



Procession of the Species 2007

A parade celebrating our community
our creativity, and our connection to nature



Let the Fun Begin!

On Friday evening, March 23rd, the **Bellingham Storyteller's Guild** presented **Connecting with the Natural World: Stories of Animals, Plants and People** - at the Fire House Performing Arts Center in Fairhaven—a program to raise funds for the **Community Arts Studio**. Doug Banner, a founding member of the Storyteller's Guild, opened with a few remarks about how the event had come about. Then — an enthusiastic and eventually, enraptured audience heard stories — wonderful, whimsical stories about all kinds of critters from close and distant lands.



Brian Flowers

told stories about giant owls, magic mushrooms and a most scary critter rising out of a local pond.



Kym Fedale

gave us a tale about a mantis and the moon and about a man who found fulfillment in sharing his land and animals with others.



Vince LeLonde

played and sang some of his own special songs.

Carol Oberton

— the prime mover and shaker of the whole Procession of the Species project in Bellingham showed us her creation—a frog on a lily pad, and pulled all sorts of things out of her black bag of tricks to show how folks build their very own creations for the Procession.



Doug Banner

regaled us with that wonderful 'princess and the frog' tale!

- Essential Facts -

Date of the **Procession** this year is **Saturday, May 5, 2007—5:00 p.m.** The **Community Arts Studio** is located at 216 Grand Avenue will open on **March 31, 2007**. Hours of operations will be: **Tuesdays and Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** and **Saturdays, 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.** and by appointment for large groups until May 4th, the day before the Procession. For further information call the Hotline at **738-7308**.

Background Information

Six weeks prior to the parade, people in the community gather at the **Community Arts Studio** to bring to life unique inventions imagined and developed out of all kinds of recycled materials — wondrous creatures and plants in various forms — masks, large wearable puppets, inventive instruments, colorful banners, etc. On the day of the Procession, all participants gather in front of City Hall at 5:00 p.m. and move through downtown Bellingham—celebrating community and our connection to nature. The Bellingham Police Department estimated that last year's parade drew somewhere between 800 and 1200 people. Three important rules make this parade unique: **no motorized vehicles - no live animals or pets - no written or spoken words.**



This year's the studio is located at 216 Grand Avenue. The studio is a collaborative effort between government agencies, local businesses, non-profit organizations as well as public and private schools — including Allied Arts of Whatcom County, North Cascades Institute, Bellingham Story-teller's Guild, Power of Hope, the REStore, Sanitary Service Company, and Squalicum High School. The space is being provided, free of charge, by the Bellingham-Whatcom Public Facilities District. The Bellingham Parks Department secured the occupancy permit; Bellingham Public Works are paying the utilities.

There is a core group of volunteers affiliated with Allied Arts of Whatcom County who operate under the name **Start Here Community Arts (SHCArts)**. They are responsible for the set up, staffing and break down of the Community Arts Studio, storage and distribution of materials at the end of the year.

Breaking News

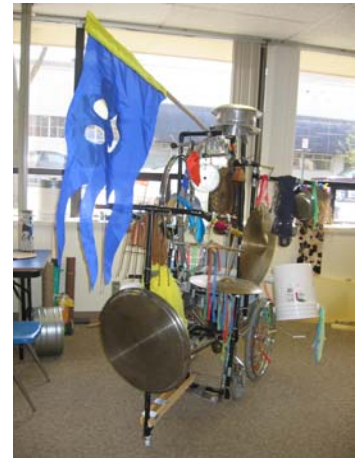
- ▶ Arts Studio Coordinator, **Carol Oberton**, has announced the wonderful news that SHCArts has received a Small and Simple grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the City of Bellingham — AND just as we are go to press, word has come that the Whatcom Community Foundation has also awarded the Procession \$2,500!
- ▶ An archive of photographs of the Procession in Bellingham may now be seen on the web at <http://flickr.com>. Search for "processionofthespecies." Add "Bellingham" to your search terms, and you'll see what we're up to in Bellingham. Individuals who have photos are invited to post them to our archive.
- ▶ A short film about the Bellingham Procession, produced by Black Dog Productions may be seen on web at : <http://youtube.com/watch?v=H9B2AV-WLI>
- ▶ Bellingham Procession of the Species website will be up and running soon with updates on next year's event— www.BPOTS.org.



Carol Oberton

The Happening Place!

The **Community Arts Studio** is accessible to a very diverse segment of the population, with last year's population exceeding 400. As many as 90 people have been in the studio contentedly working at one time. It attracts all ages and all skill levels — grandparents and toddlers, engineers and artists, mechanics and seamstresses. A tenth grader from Squalicum High School talking about his experience there, noted “how strangers would help each other”; and he thought the collective group had better luck at completing their project than an individual might have on his or her own. The Community Art Studio is a perfect model of building community. It models how to share knowledge and expertise graciously, inviting those with less experience, a time and place to shine.



● A PATH TOWARDS PERMANENCE ●

Start Here Community Arts (SHCArts) will be working to establish itself as a non-profit organization that can raise money and operate as an independent entity, with a Website and the ability to hold other events during the year at the Community Arts Studio. They will be developing promotional materials, cultivating funding sources, and working to expand greater community involvement. Heaven only know, where all this may lead!

What do we need to bring all this about? Each year, large, heated, safe studio space must be found. We want to hear any and all suggestions about space at a reduced rate or rent free for the future. People power is another essential ingredient to make this work — volunteers with energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and various skill sets to help us develop a web site, compile slide shows, create a Adopt-a-Puppet Program, find permanent storage location, catalog and index photos, build resources for our reference area and establish contacts with other community groups. We look forward to hearing from people in the community about others who might be interested in getting involved — names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

— A Generous Community at Work —

We want to thank the Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department for sponsoring and bringing us this year's parade. Start Here Community Arts wants to thank all who have donated time, materials and support to the 2007 Community Arts Studio.

We could NOT have done it without you!

City of Bellingham: Small & Simple Grant
Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department
Bellingham Public Works Department
Bellingham-Whatcom Facilities District
Allied Arts of Whatcom County
Whatcom Community Foundation:
(Anonymous Private Donation)
Black Dog Productions

Oyster Creek Upholstery
Lark Textiles
Haggens on Meridian
Lakeway Inn
Hampton Inn
Doug Nesbit, Realtor
Signs by Tomorrow
Bellingham Storyteller's Guild

Bay City Supplies
REStore
North Cascade Institute
Power of Hope
Squalicum High School
Custom Cushions
Sanitary Service Company
Eppard Visions



It's a whale of a deal!

Procession of the Species — www.bpots.org