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Rosewood Arts Guild Meeting Report February 21, 2007

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Next RAG meeting: Wed March 21

The Art Shack / 2701-A Rosewood Drive
(small mall across from Pizzaman)

6:30 Executive Meeting (Board and Directors)

7:00 General Meeting

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Featured Agenda for February 21 Meeting:

Presentation by RAG Member Nick Oleszczuk: Options, Instructions, and Experiences Re. Approaching Galleries, Museums and Universities with a Portfolio.

Nick recently had an excellent show at the Red Tub, reported on in the February 23rd issue of Columbia City Paper (interviewed by RAG member Laura Brown)

Other business - Spring RAG sale, Rosewood Crawfish Festival, RAG Portfolio, etc.

The February 21 meeting was held at The Art Shack, hosted by Paula Bowers...

Present: Sylvia Ady-Potts, Margaret Arial, Paula Bowers, Sandra Carr, Coy Durham, Richard Glover, Palei Leonard, Nick Oleszczuk, Dick Vogt, Gay Vogt.

Overview:

- **Executive Meeting:**
 - Organized Agenda for meeting

- **General Meeting:**
 - **RAG All Members Show, May 1-12.** The Art Shack will host a "Spring RAG All Members Show" from May 1 - 12, Opening Friday May 4. This show will also be a part of the "Columbia Festival of the Arts". Set up will be Sunday April 29; take down Sunday May 13. Participants must be members in good standing. A fee of \$15 will be charged to cover incidental expenses; The Art Shack will receive 30% of all sales. RAG will share advertising costs with The Art Shack. More information is on the RAG web site.

 - **Rosewood Crawfish Festival, Saturday May 12.** Still in the planning stage. Stay tuned to their web site <http://www.rosewoodcrawfishfestival.com/> This web site currently indicates the Festival will be May 5, but Paula indicated this has been changed to May 12. Art/craft booths will be available for a moderate charge. More information will be posted as it becomes available.

- **RAG Portfolios.** Dick Vogt brought examples of a two page layout for possible RAG portfolios. Discussion led to some modifications.

Two examples of portfolios can be viewed as PDFs from:

[http://www.rosewoodartsguild.org/pdf/port-glover\(2-27-07\).pdf](http://www.rosewoodartsguild.org/pdf/port-glover(2-27-07).pdf)

[http://www.rosewoodartsguild.org/pdf/port-vogt\(2-27-07\).pdf](http://www.rosewoodartsguild.org/pdf/port-vogt(2-27-07).pdf)

These are also linked with Richard Glover's and Richard Vogt's entries on the RAG membership page: <http://www.rosewoodartsguild.org/members.html>

In general the group thought this worth pursuing. RAG members interested in having a RAG Portfolio, and having this linked to their entry on the RAG membership page should provide images and text appropriate for their own representation. Images (sized and saved at 300 dpi) and text should be sent to Dick (contact Dick for appropriate means of transfer (vogt@biol.sc.edu)).

The Portfolio will be used to describe participating artists at RAG shows, and to solicit RAG Members participation in Alternative Venues (see below).

- **RAG Presentations / Programs.** Nick Oleszczuk will make a presentation at the next RAG meeting (March 21): "Options, Instructions, and Experiences Re. Approaching Galleries, Museums and Universities with a Portfolio." Susan Lenz, a fiber artist with studio in the 80808 Gallery complex will be invited for a future presentation on the process of her work, with likely venue at her studio in Gallery 80808. RAG will promote these events with announcements in suitable publications (Free Times, City Paper, etc).

Future Presentations. Suggestions were made to invite Susan Lenz (member of the 80808 Studios) and Sue Schraeder (RAG member) to present and discuss the process of their work. The program committee (Richard Glover, Sue Schraeder, Paula Bowers) agreed to pursue these.

- **Alternative Venues.** "Devine Eyes" on Devine Street has shown interest in hanging 2-dimensional art. Earth Fair (on Devine Street) is soliciting artist for one month shows in their new Community Room (RAG member Richard Glover will be showing his photographs during March). A loose discussion followed, identifying spaces in hospitals, banks, etc.
- **The Artists' Basement to close.** RAG member Laura Brown will be closing her gallery, The Artist's Basement in the next month or so. Her last show opening will be Friday March 23. The Artists' Basement has provided gallery space for many rising local artists and as such has been an exceptionally fine venue that will be sorely missed. Laura will join Ashley Herring (of Dragonfly Studio) and Russel Jeffcoat (photographer) to open Lincoln Street Creative Arts at 320 Lincoln Street (between Whaley and Blossom, near USC Greek Village). Opening May 2.

➤ **8:30 Called for closure.**

Feb 24 Email from Laura Brown regarding Closing the Artists' Basement and Opening Lincoln Street Creative Arts:

I would like to take this opportunity to let all of you know that The Artists' Basement will host our last show Friday March 24th. The past two years have been an eclectic adventure and I am sad to leave Five Points. I feel strongly that an arts venue is still needed in this vital, vibrant area. This Gallery has been supported by local peoples, neighboring restaurants, and bars. I can not thank everyone who has made The Artists' Basement a success (and always fun) enough. Without business' like Hunter Gatherer, Goatfeathers, The Whig, Gervais and Vine, The Village Idiot, The Red Tub, Jimmy Johns, Indian Pavilion, Bull Street Market and the many others who have sponsored events, they would not have been as fun or as entertaining. I would like to extend a very special thanks to my neighbors in Five points. Orlando and Jeff (and all the ladies) from Goatfeathers, Brian and Kelly from The Village Idiot, Mr. Paul Blake from Columbia City Paper, and all the guys, especially Kirk, from Jimmy Johns. Without these kind people helping me, from helping me with caring out the trash to donating time and food, I couldn't have done it. I would also like to thank all of the people, my friends, who have come to damn near every show. Without you guys helping the word get out, The Artists' Basement would have been a store with decorated walls and no patrons. Jen Greenwell---you are the best!! And the support of my family, and Fiance', is and always will mean the world to me.

People told me I was crazy for trying an arts venue in Five points. " You will never make any money" or 'what exactly are you trying to accomplish by having an arts venue in "the college area". To those people I say this. I opened The Artists' Basement in the perfect location. Art is for everyone and it benefits all in the community. Whether it be through a % of sells to various charities, or an overall arts exposure to young and young at heart peoples that come to Five points. The Columbia art scene is changing and developing at a rapid pace and without support on the local level, nothing will ever develop at a city wide level. No matter how much money is thrown at an event or idea, unless there is local support, it will fail and not benefit anyone. Hopefully I have made a difference.

To the city council members, arts commission board members, arts writers, and cultural council members, I hope you will remember how positive it was to have an arts venue in Five points when you are doing the budget for the years to come. Five points has a long history with the people of Columbia, and I feel it should remain filled with small family/locally owned business' that serve the community.

Now onto the forward thinking news.

Even though The Artists' Basement will no longer be in Five Points, I will still be involved in the Columbia Arts scene. Ashley Haring, Russel Jeffcoat, and myself have teamed up to create a special space for artists and the community to intermingle. This new venture will get kicked off May 2nd and is located at 320 Lincoln street. Lincoln Street Creative Arts will be a mixture of a bit of everything, a place for arts receptions, art classes, a studio, and photography lab.