



PEACEBUILDING AND THE ARTS NOW

EXPLORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTS AND CULTURE TO PEACE



October 2013

Notes from the Director

Greetings from New England where the trees are announcing the end of autumn in vibrant colors. I have been working lately on a project documenting the forty years of cultural work practice of the African American musician, educator, organizer and cultural worker Jane Wilburn Sapp. You can find out more [here](#).

In the past several months, I was privileged to attend an international theatre research/festival at the Community Arts Lab in Utrecht, beautifully curated by [Dr. Eugene van Erven](#) and an international conference at the University of British Columbia where a number of peacebuilding/arts colleagues reported on progress on the theme of resilience in a [panel](#) convened by Professor Michelle LeBaron. More on both events below.

Also, In this edition we share the results of research into creative approaches to peacebuilding in Latin America, and a sampling of artistic responses to the murder of Trayvon Martin, the African American youth whose attacker was protected by Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law. These initiatives highlight the creativity and dynamism of artistic interventions in contexts of violence.

In the opportunities and resources section, note that IPRA has issued its [call for proposals](#); please consider participating in the Art and Peace Commission sessions at the conference in Istanbul, August 10 - 14.

Of course there is much more happening than we can fit into this newsletter!! Check out our program [website](#), and let us know of work you'd like to see featured in the January edition.

All the best,
Cindy

Cynthia E. Cohen, Ph.D., Director
Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts



IPRA 25th General Conference: "Uniting for Peace: Building Sustainable Peace Through Universal Values" (see blurb within newsletter body). [Call for Papers](#) - Deadline: December 15, 2014.



[Graphic Recording](#) by Dr. Aftab Erfan of Cindy's Presentation at University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS) Conference, Vancouver. September, 2013.



[Read Cindy Cohen's article](#) in the 2013 Olive Branch Teacher's Guide.

What's Happening

[Panel on Resilience, the Arts and Social Transformation at UBC Conference](#)

September 17-19, 2013

The Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of British Columbia hosted a conference featuring scholars from the University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS). UBC

Professor Michelle LeBaron chaired

a panel on the theme of resilience, that featured former Brandeis International Fellow [Dr. Kim Berman](#) of South Africa; Acting Together contributor [Dr. MaryAnn Hunter](#) of Australia; Neuroscientist [Dr. Peter Reiner](#) of UBC; and Cindy Cohen. [Listen to a podcast](#) of the entire panel and [read Cindy's remarks](#). [Dr. Aftab Erfan](#) created graphic recordings of all the panel presentations.



Panel presenters (left to right): Mary Ann Hunter; Cynthia Cohen; Aftab Erfan; Michelle LeBaron; Kim Berman.

[Acting Together at Community Arts Lab \(CAL\) Theatre Research/Festival in Utrecht](#)

June 20-21, 2013

Over 150 international artists joined colleagues from The Netherlands in a midsummer's weekend [theatre festival](#) hosted by [Acting Together](#) contributor and CAL director, [Eugene van Erven](#). The festival was an extraordinarily diverse gathering of artists, scholars and students, joined by 1500 children and adults from the city of Utrecht in a final gala parade and dinner, honoring the 300th anniversary of the Peace Treaty of Utrecht. [Dijana Milošević](#) and [Roberto Varea](#), featured Acting Together artists, joined [Cynthia Cohen](#) in leading a workshop and screening the project's award winning [documentary](#). We distributed multilingual copies of the film to colleagues from Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Bolivia. Roberto Varea's and Cynthia Cohen's participation in the Utrecht festival was supported, in part, by public funds from the Consulate General of The Netherlands in New York. [Read Cindy's report](#).

[Read more news.](#)

Peacebuilding and the Arts in Latin America

Many Latin American artists and activists work at the intersection of peacebuilding, social change, human rights and the arts. The following is a sampling of current work in the region. Please visit the [News from the Field webpages](#) to view resources too numerous for this newsletter.



Learn about our new project: "[A Way Out of No Way](#)" with Jane Wilburn Sapp.



Requiem for a lost land / Réquiem para una tierra perdida; Violeta Luna. Hemispheric Institute Encuentro, 2013. Photo credit: Julio Pantoja.

"Requiem for a Lost Land" by Violeta Luna

Violeta Luna's theatrical work "Requiem for a Lost Land" is a ritual intervention to remember the murders committed during the "War on Drugs" implemented by Mexico's central government, and to open the discourse of death put forth by those in power under the guise of "national security." [Read Roberto Gutiérrez Varea's](#)

[reflection](#) and [view video excerpt](#).

