ages.



► The Florida Youth Orchestra has been invited to participate in the 400th anniversary celebration in Jamestown, Va., in May. More than 50 of the group's musicians will join a 400-piece orchestra in a concert expected to be attended by President Bush as well as Queen Elizabeth II. In recent years, the orchestra has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

► Broward Cultural Council Member Margaret Mitchell Armand has written a chapter, "Haitian Taino Resistance and Rebellion," in the new, two-volume *Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellion*, part of Greenwood Publishing's *Milestones in African American History* series. The work, edited by Junius P. Rodriguez, focuses on the history of slave resistance in North America, the Caribbean and South America.

► Mary Ann Carroll, the only female artist among the Florida Highwaymen, and Tony Thompson, an award-winning actor and president of the African World Artist Collective of South Florida, were chosen by the Cultural Foundation of Broward to serve as judges for February's exhibition, *The African Diaspora Experience*, at ArtServe's JM Family Enterprises Gallery. ★



The public art component of the new Weston Branch Library features 56 lenticular images.

- Broward County's new two-story, 50,000-square-foot Weston Branch Library was dedicated in February with more than 200 people in attendance, including children from Everglades Elementary School, and music by Brazilian Voices (see page 10). The second floor is occupied by classrooms, offices and conference rooms for the Broward Community College Weston Center.

Adding richness and character to the library is its public art component – *Reflections* by Margaret Tolbert and Nitin Jayaswal. The artist team produced 56 photographs – each 32" x 24" – that are installed on four sides of 11 interior columns and along one of the walls. Created using the lenticular imaging process, each image has the ability to "flip" into another image – much as reflections in water dissolve. The photos explore themes of nature (especially the Everglades) history and the spirit of innovation that typifies the City of Weston, according to the artists.

- A Cultural Center which includes an 800-seat theater in the \$18-million Miramar Cultural Arts Center ArtsPark will be managed by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts under an

agreement with the city of Miramar. It is the first partnership the Broward Center has formed with a city. It already manages the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale and the Miniaci Performing Arts Center at Nova Southeastern University in Davie.

- The City of Lauderdale Lakes and its Department of Parks and Leisure Services recently joined with the Broward Cultural Division, The Artist Initiative and the Broward Caribbean Carnival to present a Cultural Diversity Artists Forum. The workshop attracted some 35 individuals for an evening of networking, dialogue and information about Cultural Division services for artists and organizations. ★



(From left) Joan Cartwright, Jody Leshinsky and Nerissa Street attended the recent diversity forum.