

# Celebrate! CPA Prison Arts 2024

## “A Summer Soirée of Artistry and Storytelling”

Tuesday, June 11th at 5:30 pm

Our Host: The Pond House Café at Elizabeth Park

*“World in a Bobber” by Mark Despres*



**Curator Sponsor: Gambino Family Charitable Fund**

# PROGRAM

## COLLECTOR SPONSORS



### CELEBRATE PRISON ARTS! 2024

Tuesday, June 11, 2024  
The Pond House Café at Elizabeth Park  
West Hartford, CT

### RECEPTION 5:30PM – 7:00PM

“Summer Soirée” Art Exhibition,  
Appetizers, Music, and Silent Auction

### REMARKS 7:00PM – 7:30PM

**Welcome**  
Beth Hines, *Executive Director, CPA*  
Deb Rogala, *Director of Operations, CPA*  
Michael Kearney, *Chair, CPA Board*

**Prison Arts Program**  
Jeff Greene, *Program Manager*  
Vincent Nardone, *Alumni Artist*

**Silent Auction Winners**  
Sandra Bradford-Jennings  
*Development Director, CPA*

### MATT DICKS’ “SPEAK UP” STORYTELLERS 7:30PM – 8:30PM

### DESSERT TO GO – 8:30PM

Pick up some delicious ice cream on  
your way home.

# SPONSORS

## CONNOISSEUR



**SmithBrothers.**  
Be sure.



Kevin Grenham and Bill Doran

ANNE STANBACK &  
CHARLOTTE KINLOCK

CYNTHIA & JOHN CROUCH

## PALETTE



**ADNET**  
TECHNOLOGIES



CRISTINE CARROLL

MICHAEL KEARNEY

## CANVAS

THE HINES FAMILY



**David Saucier**  
*Mailing This Out, 2018*

The mission of the Prison Arts Program is to transform the prison and the lives of all those living and working inside it through the arts.

This colorful exhibition features 14 newly framed art pieces from our Prison Arts Program. This is the first time that these works will be exhibited as part of the ongoing exhibitions of our Permanent Collection.

Thanks to support from so many generous individuals and foundations, we are able to continually build this remarkable collection that travels throughout the State, and throughout the United States. An absolute jewel of the State of Connecticut, this collection is a growing document of the program's work, and of the profound work of so many people incarcerated in our prisons.

The Artists: Tracie Bernardi-Guzman, Santos Cancel, Dennis Coleman, Mark Despres, Jeff McEwen, Yongmi Olsen, James Pace, James Pinder, Marcial Salgado, David Saucier, and James Taylor.

## MATT DICKS' SPEAK UP STORYTELLERS



**Matthew Dicks**, founder of and artistic director of Speak Up, is an elementary school teacher, columnist, and internationally bestselling author of nonfiction and several novels. A record 60-time Moth StorySLAM and 9-time GrandSLAM champion, he has performed for audiences around the globe. Matt teaches public speaking & counsels corporations, universities, politicians, ad agencies, the clergy, and many more.



**Jeni Bonaldo** lives in Bethany, CT, with her husband, Mike, and daughters, Ella and Charlie. An English & Creative Writing teacher at Amity High School for 20 years, she has told stories for *The Moth*, *Speak Up*, *The International Festival of Arts and Ideas* in New Haven, and more. You can find her on the Speak Up storytelling podcast.



**Marcus Burrus** was born and raised in CT, and is married with two “awesome” kids. A proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served 20 years as a police officer before retiring and now works in the West Hartford schools as a security officer, helping young people learn important life skills like conflict resolution and basic respect for one another.

## MATT DICKS' SPEAK UP STORYTELLERS



**Kaia Pazdersky** is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter. She began her career in theater, performing in NYC, off-Broadway, on tour, and in regional theaters across the USA. As a member of the band Little Ugly, she participated in two East Coast tours and won both CT Music and New England Music Awards. Most recently, she directed Matthew Dicks' solo show, "You're a Monster, Matthew Dicks," to sold-out crowds at TheaterWorks in Hartford, CT.

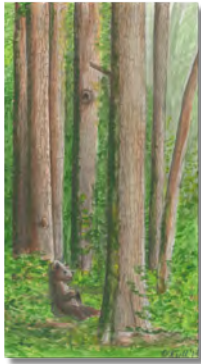


**Tracie Bernardi Guzman** is a formerly incarcerated woman who entered prison as a teenager and served 23 years, including 7 years in solitary confinement. Since her release in 2015, she has become a Certified Recovery Support Specialist and Co-Founded the nonprofit, Once Incarcerated. She works as a Case Manager at the Waterbury Reentry Welcome Center with CPA. Tracie has published two anthologies, "Too Cruel Not Unusual," and "The Other Death Penalty."



**Robin Ledbetter** lives in Hartford, CT, with her fiancé and Jack Russell/Pom mix, Foxy Mama. An alumna of both Middlesex and Wesleyan's Center for Prison Education programs, she has written and performed for over 15 years. Robin, who is justice-impacted, works at CPA as a peer-to-peer case manager. She also helps numerous agencies with at-risk teens and young adults, using her experience to help participants navigate their reentry and provides resources and support for those reintegrating back into the community.

# SILENT AUCTION



***Bear in the Woods*, 2014**  
(James O'Neill) Value: \$750  
*Bear in the Woods* is a captivating watercolor on paper, measuring 4.5" x 8". This small, yet striking piece is beautifully framed by EBK Farmers of Hartford. O'Neill is a respected artist who worked with Prison Arts for 10 years until his release in 2023 and is known for his impactful presence and artwork documenting his personal battles.