The UNESCO Culture of Peace News Network (CPNN), and Women-led Radio Program of Post-War El Salvador

The [Culture of Peace News Network \(CPNN\)](#), launched by UNESCO in 1998, is a project of the [Global Movement for a Culture of Peace](#). CPNN supports a radio program in El Salvador called "Buenos Tiempos Mujer" that supports women to stitch together the country's social fabric after 12 years of civil war. [Read more](#).

Chilean Artist Alfredo Jaar

Chilean artist Alfredo Jaar's installations, photographs, films, and community-based projects explore the public's desensitization to images, and the limitations of art to represent events such as the holocaust in Rwanda, gold mining in Brazil, toxic pollution in Nigeria, and issues related to the border between Mexico and the USA. [View a segment](#) of a documentary featuring Jaar speaking about his process. Read and view more [here](#).

Occularis Films

Occularis Films is a multidisciplinary collective established in 2003 that creates, produces and executes film projects that denounce injustice through art and invite intercultural communication and social dialogue. [Read more](#) about the work of Occularis Films, and its collaborations with Guatemalan and Latin American artists. Read about the social campaign [#HipHop4Peace](#) that launched their most recent film.

Espacio Memoria y Derechos Humanos - ex ESMA, (Museum of Space for Memory, Promotion, and Defense of Human Rights - formerly ESMA), Buenos Aires, Argentina

ESMA, the former Navy Mechanics School of Argentina, served as one of the "most notorious repositories for illegal detention, torture, and murder" during the Argentinian "Dirty War" of 1976 to 1983. Today, a museum called [Espacio Memoria y Derechos Humanos](#) (Space for Memory, Promotion, and Defense of Human Rights) occupies the site. Emily E. Parson wrote "[The Space of Remembering: Collective Memory and the Reconfiguration of contested Space in Argentina's ESMA](#)" in which she observes, "Although the development of the Museum of Memory is still an ongoing process, the diverse range of actions taken in just a few of the buildings at ESMA reflects the varied interpretations of the representations of memory." [Read more](#).

Artistic Responses to Trayvon Martin's Life and Death

[Art Print: Trayvon Martin - Ella Baker by Ricardo Levins Morales - Art for Social Justice](#)

Ricardo Levins Morales' response to the Trayvon Martin tragedy includes an image of Trayvon Martin integrated with a quote from Ella Baker. Levins Morales states "I believe that art can contribute to changing people's perceptions, hearts and understandings of what has been, what is and what's possible. I'm enough of an organizer to understand that art can't do it alone..." [Read more.](#)



Print: "Trayvon Martin - Ella Baker" Image courtesy of Ricardo Levins Morales

[12 Artistic Responses to the Trayvon Martin Verdict You Haven't Seen](#)

Following the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer, George Zimmerman, people were angry, but many channeled their rage and grief into positive, creative, artistic expression. One example of this can be found at the [Art Works Studio School](#), in Mount Rainier, Maryland. [Read more and view some of the many paintings created by the participants.](#)

[Singer Kim Nalley's Powerful New Song About Trayvon Martin](#)

Singer Kim Nalley, known for her sophisticated blend of blues, jazz and soul, performs her original song that captures the many layers of emotional complexity in the Trayvon Martin story. [View the video.](#)

[Video - Trayvon Martin Dedication: 'Little Black Boy Wonder' by Omari Hardwick and others](#)

Omari Hardwick added his name to the list of Trayvon Martin supporters through a viral video clip titled, "Little Black Boy Wonder." The four-minute clip, which was written and produced by Hardwick, features an array of Hollywood notables, performing a dedication poem honoring Martin. [View the video.](#)

[Oakulture: Oakland's Cultural Community Makes "Art 4 Justice"](#)

After the George Zimmerman trial, the [Betti Ono Gallery](#) in Oakland, CA opened its doors so that members of the African-American community, and others feeling the emotional weight of the trial, could vent, console, empathize, or express their thoughts. At the same time, Jeff Perlstein opened up [Solespace](#) for an "Art 4 Justice" workshop. At both locations, windows became message boards for folks to share their feelings. [Read more and view participants' responses.](#)



Resources & Opportunities

[Exhibit: Peace of cake?: No ready-made recipe Through January 5, 2014](#)

Utrecht University Museum, The Netherlands
The Utrecht University Museum of the Netherlands has

organized an art exhibition on the science behind peace, focusing on three former war zones: Uganda, South Africa and Yugoslavia. The exhibit demonstrates how difficult it is to restore peace once war has broken out, and translates choices in a peace process into a game for visitors using Kinect technology. [Read more.](#)

