



**FOR RELEASE  
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***All Boats Rise: Healthy Arts, Healthy Community* launches a new community arts space at The Center for Changing Lives.**



**The Center for Changing Lives**  
A unique and comprehensive social service center located in the Phillips community is now home to an arts exhibition program.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA'S **CENTER FOR CHANGING LIVES** is a unique combination of affordable housing, community meeting spaces, social service programs, afterschool programming for children, healthcare access, and a Lutheran congregation. On October 26, it will extend its community engagement by launching an innovative community-based arts program. The \$27 million center is noted for its eco-friendly architecture and location in the Phillips neighborhood. Phillips is a Minneapolis community that is often portrayed in terms of economic hardship and cultural conflict, yet is home to an extraordinary diversity of thriving cultures, organizations and businesses.

A series of exhibitions at The Center for Changing Lives will feature local artists and highlight a variety of important social issues that effect the communities served by the center. Mark Peterson, the CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, remarked that, "When we began planning The Center for Changing Lives, we imagined a lively place where people from diverse backgrounds can come together to create positive change for themselves, their families and their communities; we imagined lives enriched by education, imagination, and collaboration. Animating the Center for Changing Lives with the work of community artists helps us celebrate and reflect the strength, courage and creativity of the extraordinary people we serve."

The inaugural exhibition, *All Boats Rise: Healthy Arts, Healthy Community*, is a collaborative effort with The Minneapolis Foundation, and will open on Monday, October 26, 2009. The title rephrases a popular economic aphorism, and is meant to suggest a link between a community's economic destiny and the health and vitality of its artistic and cultural heritage. The exhibition features the work of 12 Minnesota-based artists who participated in an innovative financial education, business planning and matched savings program located at The Center. The exhibit offers an opportunity to witness positive enduring change and celebrate a group of artists determined to thrive and create despite the current economic environment.

*All Boats Rise: Healthy Arts, Healthy Community* presents a selection of works in varied media. It strives to prove that the concert halls, big museums and downtown Broadway theatres are not the only places where the arts are thriving in Minnesota today. Responding to the challenges of the times, artists are working to be more accessible by being rooted in community and locality. They are also striving to be more entrepreneurial by working to find more effective ways to market their

wares and vision. They draw on multiple sources of inspiration, from their distinct cultural backgrounds and histories to the diversity and uniqueness of the cities, towns and neighborhoods where they work and live. Their creative work forms the basis of relationships that weave the web of community and bring people together across the divides of ethnicity, culture and socio-economic status.

*All Boats Rise* is on view at The Center for Changing Lives from Monday, October 26, 2009 through Sunday, January 31, 2009. An opening reception will feature performances by artists (names) and a panel discussion on the vital role that artists and community-based arts programs play in the economic and social vitality of a community.

*All Boats Rise* Opening Reception: Monday, October 26, 2009  
Where: The Center for Changing Lives, 2400 Park Avenue, Minneapolis  
Time: 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Admission to reception and exhibition: Free and open to the public  
RSVP (for reception): [events@mplsfoundation.org](mailto:events@mplsfoundation.org).  
Exhibition times: (M-F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

## Artists

### Perry Ingli – Visual Artist

[www.ingliart.com](http://www.ingliart.com)



Perry Ingli  
*Where the Boys Write their Names*  
Lake St. Croix at the Boom-site  
March 4, 1994  
30" x 44 5/8" Pastels on Rives BFK Paper

Perry Ingli is a plein-air artist with a deep connection to nature and the Mississippi River Valley. He describes himself as, "A country-born man who has not lost his roots." He produces large pastels that record his direct encounter with his beloved landscaped. "Inside my heart there is a continual conversation between Nature and Art. I work outside, directly from what I see, not from photographs. I have to be there. I like hilly steep countryside and river bluffs, so sometimes I have to tie myself to trees while I'm working. I allow myself extended encounters with our region's landscape in a sort of slowed-down time."

