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The Carrollwood Cultural Center

Volume 1 Number 1

Serving all of Hillsborough County

Center Opens!

The magic has begun. The Carrollwood Cultural Center has officially opened its doors.

Paul Berg, the Center's new Executive Director, has an invitation for you:

"Come see what we have to offer," he says. "We're an arts and community resource for everybody. You are the reason we're here."

In planning for almost 10 years, Hillsborough County's first cultural center will present a captivating mix of cultural events, arts classes, and community activities to all of Hillsborough County.

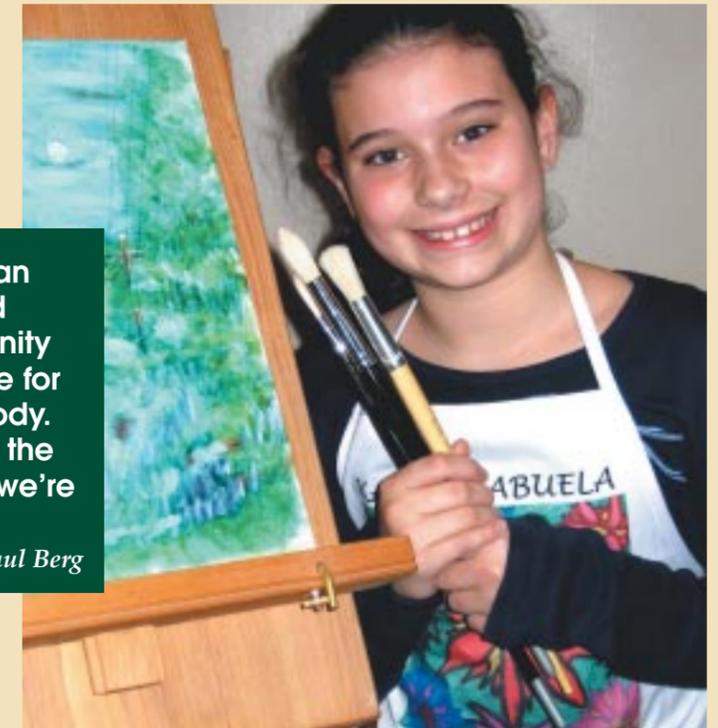
The Center's range and depth of programs are surprising, especially for a facility that is still ramping up. Mary Ann Scialdo, the Artistic Director, and Vicki Cuccia, the Business Manager, have used their theater and musical contacts to recruit talented performers and teachers across the board.

"We wanted people who are as dedicated to the arts as the staff is," commented Vicki. "Those who we thought were eminently qualified, we then asked to teach," said Vicki.

Administrators, artists, and teachers regard the Center as a labor of love. "Over and over," said Vicki, "I've heard people say, 'I want to give back to the community, and this is the place.'"

"We're an arts and community resource for everybody. You are the reason we're here."

Paul Berg



Kayla Cusick, 10, in the painting studio.

So what does the Center have for you? Here's a sneak preview.

Arts Performances

The heart of the Center is a 211-seat state-of-the-art theater. The new stage is dominated by the Center's concert grand piano.

The Center is hosting exhibits of local artists during all performances, and paintings are hung like colorful tapestries around the auditorium walls. At the Center's gala opening on March 2, the theater was bedecked with works by Peter Stilton and other members of the North Tampa Artists' League.

Article continues on next page.



The opening gala March 2 showcased the range and depth of performing arts talent the Center brings to the area. Featured artists included New York soprano Deborah Horne, Jim Burge on the clarinet, Helen Michaelson on the flute, Mary Ann Scialdo on the piano, and The Arioso Quartet (Lei Liu, Nancy Chang, Karl Bawel, and Lowell Adams). Selections ranged from Hayden to Irish folksongs to West Side Story.

Into the Future ...

