



*Creating opportunities  
that work*

August 17, 2011

Greater Columbus Arts Council  
Community Arts Partnership Program  
100 East Broad Street, Suite 2250  
Columbus Ohio 43215

Greetings!

On behalf of the COVA Board of Trustees and Judy Braun, President and CEO, thank you for the opportunity to support wholeheartedly Central Community House's nomination of Java Kitrick and Puffin Foundation West, Ltd. for a Community Arts Partnership award.

Ms. Kitrick and the Foundation were among the first to step forward and support *PhotoVoice II: Voicing Our Individual and Collective Experience*, COVA's nine-week project followed by an exhibition of photo essays by our participants who are in recovery from mental illness and are attempting to return to work. PhotoVoice not only helps participants cope with stigma but also confronts stigma through advocacy and education. The photo essays foster individual reflection and community awareness.

Because of Ms. Kitrick and the Foundation's commitment to offer persons often excluded an opportunity to express themselves artistically and share their work with the public, they have provided not only critical financial support but ongoing advocacy for *PhotoVoice II* in their electronic communications.

We are a leader in vocational rehabilitation for persons with mental illness and other challenges to productive lives—not an arts organization. Ms. Kitrick was welcoming, talking to us about the project and inviting a proposal. Her responses voiced the Foundation's belief that the arts are for all.

Persons recovering from mental illness often do not have access to programs in which they learn a new skill that will enhance their quality of life. Thanks to Ms. Kitrick and the Foundation, we are in the process of offering this opportunity once again in central Ohio. We hope the GCAC agrees Java Kitrick and Puffin Foundation West., Ltd. have fulfilled their commitment to peaceably transform our society's ideas and recognize our universal humanity through the arts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Tyler".

Sally Tyler, Director of Development

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