

MICROENTERPRISE

TO SAY THAT THIS MICROENTERPRISE IS BUILDING A BUSINESS FROM THE GROUND FLOOR UP WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

WHEN THEIR LARGE OFFICE TENANTS MOVED OUT, THIS COMPANY RENOVATED THEIR HISTORIC BUILDING AND CREATED A MIXED USE SPACE FOR ARTISTS, NONPROFITS, AND SMALL BUSINESS ALIKE. THE ARTIST SPACE IN PARTICULAR HAS GARNERED HUGE INTEREST AND SUCCESS AS THE CITY'S DOWNTOWN REDEFINES ITSELF AS A COMBINATION OF WORK, LIVING AND RECREATION AREAS.

IN THE LAST YEAR THIS COMPANY HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE BIGGEST SUPPORTERS OF THE ARTS AND ARTISTS IN THEIR AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE SPRING OF 2008, WHEN THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WAS DELAYED IN ITS MOVE TO A NEW FACILITY, THIS COMPANY DONATED A LARGE WORK SPACE IN ITS MILL BUILDING SO THAT THE MUSEUM COULD BEGIN BUILDING ITS EXHIBITS. THIS COMPANY ALSO CREATED A SPACE IN THEIR LOBBY WITH OVER 36 VISUAL ARTISTS DISPLAYING THEIR ART IN THE LAST YEAR AS WELL AS AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS WHO HELD BOOK SIGNINGS. EACH MONTH, THEY SPONSOR A RECEPTION FOR THEIR GALLERY ARTISTS AND PROVIDE ADVERTISING.

BUT PERHAPS THE MOST FAR REACHING PROJECT IN 2008 WAS THE ARTS FESTIVAL HELD AT THE PROPERTY. THIS COMPANY DONATED 12,000 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE TO HOST OVER 40 LOCAL ARTISTS. THEY ALSO PAID FOR NEWSPAPER AND RADIO ADVERTISING FOR THE EVENT. OVER 1,000 VISITORS WERE INTRODUCED TO NEW MEDIA, IDEAS AND ARTISTIC TECHNIQUES AND LEFT WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S TO COME FROM DOWNTOWN DOVER.

FOR THE VOLUNTEERING OF COUNTLESS HOURS TO PROMOTE ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING NOT JUST A THRIVING BUSINESS, BUT A THRIVING CREATIVE ECONOMY COMMUNITY AS WELL, THIS YEAR'S BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARD IN THE MICROENTERPRISE CATEGORY GOES TO:
ONE WASHINGTON CENTER

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Contact: Joan Goshgarian
603 224-8300

WINNERS OF BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS NAMED AT 25TH GALA

Citizens Bank, Merrimack County Savings Bank, HippoPress and One Washington Center were announced as the winners of the Business in the Arts Awards at a gala evening presentation by the New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts on May 11 in Manchester. More than 300 guests were in attendance for the 25th anniversary of the Awards.

The winners were applauded for their outstanding support of the arts through sponsorships, staff involvement, project assistance and donated services to the arts in their communities and statewide.

Citizens Bank was lauded for its extensive financial and board service support to many arts organizations statewide, guided by its belief that the strength of the company is tied to the strength of communities where they do business, and that the arts are integral. Merrimack County Savings Bank received accolades for its support of a variety of arts projects in the Concord area and specifically for its support of the Friends Program "Friends Finding Friends" art auction. HippoPress was cited for coverage of the arts scene, and also for helping to create and expand the offerings in the state. One Washington Center was credited for its promotion of the creative economy in renovating its historic building to create a mixed-use space for artists, nonprofits, and small business alike that demonstrates its commitment to developing not just a thriving business, but a thriving community as well.

Mike Morin, host of "New Hampshire in the Morning" on 95.7 WZID was the master of ceremonies for the festivities. The evening's performance showcase featured the cultural richness of New Hampshire and the participation of business over the past 25 years and included Apple Hill String Quartet, Rebecca Rule, Peacock Players and Average Joes barbershop quartet.

Each winner received a framed print by New Hampshire artist Elizabeth Mayor of Hanover. The New Hampshire Potters Guild provided the table centerpieces. The ArtsBags Cultural Trivia Show highlighted the evening's sponsors and contained cultural goodies of tickets, tee shirts, posters and books contributed by New Hampshire's many cultural organizations and a grand prize of a two-night stay at Wentworth-by-the-Sea.

In honor of the 25th celebration Bank of America and Public Service Company of NH were the presenting sponsors. Corporate sponsors were FairPoint Communications, Isaacson Structural Steel, Lincoln Financial Group, Northeast Delta Dental, Ocean Bank, Riverstone Resources, and Winthrop Charitable Gift Fund. Underwriters were Citizens Bank Foundation and TD Banknorth.

Event supporters included Concord Hospital, Lavallee Brensinger and Stibler Associates, McLane Law Firm, RMC Research Corporation, and Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green.

The New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts presents the awards annually to recognize and honor outstanding business support of the arts. The NHBCA was founded to educate, motivate and recognize business support of and participation in the arts. For more information about the awards or the NHBCA contact the NHBCA at 603 224-8300 or visit the web site at www.nhbca.com

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Here are the captions for the photos of the winners: