



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 28, 2006

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ART-SPEAK, THE CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION
ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS AND COODINATOR

Four board members have recently been elected officers for Art-Speak, the City of Portsmouth Cultural Commission. In addition Sue Cobler has signed a one-year contract as Art-Speak Coordinator

Russell Grazier, Jr., President

Russ Grazier, Jr. is founder and executive director of the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, a nonprofit community music school. For the past 20 years, Mr. Grazier has been active as a composer, saxophonist and music educator. In addition to teaching at the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, Mr. Grazier has served on the faculties of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, the Boston Conservatory, Roosevelt University, The University of Chicago, and Chicago's Merit Music School. Mr. Grazier is a Portsmouth resident.

Ellen Fineberg, Vice President

Ellen Fineberg is in her sixth year as the Executive Director of the Women's Business Center, a nonprofit organization that builds the New Hampshire economy one woman-owned business at a time. She has consulted for or been staff to numerous New England nonprofits and educational institutions for more than 30 years. Ms. Fineberg was member of the team that wrote Portsmouth's Cultural Plan and currently serves on Portsmouth's Historic District Commission. She holds a Master's degrees in museum education and organization & management and is a resident of Portsmouth.

Leanne Spees, Treasurer

Ms. Spees is the Managing Director for International Finance for Yacht Vantage. She has nearly twenty-five years of experience as a corporate-finance professional. Prior to joining Yacht Vantage, she was Vice President of Commercial Lending at Ocean National Bank for 4 years and Managing Director, International Corporate Finance at FleetBoston Financial for eleven years. Ms. Spees holds degrees from Pamona College and Columbia University and is a Rye resident.

Deb Thompson, Secretary

Ms. Thompson is a Portsmouth resident, who moved to the area six years ago to open Nahcotta Gallery on Congress Street. Nahcotta is a retail shop and gallery. Ms. Thompson grew up in the greater Boston area and attended Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. She co-chairs Art 'Round Town and is a member of the Downtown Business Association.

Sue Cobler, Art-Speak Coordinator

Art-Speak has recently hired Sue Cobler of Kittery as the new Art-Speak Coordinator. Ms. Cobler has over 20 years of experience in project management and communications in both the corporate and non-profit sectors. She has served on several local non-profit boards of directors, including the Children's Museum of Portsmouth, Piscataqua Maritime Commission, and Seacoast Civic Dance Company. Ms. Cobler holds a B.A. from Wellesley College and an M.S. from Northeastern University.

Art-Speak is the City of Portsmouth's Cultural Commission, an agency created as a direct result of the Portsmouth Cultural Plan. Art-Speak exists officially on behalf of the City represent and promote arts and culture, and to act on all related matters. Its mission is to "promote appreciation, awareness, participation, and dialogue in support of arts and culture. Art-Speak performs these services for the City of Portsmouth and its City Council and all artists and art/cultural-related organizations in the Seacoast community."

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