

MARCH 2007

The Arts in Mesquite? You bet!

Accompaniment

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



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MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

Local Grants Review and By-Laws Committee Complete Tasks for First Half of 2007

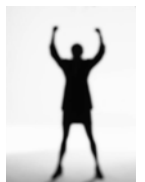
The life of any nonprofit organization is partly measured by the effectiveness of its committees. Although committee review may be academic for some it is vital to the growth and vibrancy of the Mesquite Arts Council.

The Arts Council has been providing local grants support, through a peer review process, since 1992. Local arts groups are provided the application and review criteria from which they may apply. Grant writing workshops are also provided in the event the organization needs assistance with writing the grant. These processes are necessary and insure the ability of Arts Council staff to continue seeking both Texas Commission on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts, matching grants assistance.

Serving the Arts Council and local arts groups through the Grants Review Committee are the following: **Mary Ruth Caldwell**, a local choral clinician; **John Debner**, engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation; **Dede Duson**, composer; **Keith Singleton**, Edward Jones; and **Fran Tynan**, retired from Exxon and volunteer to arts groups in the metroplex. All are members of the Mesquite Arts Council and Keith Singleton is also the chair of the Arts Council board. Recommendations from the committee meeting on March 1st include total funding of \$12,500. **The Writers Garret, Mesquite Community Theatre, Texas Winds, Junior Players Guild, Mesquite Symphony Orchestra and Texas Voices** were all recommended for funding. Another round of grants will be reviewed in September.

Every five years the Arts Council board undergoes a review of the organizations by-laws. Chartered in 1981, this review marks the 5th by-laws revision and most comprehensive to date. Tasks included tweaking the board structure to include the Convention & Visitors Bureau director, adding the Public Art Committee and moving the budget process up six months to assure compliance with the City of Mesquite fiscal year. These committee recommendations will be presented to the Arts Board at their April 10th meeting. Following any further revisions the Arts Council membership will receive the recommendations in December. Committee members include: **Judy Skowron**, committee chair; **Dana Mitchell** and **James T. Watts**.

Thank you to each of these volunteers who serve both the grants review and by-laws committees. Their insight and knowledge provide guidance for the Arts Board and reflect a real commitment to the arts in Mesquite.



Kids Concert, a 20th Anniversary, "Nunsense" and "Dining Room"

ALL AT THE ARTS CENTER IN MARCH AND APRIL

Join the **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** on March 24th as the musical tale of Babar unfolds through his travels to the big city and back to the forest where he becomes King of the Elephants. This delightful story has charmed young people for generations and the music of Poulenc helps to bring it to life. Along with Babar, you will hear the story of Peter and the Wolf. Prokofiev was among those composers threatened by the Soviets when they took power and was given orders to write music that was simple to understand. With Peter he wrote music to go with a multi-level story. A cautionary tale for the Soviet citizens and the world with implications beyond music and he made it delightful in nature. Enjoy these two wonderful stories in the excellence of the Mesquite Arts Center Concert Hall. **Not Just for Kids-Animal Tales** will delight all ages, After the performance, the audience is invited to meet with the players, receiving an intimate view of the instrument and the performer. The concert will begin at 7:00pm at the Mesquite Arts Center Concert Hall. Tickets are \$12.00 Adults, \$8.00, Seniors and \$6.00 Students and available the evening of the concert.



Celebrating its 20th year the **Mesquite Symphonic Band** will present a gala concert on April 14th at 8p. Organized in 1986, the band was first directed by John Kline. At their first public outing the newly created band played for "RRAMBO." And for the historically challenged that stands for "Rip-Roaring Annual Mesquite Balloon Open," or as it later became known as, The Mesquite Balloon Festival. Dale Coates has directed the band since 1995 with a continued emphasis on a strong community presence. Annual concerts at the Mesquite Arts Center have a loyal following and the band for many years has presented the popular "Concerts in the Park" series. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door on the evening of the concert.

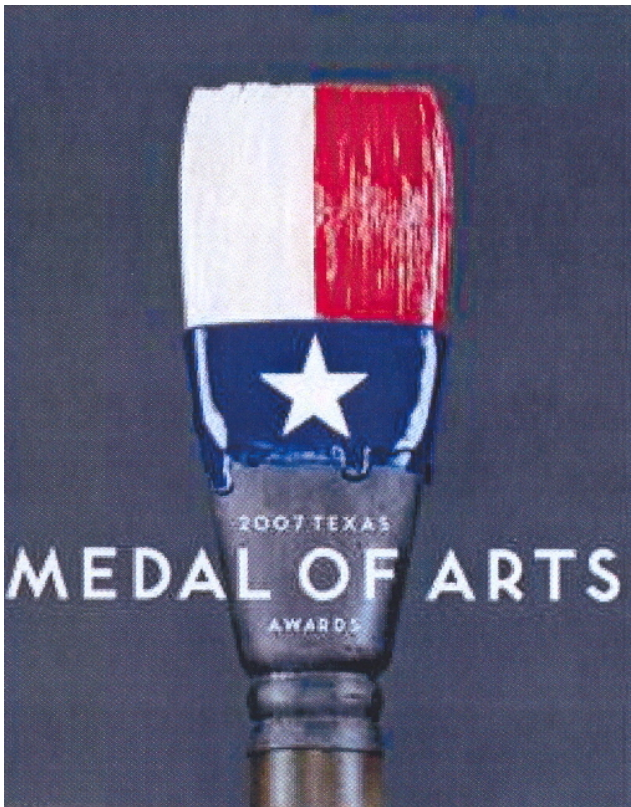
Directed by Nancy Roberts, **Mesquite Community Theatre's** production of the musical version of "**Nunsense**" by Dan Goggin begins March 30th and continues through April 14th. As the story opens, The Little Sisters of Hoboken are in a bind! It seems Sister Julia, Child of God has accidentally killed off 52 sisters with a botulism-laced vichyssoise. But even worse, the remaining nuns only had enough cash to bury 48 of the dearly departed; the other four are in the freezer. *Nunsense* is a benefit concert staged by the Little Sisters, ballet-loving Sister Leo, street-wise Sister Robert Anne, befuddled Sister Mary Amnesia, the Mother Superior Sister Regina, and mistress of the novices Sister Mary Hubert. In the musical the benefit is created to raise money for a proper burial — before the health inspector arrives. If you haven't seen a nun *en-poin*te or a *Rockettes* style kick line of sisters in full habit, then come join in the fun with this hilarious musical comedy as we **ROCK THE BLACK BOX** with **NUNSENSE!** For tickets call 972-216-8126.