A talk with Tom Jones

Tom Jones, President of the Friends of the Carrollwood Cultural Center, has been dreaming of a cultural center for ten years. Now that it's a reality, he's dreaming of the future.

Tom helped shepherd the Center from the pipe dream of a few neighbors to an \$8 million facility. He takes a parent's pride in the beautiful new building and the hundreds of people who have come to performances, toured the Center, and registered for classes.

Tom sees the Center's future as big and bright. He thinks the Center's role in the community will continue to grow.

"We are looking forward to partnering programs with the Bob Sierra YMCA, area homeowner associations, and activities in the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department system," Tom said.

"Our first priority is to serve the Hillsborough County public and the community."

Tom encourages community organi-

zations, churches, clubs, and individuals to contact the Center with requests and ideas.

In addition to the main building, the Center Annex is available. The Annex, which will eventually be remodeled, hosted programs while the main building was under reconstruction.

The Center is a joint project of Hillsborough County and the Friends of the Carrollwood Cultural Center. The two groups gradually worked out location, construction, financing, and management details.

"Our working relationship with Hillsborough County's Board of County Commissioners has been outstanding," said Tom. "The Board's effort in finding funds during some tough financial times was exemplary. Our final arrangement is that the County owns the property and the Center will manage it." The County will maintain its current support level for several years.

Tom observed that numerous groups and individuals have been vital to the Center's successful birth: the Center Board of Directors; the Center Advisory Board and staff; Paul Berg, *Executive Director*; Vicki Cuccia, *Business Manager*; Mary Ann Scialdo, *Artistic Director*; Helen Michaelson, *Education Outreach Director*; Rob Curry, *Events/Rentals Manager*; Laure Pericot, *Marketing Director*; North Tampa Arts League; Arts Council of Hillsborough County; the dedicated volunteers; and many others.

"Our first priority is to serve the Hillsborough County public and the community."



Upcoming Events

All performances start at 3 p.m. For more information, call (813) 269-1310, stop by the Center, or visit www.carrollwoodcenter.org

Sunday, April 27
Sunday, May 4
Sunday, June 1
Monday, June 16-27
Friday, July 11-13
Friday, July 18-20

E-Z-Street Band
Fanfare Concert Winds
A Piece of American Pie
CCC Summer Camps
Same Time Next Year by Neil Simon
Same Time Next Year by Neil Simon



Jen Granger and Bryan Register in painting class.

Center Opens! *continued*

Arts Studios

There's more. The Center has four specialized arts studios:

- **Pottery.** The pottery room, which holds classes for all levels, has 12 wheels, lots of storage, and two brand new kilns. The studio presents classes in throwing, sculpture, and hand building.

- **Painting.** The studio has separate areas for painting and drawing classes, and a sheltered outdoor area for working with natural light. Classes include watercolor, oil painting, drawing and pastel, as well as painting and drawing.

- **Piano.** Like a flock of blackbirds, ten digital Kawai pianos await students in the piano room. Beginning, intermediate, and advanced piano are offered.

- **Dance.** The only room in the Center with a wooden floor, the dance studio overlooks the back garden area and will have a mirrored wall. Waltz, tango, merengue, swing, salsa, cha cha, fox trot, rumba, mambo or zumba anyone?

Computer Lab

The Center's state-of-the-art computer lab features 16 new computers. The instructor PC feeds into a 42" flat screen monitor. The lab's initial classes include digital photography and introduction to computers.

Meet, Greet, Learn, Emote, Sing, Read

Other rooms serve a variety of purposes. The Center's multi-purpose rooms will be used for conferences, book groups, small recitals, lectures, language classes, theater rehearsals, and music and drama classes.

So come on down. Hang out. Take a class. Check out the schedule. The magic has begun, and you're part of it.

Cultural Center Classes

New sessions start every 6 weeks and new classes are added each session. Call (813) 269-1310, stop by the Center, or go to www.carrollwoodcenter.org for the latest schedule.



