



Friday, March 11, 2011

Media Contact:
Ed Weirauch
302-528-8847
edweirauch@earthlink.net

Partnership honored for bringing art to Kensington

For an artist to create, he or she has to be a visionary, to take a blank canvas of any kind and make it something that will strike a person's imagination.

The partnership between [InLiquid](#) and [Crane Arts](#) brings together two visionary groups who see a terrific future for one of Philadelphia's most troubled neighborhoods, Kensington.

And this partnership is being honored by the [Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia](#) for its joint efforts to ignite a Kensington arts community and perhaps lays the foundation for community redevelopment there.

"Crane Arts gives exhibition and work space to InLiquid which in turn brings art and art lovers into Kensington," explains Karen B. Davis, President & CEO of the Arts & Business Council. "That's what arts and business partnerships are all about so of course we recognize their great achievements."

In 2006, Crane Arts, which owns and manages the Crane Arts Complex (www.CraneArts.com) on American Street, partnered with and supported the nonprofit arts group InLiquid by providing space for special exhibitions and events. Before this, InLiquid was a nomad organization, having no place to call home while holding exhibits and special events at various venues.

"We were itinerants," remembers InLiquid Executive Director Rachel Zimmerman (www.InLiquid.com), "and that makes it tough to offer exhibits, hold events and really develop a following."

In 2004, business partners Nicholas Kripal, David Gleeson and Richard Hricko began to convert the three story Crane Building into artist spaces. Built in 1905, the building was mostly used as a warehouse for plumbing supplies and later a frozen food storage facility. In more recent years, the building stood empty like a lot of abandoned industrial buildings in and around Kensington.

"We got to know the InLiquid people and felt they would truly complement what we were trying to accomplish," Kripal says. "Their offices and display space are the first thing you see when you come in the building and their events bring in many people who might not otherwise be exposed to art and the good things that are in fact happening in Kensington," Kripal adds.

In total, Crane has given 15,000 square feet of space to InLiquid while the arts group has presented 38 exhibits and special events there over the past five years. In addition, the arts group sponsors an annual "Art for the Cash Poor" every June, and since 2010 the café/Community Arts Festival in the fall.

Every month, Crane Arts and InLiquid offer the Second Tuesday gallery opening series which further boosts their Kensington neighborhood by introducing visitors to a vibrant new cultural district.

Zimmerman's and Kripal's organizations will receive their partnership award during the Arts & Business Council's Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 29 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The event honors local leaders in the arts as well as business and arts partnerships. In addition, five business volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the arts and culture sector will be recognized.

KPMG and **Safeguard Scientifics** sponsor this year's event.

KPMG LLP. The audit, tax and advisory firm is the US member firm of KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"). KPMG International's member firms have 138,000 professionals including more than 7,900 partners in 150 countries. **Safeguard Scientifics, Inc.** (NYSE:SFE) provides growth capital and operational support to entrepreneurial and innovative life sciences and technology companies.

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, develops relationships between business and the arts for the mutual benefit of both and in support of the advancement of the Greater Philadelphia Region. For information on registering for the April 29 Awards Luncheon, visit www.artsandbusinessphila.org or call 215.790.3620.