

Art to Aid in Family Growth

SPRING AND SUMMER ARE SEASONS OF growth, so it's fitting that two recent art placements have been at agencies dedicated to nurturing the growth of parents and their children. The Jeremiah-Endicott Program (JEP) in Boston and Parenting Journey in Somerville have very different physical spaces and program models, but both focus on educating and supporting families and have discovered how art can enhance their community settings.

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN Jeremiah Program, founded in Minneapolis, and Endicott College, whose "Keys to Degrees" program allows parents to take classes towards an associate's degree, JEP transitions low-income single mothers and their children from poverty to prosperity, two generations at a time.



Robert Harding, *Untitled (Meditation)*, oil on canvas, placed at Jeremiah Endicott Program in Boston.

for mothers and children. Their new space, in the historic Warren family home near Dudley Square, provides a safe, secure place where

moms and kids come together to relax and grow. In this supportive setting, moms are motivated students and present caretakers as they take life skills classes, study, and enjoy the companionship of other mothers who understand their challenges and ambitions.

ART HANGING THROUGHOUT the house highlights historic architectural details like fireplaces and tall ceilings in rooms now used as classrooms, coaching and office spaces, a computer lab, and a special children's learning and play area. Executive Director Emilia Diamant is excited that art will help families feel more at "home" while they build a better place for themselves.

IN SOMERVILLE, PARENTING JOURNEY creates safer, more resilient families by developing their inner strengths, life skills, and networks of resources needed to succeed. Parenting Journey serves a racially, ethnically, culturally, and economically diverse population of adults who share the desire to be the best caregivers they can be.



Edward Glannon, *Farmland - Aerial View*, watercolor, placed at Parenting Journey in Somerville (donated by Thomas Glannon & Patricia Wiley).

Parents confronting all kinds of challenges—from juggling personal and professional obligations, responding to protective services and/or court man-

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THE MASTHEAD features "*Shifting Ground XVIII*" by Sam Tan. This acrylic on canvas, a gift from the artist, was selected by Urban Edge in Roxbury. Its mission is to help develop and sustain stable, healthy, and diverse communities in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Art Connection, Inc.

539 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02116

Tel (617) 338-7668
Fax (617) 451-2884
info@theartconnection.org
www.theartconnection.org

Staff

Susan Collings, *Executive Director*
Amanda Bell, *Program Manager*
Sarah B. Shallbetter, *Program & Volunteer Coordinator*

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The Art Connection is a nonprofit organization that expands public access to visual art by placing the work of donor artists and collectors on the walls of community service organizations. Since its inception in 1995, this unique gifting program has supported over 390 agencies in their personal selection of over 7,200 pieces by more than 425 artists and collectors. Within these healing environments, the original works of art provide welcome opportunities for reflection, inspiration, comfort, and hope. Copyright © 2016 by The Art Connection, Inc. We welcome your contributions and comments.

This program is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Boston Cultural Council, and several generous foundations and individuals.



Bring the Bighearted on the Board

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS are often on the lookout for new philanthropic board members, and The Art Connection is no different! We have been fortunate for 20 years to have had deeply committed community-minded individuals serving as committee members and as directors on our board.

EARLY ON, people may have joined the board because they were friends of Fay, our visionary founder. Fay's dear friend, Mary Coogan, shared her passionate, creative, energetic, and thoughtful spirit as member and many time Board Chair from 2001 until 2015. Mary brought us the idea of Art BINGO as our signature fundraiser, was its chief decorator and stage manager for four years, and chaired many other events over the years. We thank her for her service and miss her!

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS came to us through involvement with our recipient agencies or as donating artists. Two such members from agencies, new to the board in 2013, Susan Bradley and Michael Rousseau stepped up immediately to co-chair Art BINGO and the Development and Marketing Committee. With their commitment to an important goal of The Art Connection's strategic plan, crafted in conjunction with ESC Consultants last fall, they are enthusiastic about sharing the benefits of involvement with The Art Connection.



The Art Connection Board of Directors with the Executive Director.



Mary Coogan, former board member, who inspired Art BINGO, enjoying The Art Connection's signature event in 2015.

