



August-September 2011

2011 GRANTS WINNERS NAMED

From an octogenarian muralist to a dancer who knows the value of inclusion... in these times of less government aid to the arts, IFDA/EF is pleased to announce the Grant winners for 2011. Read all about it starting on page 2.



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French-Brown

2011 GRANTS WINNERS NAMED

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"IFDA Educational Foundation grants are very diverse in purpose and reading the applications for each grant was inspiring. The winners this year as in the past are very deserving," says Merry Mabbett Dean, Director of Grants, "and we know that the awards will be well used by them for future professional growth in their chosen field of pursuit."

TONY TORRICE GRANT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jen Pucillo, Portland, Oregon

Jen Pucillo, LEED AP, EDAC is a designer with Czopek & Erdenberger, Inc., a Portland-based design studio with a focus on commercial interiors. Recent work, which has focused on highly flexible and collaborative spaces and alternative learning environments, has driven her interest in how people connect information to inform design decisions. Jen will be using the grant funds to participate in a 4-day collaborative design workshop presented by the recently established Institute of Collaborative Design at the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Jen explains in her grant application, "By participating in this workshop, I look forward to hearing different perspectives on how people in other fields solve problems. I am excited to discover new ways to approach design challenges and to see how I can implement new processes in how I work." Jen will also be allocating grant funds to take a class on Revit, a sophisticated building information modeling program.



Jen Pucillo



Susan Slotkis

Susan Slotkis, As an IFDA/EF Barbara Brock Grant Speaker, and winner of one of the two Barbara Brock Memorial Grants, **Susan Slotkis** was able to volunteer her time and talent to enhance the educational programs and projects of IFDA and the Texas Chapter. Susan presented two CEU seminars in April at the "GROW & Spring Thing" event at the Dallas Design Center. Susan is an interior designer, educator, and author. Susan's firm Profiles – Personalized Interiors was founded in 1988 concentrating on residential spaces with a focus on client involvement in the process. Her book *Foundations of Interior Design* published by Fairchild will be available in its 2nd edition in 2012. She teaches courses on various topics of design for college students, industry professionals, and design enthusiasts. She is an adjunct assistance professor at FIT & NYU. Susan currently serves as Director at Large of IFDA Board, as Editor of the *Network* newsletter and NY Chapter Director of Branding. This year she received the ASID Chapter Medalist Award, the highest award bestowed at the chapter level in recognition of her outstanding service and significant contributions to the NY ASID chapter and to the body of knowledge that supports the profession of interior design.

BARBARA BROCK MEMORIAL GRANT

Susan Slotkis, New York, New York

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ELIZABETH BROWN GRANT FOR INTERIOR DESIGN

Ron Reed, Austin, Texas



Ron Reed

Ron Reed, IDEC, IIDA, ASID, NCIDQ certified earned his M.S. in interior design at Colorado State University and B.S. at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He is currently the program coordinator for the interior design department at Texas State University and the Southwest Regional Chair for IDEC. In addition to teaching, Ron has over fifteen years of professional practice in both commercial and residential design. He is the author of *Color + Design: Transforming Interior Space* and *Finding a Place Called Home: the Resident's Journey in Assisted Living*.

The CIDA accredited interior design program at Texas State has developed a new library space for their students. Receipt of the Elizabeth Brown Grant for Interior Design has enabled purchase of initial reference materials covering interior design, architecture, LEED exam study guides, and current building code periodicals. This library space will house additional design periodicals, magazines, texts, multi-media and other educational resources for use in studio and lecture by the students and faculty.

IRMA DOBKIN UNIVERSAL DESIGN GRANT

Merry Lynn Morris, Tampa, Florida

Merry Lynn Morris holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree in dance performance and choreography from Florida State University. She has been an instructor in dance for 13 years at the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Ms. Morris seeks out interdisciplinary opportunities and her collaborative work crosses multiple disciplines including: Engineering, Physical Therapy, Architecture, Music, and Visual Art. Ten years ago she began exploring the venue of mixed ability dance, and as caregiver to a disabled father over a 21-year period her interest and awareness in disability needs has been ever-present.