Call For Papers and Presentations: 25th IPRA General Conference

August 10-14, 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

Abstract submission deadline: December 15, 2013

The [International Peace Research Association \(IPRA\)](#) is hosting its 25th General Conference with the theme "Uniting for Peace: Building Sustainable Peace Through Universal Values." Sessions of the Arts and Peace Commission provide opportunities, for exchange, reflection, networking and building our field. Application forms can be downloaded and sent to ipra2014@iprapeace.org. [Read more.](#)

La Mujer de Negro de "Adiós Ayacucho": La no presencia (The Woman in Black of "Goodbye Ayacucho": The non-presence)

by Ana Correa

Ana Correa of Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani and featured in the documentary "Acting Together on the World Stage," writes about her personal experiences performing the play **Adiós Ayacucho**. The music and the use of the actual clothes of the disappeared person Alfonso Canepa allowed her to feel the suffering of the disappeared and their families. [Read Ana's reflection](#) (in Spanish).

New Book Opens Up Discussion on Art in Brazil during the Military Regime

Claudia Calirman's pioneering new book titled "Brazilian Art under Dictatorship: Antonio Manuel, Artur Barrio, and Cildo Meireles" provides a fresh and innovative perspective on art and creativity during the most brutal and repressive years of the military dictatorship in Brazil in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Calirman shows how government censorship and surveillance were in fact an impetus for the flourishing of creativity as visual artists... [Read more.](#)

Claudia Bernardi

Claudia Bernardi is an internationally-known visual artist who works in the fields of human rights and social justice, designing art-in-community projects for political refugees and survivors of torture from Latin America. She created the [Walls of Hope](#) and her [latest collaborative project](#), the Walls of Hope/African American Elders Share Memories of Integration during the Civil Rights Movement in the 60's... [Read more.](#)

BCA Study Abroad Opportunity - Ecuador

A new study abroad program based in the Ecuadorian Amazon called "Rehearsing Change: Empowering Locally, Educating Globally" engages students from North America with members of local indigenous communities in sustainable development projects/service learning, theatre for social change, cultural and historical study, and work on Spanish language. The program is also offering independent study opportunities for students, for which they can also receive academic credit. [Read more.](#)

"Behind the Dream" Project

A new audio book "Behind the Dream" tells the story of Dr. Clarence Jones, personal lawyer to Martin Luther King Jr., and sole survivor of his inner circle. Dr. Jones' account gives insight into the factors leading up to Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, which actually did not include those words until Dr. King, spurred by legendary singer Mahalia Jackson, seized the moment for posterity. [Read more about the project and listen to audio excerpts of the book.](#)

Fellowships for Socially Engaged Arts

Letters of Interest Due: December 2

A Blade of Grass (ABOG) offers a Fellowship for Socially Engaged Arts to support individual artists and artists collectives working on projects that promote art as a catalyst for social change. [Read more.](#)

"Aswan" - Debut Album Release by The Nile Project

The Nile Project announces the release of their debut album "Aswan" which was named one of the five 'Must-Hear International Albums of the Fall' by NPR Music. [Watch the video](#) from the first concert and [read more](#) including a call for artists for future recording opportunities.

European Peace Research Association (EuPRA) 8th Conference: "Building Positive Peace in Europe and Its Neighborhood"

November 7-9, 2013

Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus

Europe stands as an example of a peace-zone compared to many other places on our planet. However, within Europe, we see increasing tensions between North and South, East and West, and between the center and periphery, as well as the absence of sustainable peace within several European countries. To what extent the EU can be regarded as a "Peaceful Power" for itself as well as for its neighborhood? [Read more](#) about conference.

"Magdalena" - A New Documentary about Women in Theatre

"Magdalena" is newly-released film about the [Magdalena Project](#), a network of women in theatre. The 30-minute documentary draws on footage from two Magdalena festivals in 2011 in Wales and Cuba, and captures the history of the project and conveys its spirit. It features [Violeta Luna](#), [Dijana Milošević](#), and [Ana Correa](#). The full documentary is online, with information in [English](#), [Português](#), and [Español](#).

[View more Resources and Opportunities](#), including those focused on Peacebuilding and the Arts in Latin America.

**"Acting Together on the World Stage" Documentary
in Arabic, Hebrew, Japanese, Sinhala, Spanish and Tamil
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PEACEBUILDING AND THE ARTS

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