

WANTED: MEMBER CANDIDATES

Cincinnati is always seeking individuals who would make good members and bring unique experiences, perspective and energy to our organization. Who can you think of who fits this description? Provide recommendations to Barbara Henshaw at hrmhenshaw@fuse.net.



C. Smith Photography

MEET A NEW MEMBER Q&A WITH ANNIE RUTH

"Cincinnati has come a long way supporting smaller arts organizations, but more work is needed."

ART AS A CHANGE AGENT

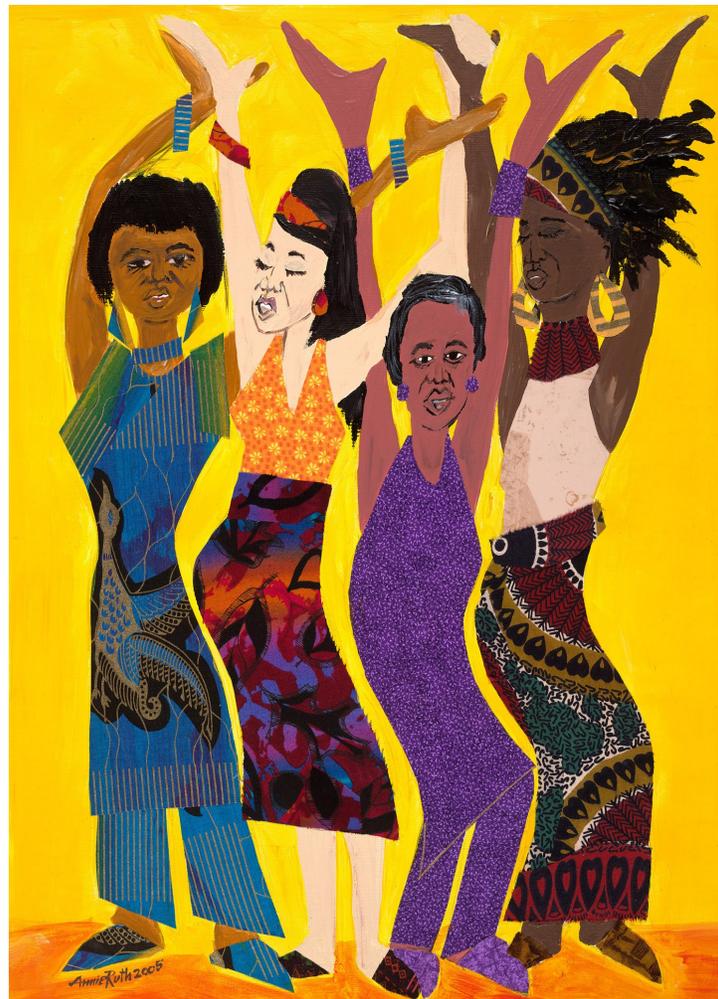
Q: What drew you to Cincinnati?

A: Cincinnati appears to be a progressive body of individuals who collectively work to effect positive change in Cincinnati. My core values align with this mission and I want to connect with people that share a similar passion to be the change, not just talk about it.

Q: What, in your view, is the most pressing need in our city?

A: Uniting people is the most pressing need in Cincinnati. Because I know that art is a great vehicle to accomplish this, I'm currently working on an exhibition called *Dada Rafiki: Sisters of Legacy*, honoring the spirit of 40 phenomenal and diverse women who have left their footprints on Cincinnati history.

SEE PAGE 2: ANNIE Q&A



Annie Ruth's painting *Dada Rafiki*, which means "sister friend" in the Kiswahili language of Eastern Africa. (Reprinted with the artist's permission).

TONIGHT'S MEETING OHIO ISSUE 2

REDISTRICTING IN OHIO

On the Nov. 6th ballot is **Issue 2**, relating to how Ohio should redistrict and reapportion after each census.

Proponents argue that change is required to ensure a fair and representative electoral process.

Opponents say that, even if change is needed, this proposal is so faulty that it should be rejected by voters.

Issue 2 would establish a citizens commission to approve new congressional and legislative districts for Ohio every 10 years.

The current redistricting process, controlled by incumbent, elected officials, has been challenged as unfair because it allows the party in power to draw maps that increase its chances of electoral success.

David Pepper and **Bill Seitz** will highlight a variety of points and perspectives for and against the proposed Ohio Constitutional Amendment.

PARTNERSHIPS HELP GET THE JOB DONE

Rookwood Group creates network of common voices

Greater Cincinnati has a lively civic sector of organizations interested and active in promoting public policies to strengthen our region.

Several years ago, a group of such organizations came together to begin coordinating some of their programs, in what is now called the Rookwood Group (meetings are often held at Rookwood office complex).

Cincinnati was a founder, and a number of our members have been active in the group's programs, including Gwen Robinson initially, then Laurie Housemeyer and me, and more recently Carolyn Miller, Steph Stoller, and our new member Ruth Cronenberg, who coordinates the group's meetings.

Other current Group members are Citizens for Civic Renewal, the League of Women Voters, the Urban League, the Woman's City Club, and our newest member AIR, Inc.

