

# AMERICA BEGINS TO HEAL

Update on the Arts and Cultural Response  
Nationwide to the Events of September 11, 2001  
(December 6, 2001)



## AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

202.371.2830. [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org)

The December 2001 issue of *ArtsLink* focuses on arts and recovery/arts and healing.

Please continue to forward news of events, activities, or programs you and your arts community have developed in response to the events of September 11.

Contact Anne Canzonetti, 202.371.2830 or [acanzonetti@artsusa.org](mailto:acanzonetti@artsusa.org).

## GROUPS PROVIDING RESOURCES

### A.J. MUSTER MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

212.533.4335. E-mail: [ajmusteinst@igc.org](mailto:ajmusteinst@igc.org). [www.ajmuste.org](http://www.ajmuste.org)

The Muste Memorial Institute initiated an emergency grant program for grassroots groups working for peace and justice who planned activities responding directly to the attacks and aftermath of September 11.

### AMS PLANNING & RESEARCH CORP.

202.256.1616 (Sean Merchant). E-mail: [smerchant@ams-online.com](mailto:smerchant@ams-online.com). <http://surveys.ams-online.com/impact/results.html>

On November 7, AMS released the report, *National Study of Performing Arts Groups Finds Declining Revenues, Uncertain Funding Climate*. Visit the website to access the report summary.

### ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

[www.mellon.org](http://www.mellon.org)

The Mellon Foundation is establishing a \$50 million fund for museums, theaters, dance companies, and other cultural institutions affected by repercussions from the September 11 attacks, as well as for public parks where people congregated after the disaster. The foundation is accepting grant requests immediately.

### ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL

212.727.7146, x24. [www.artsandbusiness.org](http://www.artsandbusiness.org)

*Arts for Hope*, a local and national promotional campaign being developed by the Arts & Business Council, is designed to articulate the value of the arts to the public. Arts for Hope will launch November 2001 and will continue at least through September 11, 2002.

ARTTABLE Inc. 270 Lafayette Street, Suite 608, New York, NY 10012

212.343.1735 (Ellen Staller). E-mail: [estaller@arttable.org](mailto:estaller@arttable.org). [www.arttable.org](http://www.arttable.org)

On December 2, the New York ArtCorps and Program Committee presented the meeting, *After September 11th: Reflecting on Changes in the Artworld*.

#### CONSERVATION COMPANY

[www.consco.com](http://www.consco.com). [www.nyrag.org](http://www.nyrag.org) (for report)

The Conservation Company, retained by the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers and sponsored by the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York, prepared a report on the various funds established in response to the attacks on the World Trade Center. In addition, Conservation Company consultants facilitated a session for nonprofit executives on *Managing in a New World: How Nonprofits Can Adapt to the Post-September 11th Operating Environment*. Visit the website to read the materials developed for this session: *How the Operating Environment has Changed Since 9-11* and *Adapting to Post-September 11<sup>th</sup> Environment*.

#### COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS

[www.cnjg.org/Relief.htm](http://www.cnjg.org/Relief.htm)

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers is compiling information about the responses of New Jersey grantmakers to the events of September 11. ([www.nyrag.org](http://www.nyrag.org))

#### INDEPENDENT SECTOR

[www.IndependentSector.org/sept11/survey.html](http://www.IndependentSector.org/sept11/survey.html)

Independent Sector has released a national survey that measures the charitable giving of Americans since September 11, and provides insight into how much more people will continue to give.

#### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION

914.921.1550. [www.ispa.org](http://www.ispa.org)

ISPA has joined with Arts Presenters, the American Symphony Orchestra League, Dance/USA, the League of Historic American Theatres, OPERA America, and the Theatre Communications Group to gather information about the short- and long-term impacts on the performing arts community.

#### LAWYERS ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK

212.219.1800 ext 231 (Lori Moses). E-mail: [lmoses@lany.org](mailto:lmoses@lany.org). [www.lany.org/clientmemo.htm](http://www.lany.org/clientmemo.htm)

The Lawyers Alliance of New York has prepared answers to frequently asked questions on nonprofit issues in order to provide general guidance to nonprofits and *pro bono* attorneys who are assisting them in disaster relief.

#### LEEWAY FOUNDATION

215.545.4078 x10 (Sara Becker). E-mail: [sara@leeway.org](mailto:sara@leeway.org). [www.leeway.org](http://www.leeway.org)

Developed in response to September 11, Leeway's December 2001 Harmony Grants will provide short-term, immediate financial assistance to women artists in the Greater Philadelphia region working on arts projects that promote racial, ethnic, national, and/or religious tolerance.

#### MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL/MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES

[www.massculturalcouncil.org/news/culturalclimate.html](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/news/culturalclimate.html)

[www.wolfkeens.com](http://www.wolfkeens.com) (See Publications.)

On October 25, cultural leaders throughout Massachusetts met to discuss fundraising challenges and declining ticket sales. Visit the website of Wolf, Keens & Company to read the comments, reflections, and observations collected by consultant/facilitator Bill Keens in preparation for the gathering, *Surveying a New Cultural Landscape*.

#### NATIONAL CENTER FOR NONPROFIT BOARDS

[www.ncnb.org](http://www.ncnb.org). <http://216.181.20.3/emergency.pdf> (publication)

NCNB has developed a checklist of emergency preparedness measures that nonprofit organizations can consider for implementation. It is the result of a special meeting held November 12, *Post September 11 Boards: Emergency Preparedness and Recovery*.

#### NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

<http://arts.endow.gov/Sept11/Report.html>

In November, the NEA distributed to the National Council on the Arts *Report on the Impact of September 11 on the Nonprofit Cultural Sector*. The report gives national perspective to the aftermath of September 11 and how the nonprofit cultural sector is experiencing a multitude of short term, mid-range, and long-term effects that seriously undermine the vitality of the American artist and arts organization.

The National Endowment for the Arts has directed a \$30,000 chairman's extraordinary actions grant-the maximum amount allowed for such emergency relief-to the New York State Council on the Arts to assist lower Manhattan arts organizations affected by the September 11 attacks. Endowment funds will support recovery activities such as equipment purchases, office repair, disaster cleaning services-and programs that "use the arts as a source of healing and hope."

#### NEW YORK REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRANTMAKERS

<http://www.nyrag.org/homepage3192/index.htm>

NYRAG maintains a list of philanthropic responses to the events of September 11. NYRAG has also posted a report, prepared by the Conservation Company, on the various funds established in response to the attacks.

#### NONPROFIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK

[www.npccny.org/disaster.htm](http://www.npccny.org/disaster.htm)

The Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York has a page on its website to help New York City nonprofits help other nonprofits that were affected by the September 11 attacks.

#### NONPROFIT QUARTERLY

[www.nonprofitquarterly.org/special/cohen.php](http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/special/cohen.php)

The article-*Post 09/11: New Agendas for Funders and Fundraisers*-offers a detailed analysis of historical trends of giving following crises, tragedies, and economic impacts. It also offers suggestions and agendas for funders and fundraisers in light of the recession and post September 11 giving by donors and foundations. (ArtsJournal.com)

#### NYC INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE

[www.nycrebuild.org](http://www.nycrebuild.org)

NYC Infrastructure Task Force-a coalition formed by the New York City Partnership, the Real Estate Board of New York and the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects-seeks to assemble and coordinate a broad range of private sector resources that will advocate a vision for the rebuilding of New York. For commentary, see Herbert Muschamp's article, "Power, Imagination and New York's Future" in *The New York Times* (October 28, 2001).

#### POLLACK-KRASNER FOUNDATION

[www.pkf.org](http://www.pkf.org)

In response to September 11, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation has established an emergency grant program for individual professional visual artists whose lives (personally and professionally) may have been impacted by the national crisis. The Foundation encourages the arts community to send them the names and addresses of any artists who may be experiencing emergency or priority needs at this critical time.

#### THE SEPTEMBER 11th FUND

[www.uwnyc.org/sep11/index.html](http://www.uwnyc.org/sep11/index.html)

The September 11 Fund, a joint initiative of the New York Community Trust and the United Way of New York City, has a website that serves as a resource for those seeking and those wishing to give assistance.

#### SIMPSON, THACHER & BARTLETT

[www.simpsonthacher.com/FSL5CS/memos/memos917.asp](http://www.simpsonthacher.com/FSL5CS/memos/memos917.asp)

The law firm of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett has prepared a memo with advice on how to provide disaster-relief assistance, either through an existing disaster-relief program or by creating a new program. ([www.nyrag.org](http://www.nyrag.org))

#### TRAVEL INDUSTRY OF AMERICA

[www.tia.org/press/seeamericaday.asp](http://www.tia.org/press/seeamericaday.asp)

TIA developed a major initiative, SeeAmerica Day, to promote travel in the U.S. on Veterans Day, November 11.

#### VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

716.442.8676. E-mail: [afterimage@vsw.org](mailto:afterimage@vsw.org). [www.vsw.org](http://www.vsw.org)

The November/December issue of *Afterimage* focuses on Media Art As/In Therapy.

### NEW EVENTS/OTHER

#### ART BRINGS SALVE FOR A WOUNDED PEOPLE

[www.arts4all.com/newsletter/thedrft.asp#D198](http://www.arts4all.com/newsletter/thedrft.asp#D198)

In her article in the October 14 issue of *The New York Times*, Karal Ann Marling reflects on the role of fine art in times of national crisis. ([Arts4All.com](http://Arts4All.com))

#### NPR'S FRESH AIR AND THE LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL

[www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

On September 21, *Fresh Air*, a program of National Public Radio, conducted a segment with Liz Thompson, executive director of LMCC, on the status of the organization after September 11 and the death of artist-in-residence Michael Richards.

### MUSINGS

#### EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION

513.421.3900. [www.edta.org/pdf\\_archive/why31411200110588.pdf](http://www.edta.org/pdf_archive/why31411200110588.pdf)

The Fall 2001 issue of *Teaching Theatre*, the quarterly journal of the Educational Theatre Association, contains the article, "We go on: A dozen essays by artists and educators on why theatre matters in a time of national crisis."