### Sean Smuda – Photographer

[www.seansmuda.com](http://www.seansmuda.com)



Sean Smuda  
*Butterfly wheel soaring heart No Pollution*  
(Chinese)  
2008

Sean Smuda is a Minneapolis-based artist. His modes of creative expression range from experimental photography and filmmaking, to poetry and songwriting, dance and improvisational music – as with his bands Blacki and with GST (the Greg Schaefer Trio) to curating performance and art at his Shoebox Gallery, an 8'x2' Roberts Shoes display case located at Chicago and Lake in Minneapolis. Smuda's work has been featured in "The Art Shanty Project" on Medicine Lake, "Race and Identity" at The Minneapolis Foundation, "Shanghai Load" at The Art of This Gallery, the Pingyao International Photography Festival in China, "Choreographic" at the Minnesota Center for Photography, the Fine Art Exhibition at The State Fair and the Minnesota Biennial at the Minnesota Museum of American Art. In 2009 Smuda was awarded the city's Mosaic commission, celebrating the diverse arts and cultures of Minneapolis.

### Malcolm Potek – Glass

[www.potekglass.com](http://www.potekglass.com)



Malcolm Potek and  
Kara van Wyk  
Firebird Vase  
12" x 10" diam.

Malcolm Potek has been working in glass for nearly two decades. He works closely with his long-time artistic collaborator Kara van Wyk. Potek and van Wyk have worked as collaborative glass artists for the past ten years and have a studio in NE Minneapolis that serves as a burgeoning glass art gallery and education center. They teach classes, sell equipment, and serve as a resource to beginning glass artists. Their studio opens its doors for ART-A-WHIRL each May. They also participate in the Metro Glass Tour in October. They continue selling their glasswork to many designers and retailers, as well as attending art fairs throughout the U.S.

### Sarah E. Petersen – graphics, video, performance



Sarah E. Petersen  
Under/Employed Tote  
From the SWAG for Hard Times  
Project  
2008

Sarah E. Petersen's work challenges traditional notions of art through time-based work, interactive communal events, and objects that comment on and respond to social and economic conditions. Her "SWAG for Hard Times" project reflects the current economic downturn through a number of "products" that include totes, shirts, buttons and bumper stickers.

### Michael Brandon – Producer/DJ

[www.myspace.com/michaelbrandon3037](http://www.myspace.com/michaelbrandon3037)



Brandon is a music producer, promoter, and entrepreneur with 12 years of experience in the music industry. He has worked with artists such as James Grear & Company, Ann Nesby, Xross, Meech, NBA star Troy Hudson, Robert Johnson, Loyal, Dre, and Kevin L. His latest video for gospel artist Kevin L. is currently airing on BET and features Rev. Al Sharpton. Michael is determined to establish his place in the gospel music industry as a music producer and record label owner. Michael was featured on KSTP channel 5 and Kare 11 for his work with recording artist Robert Johnson and his commitment to working with youth.

### Jenny Dalton – Musician

[www.jennydalton.com](http://www.jennydalton.com)



Jenny Dalton taught herself how to play the piano at a young age and began writing songs when she was 8 years old. Her self-released debut album, *Fleur de Lily* (2006) was a concept album inspired by her relationship with a soldier who was deployed to the war in Iraq. In 2007, with help from an international group of producers and DJs she produced *Carbon Lily Remixes*. In 2008/09, she co-released a concept album entitled *Rusalka's Umbrella* and book entitled *Daughters of the Dead Sea*.

### Nicholas Legeros – Bronze sculpture

[www.nikosculpture.com](http://www.nikosculpture.com)



Nicholas Legeros  
Man of Cloth  
Bronze  
2005  
19"H x 13"W

Legeros is a sculptor whose work usually takes its form in bronze. He says of his work that, "My sense of tradition and knowledge of art history have helped to shape the artwork I create. I believe that the creative experience - the moment that a new thought enters our mind - is our connection to the divine." Since the late 1970's he has objects created his sculptures through an ancient process and is inspired by the great French sculptor Auguste Rodin.

