



and our partners present...

"Telling Your Story" a Careers in the Arts Workshop

DATE: **Saturday, February 20, 2010**

TIME: **1:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

WHERE: **Westerville Community Center**

350 N. Cleveland Ave. | Westerville, OH 43082

WHO: **ARTISTS, service providers, family members**

This **FREE** workshop will include a panel discussion in which artists share personal stories about what it means to be an artist and the paths they have taken. Artists will learn methods for writing personal narratives and artist biographies to strengthen entries for exhibitions and build confidence when talking about their work at exhibitions or in public. Participants will have the opportunity to develop and write biographies using computers and prepare materials for submission to online galleries. Service providers and family members are invited to attend, gain information, and learn about resources and opportunities to support artists.

Workshop Resources and Benefits

- VSA arts of Ohio Careers in the Arts Workbook
- VSA arts of Ohio and Ohio Arts Council Artists Resources
- Flash Drive loaded with handouts and artist resources to create your story, artist biography and resume
- Network and share ideas in small groups with other artists
- Prepare materials for submission to online galleries
- Participating *artists* are eligible for a small professional development stipend

Workshop Schedule

12:30	Registration
1:00	Introductions
1:15	"Telling Your Story" - Patty Mitchell and Chris Mohler
2:00	Question and Answer discussion
2:15	Working Groups: tell your story and create artist statements and resumes
3:20	Evaluation
3:30	Adjourn

Workshop Presenters



Patty Mitchell- Photographer

I have worked extensively with people with cognitive disabilities collaboratively making art. I facilitated four community Ohio Arts Council residencies within a sheltered workshop, where Passion Works Studio was created (www.passionworks.org). Photography is a very familiar and powerful medium. We see pictures of our younger selves, images from TV, newspapers, magazines, movies...but to be in charge and experience how the photographer controls the "reality" for the viewer is a powerful discovery. Analyzing and

responding to photographs encourages students to develop critical thinking skills desperately needed in a society strongly influenced by media.

Patty's accolades include an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Award, Ohio University Distinguished Alumna, Citizen of the Year: Athens Civitan, Eusebia Hunkins Award, Outstanding service in the arts, "Volvo for life Award" finalist 2007, and one of six Ohioans chosen by Ohio Magazine as Ohio's Hero.



Chris Mohler - Sculptor

Long ago I used to explain what my work was about to everyone and anybody. I'd tell them the title and explain why it was named such. All of my work has meaning and a story. I would go from piece to piece explaining the intricacies, nuances, and metaphors. Sometimes I'd let the patron lead me to pieces and other times I'd lead them to pieces.

One day some big league heavy hitter collectors visited my studio. I, in my usual self, was busy telling the stories of every piece, well as many as I could anyways. So this collector is standing in front of a sculpture. He is studying it intently. I walk up and explain in detail what the piece was about. He stood quiet. When I was done rambling he said while looking at the piece. "that's not what I thought it was about", and walked away. I stood dumbfounded. I lost the sale. Truly, it was the day I learned the value of other people's thoughts of my work. From that day on you had to pry the title out of me. I left show cards on gallery walls title-less. I only talked of the work when asked and often times one had to ask repeatedly. I've gotten better lately.

I became so quiet about my work for I felt that the collectors' interpretation was more important than what I thought the work was about. After all, the collector holds the responsibility of upkeep and provides life to the piece for hopefully many, many years. It is the collector that holds most merit in having work find homes in museums. Now the times have me at mid-career. Many works have never been explained. So what the heck.... Art Stories.....What They Mean! <http://chrismohler.blogspot.com/>

To Register - contact

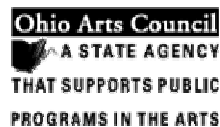
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This Careers in the Arts workshop is sponsored by



About VSA arts of Ohio

VSA arts of Ohio is a statewide arts service organization dedicated to empowering people with disabilities, creatively and inclusively, through the arts. Since 1986, VSA arts of Ohio has provided unique opportunities for artists and audiences of diverse abilities to share their creativity by participating in educational, outreach, accessibility and professional development programming. VSA arts of Ohio is a member of the international network of VSA arts, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.