#### GARY VIKAN, DIRECTOR, WALTERS ART MUSEUM (Baltimore, MD)

410.547.9000. [www.walters.org](http://www.walters.org)

"The body blow to the human spirit that America—that the civilized world—suffered on the morning of September 11 was followed a day later by news particularly painful for the Walters. Renee May, museum docent since 1997 and personal friend to many of us, was a flight attendant on the plane that crashed into the Pentagon. Just 24 hours before the crash we had Renee among us for the last time, at the inaugural fall meeting of the Walters docents. So much had changed, and so quickly. In the autobiography that all our docents write for their handbook, Renee began with a sentence that carries profound implications, especially now: 'Life gives art meaning just as art gives meaning to life.'

From the moment I learned of the horror at the World Trade Center, I struggled to understand where in this new, uncertain world art and, more specifically, the Walters Art Museum, has its role. That weekend at Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, the acclaimed pianist Emmanuel Ax described Beethoven's 4<sup>th</sup> Piano Concerto, which he was about to perform, as a statement of the human struggle, and ultimately, of triumph. He and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra had

chosen it both as an expression of their collective reaction to the tragedy and as a source of comfort for their audience. This was art giving meaning to life.

In the hours after the attack, I found myself alternating between contact with my daughter and contact with our art. And I found myself seeing long-familiar works in our collection through different eyes..As I walked through the galleries, what I was drawn to especially, what I simply *needed* to see, were our great works of Islamic art. I needed their help to raise myself above the fury of the moment to something timeless and peaceful. I needed their help to give identity and humanity to an ancient faith now under siege. I needed to find in them more than their beauty, I needed to find in them their expression of the eternal power of the human spirit. I did. This was art giving meaning to life.

The role of the Walters Art Museum? It is to be, as it always has been, a place of refuge, a source of comfort, and an anchor for what makes us human. But in these times especially, the Walters must be one of those special places where the multiplicity of faiths and peoples that is America can find its shared, timeless values; where it can rediscover what unites us. And in this respect, the Walters is also a place of learning, at its most basic and important level. This is art giving meaning to life.

So our work is simple: to be ourselves, to be what we always have been. And within our walls, to invite normalcy, our gentle but powerful weapon against the inhumanity of September 11."

[Walters Docents have created an annual Renee May lecture, focusing on art and learning. It will take place in the second week of September.]

#### WOLF, KEENS & COMPANY

[www.wolfkeens.com](http://www.wolfkeens.com) (in Publications)

Bill Keens, president of Wolf, Keens & Company, collected comments, reflections, and observations on September 11 from Massachusetts cultural leaders in preparation for a discussion organized by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Through the generosity of those who contributed these pieces (as well as others that couldn't be incorporated), the compilation became something bigger than we envisioned. Put together, comment layered on comment, they create a tableau of sorts - a remembrance, a cautionary tale, a meditation, a call and response. We hope you find them as compelling as we do. They have been edited only for length.

#### MARTY POTTENGER, COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE ARTIST

[www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archive/27pottenger.html](http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archive/27pottenger.html)

Marty Pottenger is a community performance artist and carpenter who has lived and worked in New York City for more than 20 years. She has written about how she used her community-art and counseling skills in Lower Manhattan after the attacks on September 11. Pottenger is known for "City Water Tunnel #3," her Obie-award-winning arts project in New York City with workers who built the largest non-defense public-works project in the Western Hemisphere.

#### MICHAEL KAISER, JOHN F. KENNEDY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

<http://arts.endow.gov/explore/Council11-01/Kaiser.html>

An article in the *Washington Post* reports on Michael Kaiser's presentation to the National Council on the Arts. "I now see an entire arts world in danger. Arts organizations across America could risk losing the tremendous momentum established in the 1990s and a serious diminution of activity and fiscal stability could result..Creating a strong marketing profile is particularly challenging now as so many organizations fear that they will be viewed as frivolous and that the activities of the arts must take a lower profile as we face life-and-death terrorist issues. I could not disagree more." Kaiser said it is a mistake to cut back on essentials and risk initiating "a vicious cycle that is powerful and difficult to escape." Artistic initiatives and marketing are two activities "that encourage income flow to the arts. Donors and ticket buyers are attracted to exciting artistic ventures and the marketing that explains these new initiatives." One answer, said Kaiser, is to create a contingency fund for the bad times. In the wake of September 11, the Kennedy Center

brought its reserve fund up to \$4.5 million to cover any losses. Ticket sales are strong, except for *Shear Madness*, a production heavily dependent on tourists. Donations to the center are also doing well. "This was the best September in terms of fundraising revenue in the center's history, and we are on track to increase total private fundraising by 25 percent this fiscal year." (Jacqueline Trescott, "In Tough Times, Be Bold, Kaiser Urges Arts Groups." *Washington Post*. November 3, 2001)