



Press Release

**Region of Waterloo Arts Fund awards
\$70,770 in grants to assist:**

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*Ronald Benjamin Brown to workshop
his new musical "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"*

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*Isabel Cisterna/Neruda Productions
to provide "Arpillera" and "Manos Sudor y Alma" workshops*

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*Elmira's Shadow Puppet Theatre to produce "Faust" (Part 1),
in English and German, using shadow puppets*

KITCHENER (December 21, 2007) – The Region of Waterloo Arts Fund announces that it has made grants totaling \$70,770 to artists and arts organizations, in response to proposals submitted for its fall 2007 deadline.

A total of 13 grants were made in the Arts Fund's fall 2007 grants cycle, providing support to projects in the visual arts, music, and theatre as well as CD production. With the announcement of these grants, the Arts Fund has awarded a total of more than \$655,000 in arts grants since its inception in 2002.

Grants approved in this round were:

\$4,000 to Mike Alviano to assist with production of "Songs for Poster Boy", a compilation CD comprised of works by local musicians and songwriters;

\$5,000 to Kelly Borgers to assist with “The Boreal Project”, a photographic project exploring the effects of clear-cutting of Ontario’s Boreal Forest;

\$5,270 to Ronald Benjamin Brown to help workshop his new musical production of “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”;

\$2,500 to Jane Buyers, to assist with the production of a small publication which highlights images of her recently exhibited works alongside a curatorial essay;

\$950 to Ardythe Campbell in support of “From Heart to Hand on Silk”, an upcoming exhibition of her paintings on silk, to be presented at Homer Watson House & Gallery;

\$8,000 to Isabel Cisterna/Neruda Productions to assist with their presentation of “Arpillera: Tapestry of Life” and “Manos, Sudor y Alma” workshops and exhibition of the resulting arpilleras and mural;

\$8,000 to the Synergy Handbell Choir to assist with the production of “Make a Joyful Noise” a CD highlighting a diverse range of sacred, secular and original handbell works;

\$5,000 to Chris Lass to assist with the construction of an Anagama Kiln in New Hamburg;

\$5,000 to Laura Rose Menard to assist with production of a full-length CD of her recent works;

\$2,200 to Nova Stage in support of their upcoming productions of “Desperate Housepets” and “Wickedly Wonderful”

\$15,000 to CAFKA (Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener and Area) in support of “The Flicker Project” through which three video projection projects will animate downtown areas in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge;

\$1,500 to The Matt Osborne Musicians Trust to assist with the production of a CD of blues recordings by the late Matt Osborne.

\$8,350 to Shadow Puppet Theatre in support of their production of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s “Faust” (Part 1) adapted for presentation, in English and German, using shadow puppets.

Created in 2002, the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund is a not-for-profit corporation which provides arms-length funding for the performing, visual and literary arts in the Region of

Waterloo. Its funding is provided by the Council of the Region of Waterloo and is calculated on a per capita basis. The Arts Fund invites applications in the spring and fall of each year. Applicants are first asked to submit a brief letter of intent (maximum two pages) outlining their project. Based on review of those letters, a short list of applicants is then asked to submit more detailed proposals.

The objective of the Arts Fund is to “make art happen” (i.e. stimulate arts activity), both in the next 12 months and with projects that will enhance an individual artist’s or an arts organization’s ability to make more art happen in the future.

Applicants are encouraged to create new work, to bring art to the public, to benefit the Region of Waterloo and create works that either might not happen, or might not happen as well, without Arts Fund support. Applications in all arts disciplines are welcomed from individual artists and arts organizations in the Region of Waterloo (comprised of the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo and the townships of Wilmot, Woolwich, Wellesley and North Dumfries). Adjudication of applications is done by the Arts Fund’s broadly based 14-member board. **The next deadline for applications to the Arts Fund is 4:00 pm on Friday March 7th, 2008.**

For further information: Judith Stephens-Wells, Chair (519) 742-0191

For a brochure and application information please call Lee Ann Wetzel, Manager, Council and Administrative Services, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, (519) 575-4410. E-mail wleeann@region.waterloo.on.ca or visit the website www.artsfund.ca.