Don't miss the 2nd staged reading of the Mesquite Community Theatre during the 2007 season. Presented on April 9th and 10th at 7:30 pm in The Black Box Theatre is "**The Dining Room**." It is a humorous and compassionate play scripted as a series of overlapping vignettes which explore the dynamic relationships of family life. A. R. Gurney's play revolves around one dining room and the changes that take place in it related to birth, life, death, war and change. It is a portrait of family and how it has changed over the years. It is about the progression of life, loves, morals and attitudes. The reading is free in the Black Box Theater and tickets are not required. For information call 972-216-8126.

Texas Medal of the Arts

Presented by the Texas Cultural Trust

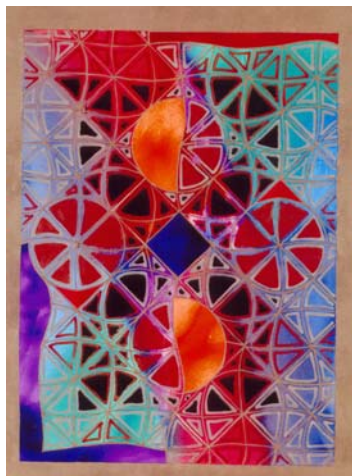


The **Texas Medal of Arts Awards**, the signature event of the Texas Cultural Trust Council, spotlights and celebrates the creative excellence, exemplary talents and outstanding contributions by Texans in selected categories, ultimately featuring the best in Texas. The Awards honor citizens who have achieved greatness through their creative talents as well as those whose philanthropic generosity has opened doors to artistic opportunity for Texans of all ages. The Texas Medal of Arts Awards, accents, and exposes the power of the arts to our children's education, to our State's economy, and to our proud and special Texas culture. Honorary chairs include **Governor and Mrs. Rick Perry**, **Lt. Governor David Dewhurst** and **Speaker of the House and Mrs. Tom Craddick**. Event co-chairs this year are **Mrs. Debbie Montford** and **Mrs. Aaronetta Picce**.

The honorees for 2007 are **Walter Cronkite**, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **Dr. Paul Baker**, **Sandra Brown**, **Ornette Coleman**, **Diana and Bill Hobby**, **Judith Ivey**, **Jesús Morales**, **Neiman Marcus**, **Sid W. Richardson Foundation** and **Bill Wittliff**.

As a guest of the **Dodge Jones Foundation**, of Abilene Texas, **Lynn Barnett**, **Kass Prince**, **Allan Craig**, **Reg Burns**, **Michael and Terri Burke** and **Michael Templeton** will be attending the private reception, dinner and awards ceremony at the Driskill Hotel in Austin on April 2nd and 3rd. Representing Texans for the Arts, these board members are a strong presence in Austin especially during the legislative session. **Senator Bob Deuell**, representing Mesquite, will also be attending the reception, dinner and awards ceremony.

The Texas Cultural Trust is a 501(c) 3 non profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the Texas Cultural Endowment. The board of directors and executive director **Amy Barbee** are committed to increasing arts funding for education in the State of Texas. Additionally, the fund supports the grants program of Texas Commission on the Arts. When created in 1993 by the Texas Legislature, the fund was the first of its kind in the United States. With fiscally responsible managers the fund generates approximately \$300,000 towards the TCA grants program each year.



“Medicine Wheel/Phases of the Moon”

Michael Tichansky

EXHIBIT

April 2-May 10

Mosaics of tile and acrylic will delight many with bright colors and geometric grids. Stop by the Main Gallery from April 2 through May 10 Monday through Friday 8a to 5p and during performances.

Don't miss the artist reception on April 7th from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Go-Diva Catering will provide the nibbles and spirits and it's free.

Courtyard COLORS

MARCH

- 24 "Not Just for Kids-Animal Tales" will be presented by the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra at 7p. Call 972-216-8127 for tickets.
- 30 "Nunsense" the musical is presented by Mesquite Community Theatre through April 14th. Call 972-216-8126 for tickets and reservations.

APRIL

- 2 Artist Michael Tichansky will exhibit work in the Main Gallery through May 14th. Call the Arts Council for information at 972-216-6444
- 7 Enjoy meeting artist M. Tichansky at a reception from 4:30 to 6:30p. Go-Diva Catering provides nibbles and spirits.
- 9 The Monthly Paint-In begins at 10a. Bring current projects and share successes with others—free!
- 9-10 A free, staged reading of "The Dining Room" begins at 7:30p in the Black Box Theatre
- 14 Mesquite Symphonic Band 20th Anniversary Gala concert begins at 8p in the Concert Hall.

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



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