### Cecilia Schiller – Woodcarving

[www.schillerwoodcarving.com](http://www.schillerwoodcarving.com)



Cecilia Schiller  
*Monkey Man Talks & Thinks  
at the Same Time*  
Basswood, Cherry, Walnut,  
Birch, Oak, and nylon.  
9"D X 9"W X 12"H

Award winning sculptor and wood carver Cecilia Schiller spent several years mastering the art of traditional European relief woodcarving before traveling to Bali Indonesia in 2000 where she learned traditional Balinese sculptural carving. She now combines both methods in her amazing original works. Cecilia has been a professional artist for over twenty years with a rich background in theater that includes creating amazing puppets, masks and props for many theaters, including Guthrie, Children's Theater and Teatro de la Juene Lune, all of Minneapolis, MN. Cecilia says, "My experience in theater really feeds my work. My woodcarvings tell a story - one that inspires you to add your own details."

### Diedrich Weiss – Musician

[www.diedrichweiss.com](http://www.diedrichweiss.com)



Weiss is an acoustic guitarist whose performance sound is similar to David Gray, Cat Stevens, or Paul Simon. He began playing guitar at 19 when he was a patient in the Adult Mental Health unit of Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina. Nearly two decades later, Weiss was profiled in the Southwest Journal for his volunteer work playing music for cancer and mental health patients at same hospital where he was inspired to learn to play.

### **Opening Reception**

Monday, October 26 2009, 5:30 – 8 pm, Free  
The Center for Changing Lives  
2400 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis

Complementary Food and Refreshments

Remarks by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota President and CEO Mark Peterson and Minneapolis Foundation President and CEO Sandra L. Vargas

Panel Discussion

Artistic Contributions to Vital Community

Arts and community organizer Reggie Prim discusses the many way artists contribute to the vitality of local communities with Chaka Mkali of Hope Community, Inc. and Laura Zabel of Springboard for the Arts.

Performance by James Grear and Company



James Grear and Company will be performing the title song from their August 2009 release *Don't Waste Another Day* produced by Michael Brandon. In a recent interview James Grear talked about the title track. He said, "The song is inspirational. The message is 'don't waste another day.' Even if you just take baby steps, start today. If you have a vision, carry out that vision, and believe that the resources and provisions will come to carry out what you are supposed to do." The group will also perform the album's current single, a cover of "Hold On (Change is Coming), recorded in 1997 by

another Twin Cities ensemble, the Sounds of Blackness. Grear said that, "Twelve years ago, 'Hold On (Change is Coming)' brought me through one of the hardest times of my life. I vowed that I would record that song someday in hopes that it would do for someone else what it did for me." The video for the single Hold On can be viewed on Michael Brandon's website at <http://www.myspace.com/michaelbrandon3037>

### **Partners**

#### **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota offers human support services across the lifespan relating to the basics of life – food, shelter, safety, physical and emotional well being. The non-profit organization, headquartered in St. Paul, serves over 100,000 Minnesotans yearly with operations in 300 Minnesota communities, and employs over 2,200 people. LSS serves all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or age. Comprehensive information about statewide services can be found through the agency's web site at [www.lssmn.org](http://www.lssmn.org).

#### **The Minneapolis Foundation**

The Minneapolis Foundation has been showcasing local artists and arts organizations through its art exhibits for nearly 20 years and recognizes the many ways in which the arts enhance our region. The art exhibits are a way for the Foundation to help individual artists and organizations gain community exposure and to highlight important community issues such as homelessness, immigration, the environment, and cultural diversity. Individuals and families also support the arts through Donor Advised Funds and planned gifts at The Minneapolis Foundation. Last year, \$4 million was granted from donor funds to arts organizations.

Additional funding for this exhibit and reception were provided by **The Ebenezer Foundation** and **Maggie Collins in memory of her father, Henry Gottesleben**.