***Summer Clippings*, 2016**  
(James O'Neill) Value: \$750  
*Summer Clippings* is a vibrant 11"x4" piece crafted with pencil and colored pencil on paper, exquisitely framed by EBK Farmers in Hartford.



## ***Hartford Yard Goats Tickets and Swag Basket***

Value: \$120  
This Yard Goats Fan Package includes a helmet and hat, foam finger, two youth shorts, four Right Field Porch ticket vouchers, and a Mike Golic Jr. Bobblehead, perfect for any baseball enthusiast or fan. Donated by The Hartford Yard Goats, a Minor League team affiliated with the Colorado Rockies.

# SILENT AUCTION



**KENEY PARK**  
GOLF COURSE

## ***Keney Park Golf Course Foursome***

Value: \$300

Experience a delightful round of golf with a foursome at the historic Keney Park Golf Course, known for its scenic beauty and challenging fairways.

**THEATER  
WORKS  
HARTFORD**

## ***TheaterWorks Hartford Two Season Subscription and Swag***

Value: \$575

Experience the best of contemporary theater with 2-season-plus subscriptions to TheaterWorks Hartford, along with a cozy cropped hoodie, stylish long-sleeved shirt, comfy hat, and a versatile tote. Celebrating its 39th season, TheaterWorks Hartford produces high-quality contemporary theater and is dedicated to the power of storytelling in creating community.



## ***Photoshoot by Jahmal Reyes***

Value: \$600

Capture your special moments with a 90-minute professional photoshoot featuring 20-30 stunning photos. Jahmal, a Hartford native and seasoned photographer, offers edgy yet elegant photography services since 2015, specializing in editorial and wedding photography. The winner can choose a theme or have one designed for them.



# SILENT AUCTION



## **My Dancing Egret**

(Shelly Gambino) Value: \$400  
*My Dancing Egret* is a stunning water-based oil painting, measuring 18"x 24", showcasing the grace and beauty of an egret in motion. This piece is presented in a floating box frame, adding a touch of sophistication to any space. Gambino has been passionately studying and creating art for over a decade at the Farmington Valley Art Center.



JCV  
FREELANCE  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## **The Lighthouse Point**

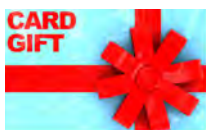
(JCV Freelance Photography, LLC) Value: \$75

*The Lighthouse Point* is a beautiful 6.75"x 6.75" pro-luster photograph capturing a beacon of hope, located by the iconic New Haven lighthouse. Donated by JCV Freelance Photography, LLC, a dedicated freelance photography service capturing life's moments with artistic flair.



## **Collection of Signed Books**

(Matt Dicks) Value: \$100  
A collection of five signed copies of Matt Dicks' books: *Storyworthy*; *Someday Is Today*; *The Perfect Comeback of Caroline Jacobs*; *Twenty-One Truths About Love*; and *The Other Mother*.



## **Quick Bite Basket**

Value: \$250  
Enjoy this delicious food basket featuring gift cards from Hall's Market, Crumbl Cookies, Burger King, Red Lobster, and Wendy's.

# WE ACKNOWLEDGE

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN ACTION DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**Christy Miller**  
*Committee Chair*

**Cynthia Crouch**

**Mike Gambino**

**Vicky Steele**

**Beth Hines**  
*Executive Director*

**Sandra Bradford-Jennings**  
*Development Director*

**Noely Sanchez Velez**  
*Administrative Manager and IT Liaison*

## SERVICES

Catering: Pond House Café at Elizabeth Park  
Photography: P Edward Photography  
Music: Steve Moran  
Graphic Design: Buzz Engine  
Printing: Marketing Solutions  
Signage: Budget Printers

## EVENT MANAGEMENT

**Sandra Bradford-Jennings**  
**Noely Sanchez Velez**  
**Jeff Greene**  
*Prison Arts Program Manager*  
**Adam H. Brill**  
*Communications Director*  
**Lizzy Irizarry**  
*Summer Development Associate*

# Thank you!

Your attendance at Celebrate! CPA Prison Arts 2024 makes a difference. The support of people like you makes it possible for Community Partners in Action's Prison Arts Program to pursue mission-driven, innovative projects, such as the Reentry Welcome Centers and our involvement in advocacy for justice reform. You are also supporting the Prison Arts Program's important work with people making meaningful art in prison.

## **ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN ACTION**

Community Partners in Action (CPA) was founded nearly 150 years ago to champion criminal justice reform in Connecticut and preserve the dignity of those interacting with the system. We are a non-profit dedicated to serving and advocating for adults and youth impacted by the criminal justice system.

CPA believes people can change. Since our founding in 1875, we have never wavered in our commitment to ensuring participants have the right to work, the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, and housing, and the right to physical and mental health services.

## **PROGRAM AREAS**

Our many programs and partnerships assist adults and youth throughout Connecticut, including in the Hartford, Waterbury, Hamden, New Haven, Manchester, Bridgeport, and New London areas, and the CT prisons and youth residential centers.

- **Alternatives to Incarceration**
- **Community Service at Hartford Community Court**
- **Prison Arts**
- **Reentry Services**
- **Transitional Housing Services (Adults)**
- **Youth Residential Treatment Services & Enrichment Activities**



**COMMUNITY**  
**Partners** *in* **Action**<sup>®</sup>

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