WHEN BOARD MEMBERS find an opportunity to do something meaningful, they want to become more involved. This can surely be said of our newest member, Dori Youngman, who is also board treasurer. From her election in September, after we connected with her through the Harvard Alumni Association Board Recruitment Fair, Dori has pitched in with innumerable tasks to advance The Art Connection's mission. This year Dori returned to the HAA event with Board Chair Hilly Ebling to find other prospective energetic members to nominate.

IN ADDITION TO SEEKING out potential board members at recruitment fairs and through word of mouth, we invite our readership of this newsletter to consider joining us! We specifically seek donating artists to represent their viewpoint at the board level. We hope that seeing how much fun our board is having at Art BINGO (see photo) will inspire a few of you to want to find out more about this opportunity! If interested, please give us a call!

Susan Collings
Executive Director

5th Annual Art B-I-N-G-O!

It's the emphatic exclamation that has been heard 60 times now by hundreds of guests over the past five years of Art Bingo, our annual fundraiser.

Of course, being on the winning end means going home with a coveted original work of art juried in from 90 diverse submissions. These cries of victory have oftentimes been met by the most primal of emotions—like joy, jealousy, and disappointment for those who were not the lucky winner.

Win or lose, we all know that no one goes to Art Bingo simply to win some fantastic works. We all believe in the mission and understand the vital role that art plays in all of our daily lives—regardless of zip code.

Since Art Bingo began in 2012, we have been graced by the presence of more than 1,000 attendees from all walks of life—artists and non-artists, boomers and millennials. Some have come all five years and some just came for the first time. But all arrive to our friendly and folksy event as if they are

gathering for a family dinner, embodying a “Just as I Am” philosophy that serves as a welcome sign for our guests.

In many ways, Art Bingo reminds us that no matter who you are or where you are from, the beauty of art touches us all in a way that is often beyond words. This is what Fay Chandler envisioned for us over 20 years ago when she founded The Art Connection.

If you haven't been able to partake in this night of fun that also brings art to life, please consider joining us next year.

Michael Rousseau
Art Bingo Co-Chair



Art Bingo Co-Chair Susan Bradley and Master of Ceremonies, Janet Wu.

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Recent Art Selections . . .



Phyllis Ewen, *Island I*, oil on paper, placed at MassBay Community College in Wellesley. Its mission is to foster educational excellence and student success, prepare students for local and global citizenship, and contribute to evolving regional economic development.



Barbara Trachtenberg, *Stairs, Antakya, Turkey*, archival digital inkjet print, placed at West Roxbury Academy. WRA is a Boston Public School committed to providing a rigorous curriculum with an emphasis on business, graphic arts, and marketing that helps to prepare students for college, careers, and service.



Susan Heideman, *Clattering Sea*, oil on canvas, placed at Victory Programs - Shepherd House in Dorchester. Shepherd House is a residential treatment program for women dealing with substance use disorders and their mission is to open doors to recovery, hope, and community to individuals and families facing homelessness, addiction, or other chronic illnesses.

See what's new at:

www.theartconnection.org



Eleanor Elkin,
Elephant and Cat,
handwoven tapestry,
placed at Coopera-
tive Elder Services,
Inc. in Milton.

Bringing Art to Life

Work by New Art Donors!



April Jakubec, *La Pomme,* acrylic on canvas, placed at Elder Service Plan of Harbor Health in Mattapan.



Janel Houton, *Mountain Landscape,* acrylic on canvas, placed at Jeremiah-Endicott Program in Boston.

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dates, coping with mental health issues or recovering from addiction—benefit from Parenting Journey's support. Thousands of parents have participated in the program, founded in 1982—more than 52,000 since 2007 alone.

THE PARENTING JOURNEY SPACE hums with positive energy, and the selection of art was just as lively. Art donations will hang throughout Parenting Journey's facility creating a more welcoming atmosphere for clients and partners alike. These two placements allow The Art Connection to provide crucial, formative art access to multiple generations.



LaShona N.C. Tyree,
Peace Be Still, mixed
media, placed at Parenting
Journey in Somerville.