Ms. Morris has created therapeutic movement/dance programs in assistive living facilities, and worked with individuals with Parkinson's Disease. Her dance/mobility chair project (<http://rdc.arts.usf.edu>) involves approaching wheelchair design from a dance performance perspective to increase options for differently-abled individuals and expand perceptions regarding human mobility. The project has received national and international recognition and a patented chair prototype has been built. Ms. Morris is a member and frequent presenter at the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science (IADMS).



The "*Mobility-for-All*" dance touring program, for which Ms. Morris received the Irma Dobkin Universal Design Grant, seeks to increase participatory opportunities in dance for individuals with differing ability levels through the presentation of mixed ability performance and innovative assistive technologies with audience interaction. In addition she hopes to educate and inspire viewers and participants to consider inclusionary approaches to dance programming and technological development and help support creative approaches to design.

INA MAE KAPLAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT Jeanne Blackburn, Montgomery Village, Maryland



Muralist Virginia J. McLaughlin with Jeanne Blackburn

Jeanne Blackburn is originally from Rochester, New York and moved to New York City to pursue her fashion writing career at *Mademoiselle* magazine after attending Ithaca College. A subsequent relocation to Washington and marriage to her husband, Jim, precipitated a move to the suburbs and a columnist job with the Gazette Newspapers. Twenty years ago, needing a change of direction, she renewed a prior interest in home fashions and earned an Interior Design degree at Montgomery College.

Shortly thereafter, as Style Editor for *Frederick Magazine*, a regional mid-Maryland monthly publication, she met Virginia McLaughlin, and wrote the first of several features appearing in

regional and national publications about her and her murals. Their latest collaboration is a self-published book that will not only be a visual history of some of the most important of the over 100 murals Virginia has painted in the last 30 years, but an insight into the spirit and passion that keeps this remarkable woman creating wall-size beauty at nearly 89 years old. It will also serve as a visual record of some of the history of the Mid-Atlantic region in a uniquely charming form. Publication is expected in the Spring of 2012. Jeanne's features on interiors, designers, and architecture have appeared in *Home & Design*, *Coastal Living*, *Old House Interiors*, and *Romantic Homes* magazines among others.

She is currently a regional editor for Meredith Corporation/*Traditional Home* and *Better Homes & Gardens*. She and her husband, Jim, make their home in Maryland. She is on the Board of the Washington, DC Chapter of IFDA, and it was through Ann Unal, the 2011 Educational Foundation Chair, that she became aware of the Ina Mae Kaplan Historic Preservation Grant. Reception of the grant is a wonderful honor, and has gratified everyone involved in the book's publication.

and now, for the rest of the story...

Her business cards indicate **Virginia Jacobs McLaughlin** is an itinerant painter', a muralist with a vivid sense of history and a painter's passion for her work. Starting over 30 years ago, her painting has been influenced by two 19th century artists: Frenchman Jean Zuber, and an American, Rufus Porter.

A native of Missouri, she graduated from Stephens College and the University of Missouri, then moved to Washington to pursue a career in graphic design. After her marriage to G. Donald McLaughlin, she studied painted furniture techniques in Germany and watercolor painting in China when his State Department job took them to Europe and the Far East.

Returning to the United States, they settled in Fairfield, Pennsylvania near Gettysburg where her love of history directed her art to historic murals. Since then, her work has graced over 100 homes and public buildings many of which have historic designations, including the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Building in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, The Silver Maple Inn in Braddock Heights, Maryland, and the Inn at Mount Vernon in Virginia. She lives in Frederick, Maryland, enthusiastically continues to take commissions – and will celebrate her 89th birthday in October. Visit her website at virginiamclaughlin.com.