

Creative Arts receives grant funding from The Reading Cultural Council for The Cultural Connection Website!

Creative Arts started off 2007 with wonderful news! In early January, Creative Arts learned that it received funding from the Reading Cultural Council for The Cultural Connection Website. The Reading Cultural Council is a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Cultural Connection Website is a web-based calendar located at www.theculturalconnection.info for arts and cultural events in Reading and surrounding towns. The Cultural Connection (TCC) is a group of arts and cultural organizations including Colonial Chorus Players, Creative Arts, Music Room Coffeehouse, Quannapowitt Players, Reading Art, Reading Civic Concert Band, Reading Community Singers, Reading Community Television, and Reading Symphony Orchestra that have come together to spur greater collaboration and coordination among local arts and cultural groups. The first project of TCC is this web-based calendar for the joint scheduling and promotion of events.

The idea behind the site comes from a need for local nonprofits to work together so that multiple events aren't scheduled on the same evening, to encourage collaboration between the organizations and possibly combine some activities, and to create "one-stop-shopping" for the public. This website will become the "go-to" place for arts and cultural listings and allow families to see what is happening around town at any time, day or night, including last minute information.

The larger vision of The Cultural Connection includes a physical space to make all of this happen, a place to nurture the arts and culture of our community – A Community Center for Art, Culture and Technology. This Community Center will make Reading a regional hub for the arts! It will offer area arts groups access to new storage, rehearsal and performance space, office space, shared media capabilities, gallery space and a public function area. Creative Arts and Reading Community Television will both have offices and program space in the building. Other organizations may also have program or office space and could have administrative resources, a music library, storage or equipment usage and more. A robust cultural environment requires: professional artists, knowledgeable audiences, and well-managed, well-funded cultural institutions. Together we hope to make this Cultural Center a reality.

For more information on TCC, or to learn how you can get involved, contact Creative Arts' Executive Director Jennifer Hart at 781-942-9600 or at jennifer@creativeartsforkids.org. Visit www.theculturalconnection.info often to stay on top of local events and see upgrades to the site! Although slight changes to the site will be made over the next few months, the launch of the fully re-designed site is scheduled for Summer 2007.

Creative Arts is a nonprofit community school for the arts dedicated to fostering a passion for the arts by providing exceptional instruction in visual and performing arts to a diverse population of students. Creative Arts currently offers programs in traditional and Suzuki music instruction, ensembles, visual arts, theatre classes, theatre arts

workshops, and summer camps. A member of the National Guild of Community Schools, Creative Arts seeks to inspire, enrich, and connect the community. Call the Creative Arts Office at 781-942-9600 or visit us online at www.creativeartsforkids.org to find out more!