



Project for Civic Engagement
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Help Support the Arts in Southeastern Pennsylvania The Radisson Valley Forge Hotel & Convention Center on Dec. 6

The Big Canvas Confab, the concluding event in a six-month-long citizen dialogue about the future of arts and culture in this region, will take place from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Radisson Valley Forge Hotel and Convention Center, 1160 1ST Ave., King of Prussia.

The Big Canvas is an initiative of the Great Expectations civic engagement project and is supported by the Lenfest and William Penn Foundations.

This event will gather arts and civic leaders, elected officials - including state lawmakers, county commissioners and city councilors - and interested citizens to develop a strategy for supporting arts and culture in the region. Organizers will report on the work of more than 500 citizens in 13 earlier forums in the five counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Then working in small groups, participants will discuss ways to turn this input into meaningful action.

“Government budgets are tight and getting tighter given evolving events on Wall Street and Main Street,” said Harris Sokoloff, co-director of the Great Expectations project and director of the Penn Project for Civic Engagement. “The Big Canvas will help identify strategies for preserving and enlarging the region’s arts and cultural assets.”

Pennsylvania’s first lady, U.S. District Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, a driving force in the arts in Philadelphia, will offer the keynote address.

Douglas Dolan, executive director of the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, will moderate a panel of regional arts and culture leaders, including Julie Hawkins of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance; David Thornburgh of the Fels Institute; Gary Steuer, director of Philadelphia’s arts and culture office; and Germaine Ingram of the Philadelphia Folklore Project.

Register for the free event at www.GreatExpectationsNow.com or call 215-854-5956. Free trolleys will take people from several Center City locations to the event and back.

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