Open Arts Conference

Universal Access... shifting perspectives through creative momentum

April 17, 2012 • Georgian Court University

Are you an arts or cultural administrator in a non-profit organization, school, youth group or senior development? Are you an artist? Do you volunteer or participate in a public arts, cultural or heritage program? Do you work in a social service position? Do you have a disability and love the arts?

The Open Arts Conference is a morning presentation and performance by internationally acclaimed performance artist Bill Shannon, followed by an optional lunch and afternoon breakout session for artists and organizations/administrators. Artists - learn about opportunities from a professional multimedia visual and performing artist. Organizations - energize and improve accessibility/ADA in your organization.

Morning Presentation – Bill Shannon

In this mind-opening and thought provoking presentation, internationally acclaimed performance artist Bill Shannon (pictured above) will challenge you to “second guess your first impressions.” Artist Bill Shannon uses customized rockerbottom crutches and a skateboard in visually striking physical performance work. From the publication Fear.less, “… he has traveled throughout the United States and the world, garnering acclaim for his unique creative energy and edgy sensibility that combines elements of hip-hop, street dance, social criticism, and modern dance.”

Over the past two decades, artist Bill Shannon’s multimedia video and visual art installations, performances, and choreography have been presented nationally and internationally at the Sydney Opera House, Tate Liverpool

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Museum, NYC Town Hall, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, The Holland Festival, Amsterdam, Kiasma Museum Finland, Hirshorn Museum and more. Shannon has been honored with a Newhouse Foundation Award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and a Foundation for Contemporary Art Award, among others. Bill is a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Stay for lunch and a more complete discussion of ADA issues relating to individual artists and non-profit organizations at the Open Arts Conference: shifting perspective through creative momentum cosponsored by the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission and Georgian Court University, partly funded through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The conference will present a chance to:

- network with peers and professionals from other sectors
- artists – get valuable advice and mentorship
- gain valuable assistance and ideas through technical assistance workshops
- meet equipment vendors and test access devices
- see what other organizations are doing
- showcase your organization
- meet patrons

Conference Schedule:
Morning: 8:30 – 9:30am Registration, followed by welcoming remarks, Bill Shannon’s presentation from 10:00 – 11:15, networking.

11:30 – 12:30 – Lunch

Afternoon: General Panel Session, followed by a Breakout Session (choose 1 of 2): Artists’ Roundtable Session with Bill Shannon, or Organizations/Administrators ADA Topic Session

Choose to attend the morning presentation only, featuring Bill Shannon which is free, or stay and participate in lunch and afternoon technical assistance sessions for a fee of $10.

Contact the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission at 732.929.4779 or culturalheritage@co.ocean.nj.us for more information on registering for this event.