Kathy Woltman draws from a photograph.

Art

- Art Fun
- Beginning Water Color
- Art Appreciation
- Beginning Oil Painting
- Beginning Drawing and Pastel
- Painting and Drawing

Ceramics

- Sculpture
- Beginning Wheel Throwing
- Intermediate Wheel Throwing
- Beginning Hand Building

Computers

- Basic Computer Skills for Seniors
- Introduction to Photoshop Elements
- Introduction to Computers
- Intermediate Computers



Jacee Clark in the computer lab.

Movement/wellness

- Introduction to Aikido
- Beginning Tai Chi Chuan
- Intermediate Tai Chi Chuan
- Women's Escape/Self Defense
- Ki Gong

Dance

- Waltz
- Tango
- Merengue
- Swing
- Salsa
- Cha Cha
- Foxtrot
- Rumba
- Mambo
- Zumba

Music

- Band
- Beginning Guitar
- Beginning Piano
- Intermediate/Advanced Piano
- Kindermusik: Toddlers 1 1/2 – 3 yrs
- Kindermusik: Babies – 1 1/2 yrs



Mary Jon Finsterwalder gives piano tips to (from left) Patti King, Liz Rafaloski, and Alva Bailey.

Languages

- Beginning French
- Conversational French
- Beginning Italian
- Conversational German

Centerpieces

Newsletter of the Carrollwood Cultural Center
Vol. 1, Issue 1

Centerpieces reports on activities, people, and issues associated with the Carrollwood Cultural Center. *Centerpieces* is published quarterly.

Letters to the editor and reader submissions are welcome. Please mail submissions to *Centerpieces*, Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road, Tampa, FL 33618. Include your name, address, evening phone number, and the date. *Centerpieces* may edit your submission or withhold publication.

Centerpieces is produced by volunteers of the Carrollwood Cultural Center. New staff members are welcome.

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Marketing Director: Laure Pericot



Part one of a two-part interview

Paul Berg, the Center's Executive Director, has been on the job since January. A native of Illinois, he grew up in Steward, a town of 300 people, and has been involved with the arts since he took part in a play during 5th grade. At the Center, he often puts in 12-hour days. When we caught up with him, he was in the middle of another long day and trying to stifle his occasional yawns.

Do you want some coffee?

No, I don't drink coffee or tea. I drink Mountain Dew.

Mountain Dew is your coffee?

Yes. I always keep a can in the refrigerator.

Do you have any other dietary quirks we should know about?

Well, I'm not much for seafood. I'm a meat and potatoes guy. I love steak. This must be from growing up in the Midwest.

Is anything unusual about this cultural center compared to other centers you've worked with?

It's unusual in the sense that the County owns it and we run it. Most centers are one or the other. The agreement here is very unique. This is going to be watched closely and may become a template for other areas.

What do you mean?

Different counties will be looking to see how well this agreement works. The Center could be a model for centers to be set up in other counties, starting in Florida, then maybe further.

So, we are potentially a national model. Where do you see the Center going in the next few years?

We are set up to be a county-wide facility. I think we will have enough unique programs that, over time, we will become a regional facility.

Will the focus be on classes?

From the public standpoint, the area of most interest is going to be classes. We are going to offer some different classes each session, to always have something new for people. There will be a balance between classes, community activities, and performances.

Do you see the Center as offering avant-garde performances?

You have to find that fine line between what's right for the community and what's right for the arts scene. Not everything that plays in New York City would be right for here. You want to find programs that push a little bit, and educate the audience.

The great thing about the arts and culture is that they cross social and economic boundaries. The arts are an equalizer. You put people from different backgrounds in a pottery class together, and they're both creating something: that's all that matters.

What do you consider your strength as a leader?

I want people always to feel they can come up with new ideas and suggestions, that they're not in a box. There's gold in those wacky ideas that people come up with. With a little tweaking, that idea may turn out to be the next great thing.