While such organizations may have somewhat different missions, we have found areas of common interest, particularly in educating our members and the general public on significant public policy issues. For example:

- During a talk several years ago about the so-called "jail tax," the group looked at criminal justice data for Hamilton County, then organized a televised debate to share the background information and the views of proponents and opponents of the ballot issue.
- Similarly, for the current proposal to amend the city's charter to expand council member terms to four years,

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MESSAGE FROM MARK SILBERSACK



the group surveyed a number of peer cities and prepared an analysis, which was shared with public officials. We're now organizing a public forum and will use that same analysis for voter education.

If any member would like to participate in the Rookwood Group, feel free to contact any of the Cincinnati members mentioned above. Contact one of us as well if you have a question or comment about the group and its work.

ACTION ... ACTION ... ACTION

51: Mental Health Levy

Resolution: *Cincinnati endorses the levy to fund Mental Health Services in Hamilton County.*

Issue: This proposed five-year levy will stay at the same 2.99 mills as the expiring levy. The current levy has brought in about \$187.1 million over five years. Due to lower real property values, this levy will yield only \$169.7 million.

It will cost a property owner \$48.38 per \$100,000 value, the same as the prior levy. This levy has been in place since 1980 and was most recently passed in 2007 with just a 55% vote.

50: Senior Services Levy

Resolution: *Cincinnati endorses the levy to fund Senior Services in Hamilton County.*

Issue: This five-year levy would stay at the same 1.29 mills as the expiring levy. The levy has brought in about \$20.8 million annually. Due to lower property values, this levy will yield about \$1.5 million less per year.

It will cost a property owner \$29.32 per \$100,000 property value, the same as before. This levy was first approved in 1992 and has been comfortably re-approved every five years, most recently in 2007 with a 70% vote.

4: City Council Terms

Resolution: *Cincinnati endorses the Charter amendment to extend Council terms from two to four years.*

Issue: Starting with the 2013 election, Council terms would be extended to four years. Eight-year term limits would remain in effect, except that some current Council members would be able to serve up to 10 years.

If a member leaves before June 1 of the second year of a term, an interim member is appointed and a special election held to fill the seat for the remainder of the term.

ANNIE Q&A, cont'd...

Q: You're very active in community arts. What's been a particularly satisfying moment for you?

A: Most recently, creating art with hundreds of people from around the world during the 2012 World Choir Games. I partnered with Jason Dunn, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator for the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau, to bring this global arts experience to our community.

Q: We're known for our "big" arts support – the museums, CSO, opera. How are we doing on "small" arts?

A: Cincinnati has come a long way supporting smaller arts organizations, but more work is needed. Once arts supporters demonstrate trust in the smaller arts organizations and financially back this belief, then smaller organizations can effectively collaborate with mainstream arts venues to make Cincinnati's art scene vibrant and culturally diverse.

Q: Your favorite book?

A: *A Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. I read it often to remind myself that I am here on this earth for a reason and that my art helps to change lives.

Q: What's your dream tour?

A: It would take me around the world - China, West Africa, Paris, Australia and Israel. I'd love to experience these places through arts interaction with the children of those countries and inspire them to create works of art that engage their communities.

Q: One wish?

A: To receive an unrestricted million dollar endowment to Eye of the Artists. This would enable me to travel around our city and the world to inspire more artists who would inspire and mobilize their communities to create art and bring people together through the same medium.



THE GPS LEVY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

YOU CAN HELP ASSURE A STRONG EDUCATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS

CINCINNATUS ASSOCIATION HAS ENDORSED THE CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOL RENEWAL LEVY (ISSUE 42). THE EDUCATION PANEL ASKS INTERESTED CINCINNATUS MEMBERS TO HELP BY PARTICIPATING IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Cincinnati-Sponsored Phone Bank We will be staffing a phone bank at campaign headquarters on Este Avenue on Monday, **October 29th from 5 to 8 pm.** It's not hard. You will be given a script and help with answering questions. You can arrive and leave any time. Please invite anyone else who might be interested to join us. We invite and encourage all Cincinnati members to join us.

Please let me know by Friday, October 26th if you wish to join us (kpriel@cinci.rr.com).

Can't make it on the 29th? There are other options:

- Send **postcards** to your friends asking them to support the levy.
- Display a **yard sign.**
- **Canvass** your neighborhood.
- Work a **polling place** on election day.
- **Contribute** to the campaign.

To participate, call campaign headquarters at (513) 258-2621. Info at www.justarenewal.com

DIRECTIONS TO CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

Exit Mitchell Avenue exit to I-75. Turn toward Spring Grove Avenue. Proceed straight past Spring Grove (Mitchell becomes Este Avenue). Proceed about ½ mile to 4526 Este Avenue. Sign on street indicates Turner Training Center. If any problems finding, just call 258-2621.

We really need to step up. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kent Friel, Education Panel Chairman (kpriel@cinci.rr.com)

JUST THE FACTS: The Cincinnati Board of Education placed on the Nov. 6 ballot a renewal levy generating \$51.5 million for Cincinnati Public Schools. The renewal of current operating revenue would not raise taxes. In a unanimous vote, the school board approved the resolution "declaring it necessary" to renew the levy for a five-year period that would begin in January 2014. The \$51.5 million emergency levy is due to expire in December 2013. Combined with an additional emergency levy of \$65.2 million due to expire in December 2015, the revenue generated represents more than 25 percent of Cincinnati Public Schools' General Operating Budget.