



Pawtucket Armory Association eNewsletter: Vol. 3 No. 1 February 2006

table of contents

[Events at The Arts Exchange](#)

[Rhode Island Historic Tax Credit Program At Risk](#)

[Brick by Brick . . . Arts for All - The Arts Exchange's Capital Campaign Going Strong](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Upcoming at The Gamm; New at JMW](#)

The Lonesome West just ended its exciting run but there are still two plays remaining in [The Gamm's](#) exciting season:

- *Top Girls* (March 23 through April 23)
- *La Bete* (May 18 through June 18)

To purchase tickets call 401.723.4266 or go online at

The Exchange eNewsletter is designed to spread the word about our efforts to renovate the historic Pawtucket Armory and manage it as *The Arts Exchange*, an affordable and sustainable, regional center for the arts and arts education. The Pawtucket Armory Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

• [Events at The Arts Exchange](#)

We are very excited to announce the following two public events that will be held in the Drill Hall at *The Arts Exchange* in early March:

Saturday afternoon, March 4 – Pawtucket St. Patrick's Day Parade post-parade party

Pawtucket's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade takes place on Saturday, March 4. The parade begins at noon from Jenks Junior High School on Division Street and ends at City Hall. The Post Parade Party begins immediately afterward at *The Arts Exchange* with music for dancing provided by Fintan Stanley and Ben Kelly. Admission to the family-friendly party is \$2 per adult and children under 12, with an adult, admitted free.

Monday, March 13 at 6:30pm – Pawtucket Celebrates Youth in Music

The Music School of the Rhode Island Philharmonic is presenting this concert that will feature performances by more than 100 students. Several youth ensembles, including groups from the Rhode Island Youth Symphony Orchestra and Creative Communities, will perform.

www.artixri.com.

In addition, The Gamm will be holding a French-themed fundraiser, "La Grande Affaire", on May 6 at The Arts Exchange to benefit the theater's artistic and educational programs. For more information, please call 401-723-4266.

The Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts (JMW) is not only well into its second semester of existence, it is actively planning for next year. A new ninth-grade class will join this year's students as the school continues its steady growth into a four-year high school. Already, more than 30 students have auditioned for spots in next year's incoming class. Applications continue to be accepted and auditions scheduled.

On April 10, Friends of Excellence in Arts Education will hold a fundraiser at *The Arts Exchange* to benefit JMW. The event will be a Death By Chocolate party and will include short performances by JMW students. The fundraiser's guest of honor will be film director and Pawtucket native Michael Corrente, who will be auctioning visits to the set of his upcoming film *Prince of Providence*. Channel 12's Karen Adams will be the evening's host.

For more information regarding the school or the fundraiser, please contact JMW at 401-721-2147.

Admission to this concert is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens, payable at the door. For more information, contact the Music School at 401-272-9877.

● **Rhode Island Historic Tax Credit Program At Risk**

Many of Rhode Island's abandoned or under-utilized historic buildings are being brought back to life because this state's successful historic tax credit program has made these buildings' renovations economically feasible. Historic tax credits are helping revitalize such historic treasures as Block Island's Southeast Lighthouse, Woonsocket's St. Ann's Church, Providence's Masonic Temple, and our very own Pawtucket Armory. In fact, Rhode Island historic tax credits are paying for more than twenty-five percent of the costs of last year's Armory renovations and are expected to pay for a similar amount of future renovations.



Unfortunately, state leaders are considering cutting back this important program. In his recently submitted budget for the next fiscal year, Gov. Carcieri encouraged discussion of potential adjustments to historic tax credits. Such talk has already caused Urban Smart Growth (developer of Pawtucket's Hope Webbing complex) to cancel its project to transform the Paramount Cards factory in Pawtucket into a mix of residential, office, and retail space.

To learn more about Rhode Island's historic tax credit program, its importance to projects like *The Arts Exchange*, and what you can do to preserve the program, [click here](#).

● **Brick by Brick . . . Arts for All - The Arts Exchange's Capital Campaign Going Strong**

With little public fanfare, *The Arts Exchange* raised more than \$5 million and conducted two phases of renovations to the Armory – the Annex Theatre in 2003 and last year's reopening of the Castle. Over 85% of the funds raised to date have come from federal and state historic tax credits (see previous story) and in appropriations and grants from the federal, state, and Pawtucket governments. Starting with last October's successful fundraiser "Swingin' at the Armory" we are now turning to the public to complete the Capital Campaign.

Over the next three years, *The Arts Exchange* will raise another \$2.8 million. To further this effort, in March we will be publishing a beautiful and informative 16-page campaign booklet and producing a short video regarding *The Arts Exchange*.

To make a pledge or to learn more about how you can help *The Arts Exchange's* Capital Campaign, contact Executive Director Steve Kumins at steve@arts-exchange.org or 401- 721-0723.

- **Contact Information**

info@arts-exchange.org
<http://www.arts-exchange.org>

401.721.0723

The Arts Exchange is located at 172 Exchange Street in downtown Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Our mailing address is PO Box 1026, Pawtucket, RI 02862.