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## **OFF-AIR SERIES CULMINATES WITH INTERACTIVE EVENT CELEBRATING CHICAGO'S ART CENTERS AND INSPIRING THE ARTIST WITHIN**

**Chicago Cultural Center – Saturday, June 4 at 1pm**

CHICAGO (May 9, 2011) –Chicago Public Media (WBEZ 91.5 FM) concludes its *Off-Air Series* by celebrating Chicago's rich landscape devoted to emerging artists and art education. **What's Your Art? Celebrating the Art Centers of Chicago** takes place at the Chicago Cultural Center Yates Hall, 78 East Washington, on **Saturday, June 4 from 1:00 – 5:00pm**. The event is free, but reservations are recommended.

From Hyde Park to Pilsen to Ravenswood, remarkable places of art exhibition, classes, and public events exist to foster and inspire the development of art and culture in Chicago. In an effort to share their mission and motivate those outside their regular audience, ten extraordinary Art Centers from all across Chicago will come together for the first time under one roof. Yates Hall will be transformed into a creative ground where each organization will erect a gallery space for visitors to step into and experience. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in demonstrations such as "do-it-yourself" paper art making, video blogging, screen printing, African dancing, clay making, and more – all showcasing the role the Art Center plays in shaping the artist in each of us.

"The *Off-Air Series* was created to share diverse and compelling content that informs, inspires, enriches and entertains, while highlighting WBEZ's opportunity to bring multiples of something together. **What's Your Art?** does just that," says **Breeze Richardson, Off-Air Series Executive Producer**. "This is the perfect event to conclude our series. It's celebratory, for the whole family, and something no one in Chicago has done before. We're excited to close this year's series on such a powerful note!"

The participating centers and their respective demonstrations include:

- **Chicago Art Department** creating a live video podcast about the event and participants allowing audience members to control the cameras and mixers while collaborating with the reporters
- **Chicago Photography Center** demonstrating the art of Portraiture, using members of the audience as "models"
- **Chicago Urban Art Society** showcasing the "do-it-yourself" approach to stencil-making and screen-printing using cost conscious and creative methods
- **Fire Arts Center** demonstrating simple techniques for stone carving
- **Hyde Park Art Center** presenting "do-it-yourself" techniques for making creations out of paper such as artist books and trading cards
- **Lillstreet Art Center** demonstrating how to throw large pots and the basics of hand building and wheel throwing
- **Little Black Pearl** presenting a workshop on the creative process for sculpture making

- **Rumble Arts Center** showcasing the dances of Africa and the Caribbean with simple techniques and intricate rhythms, as well as a Filipino Martial Arts demonstration using stick, knife, staff and the whole body as a method of defense
- **Southside Community Art Center** demonstrating the process of digital music production in combination with basic digital photography techniques
- **Spudnik Press** demonstrating how to use a gouge to make images on linoleum and inviting attendees to work one-on-one to hand-print their linoleum gallery space live at the event

In addition to their individual gallery spaces, which the audience will be free to explore throughout the day, each Center will have an opportunity to showcase a demonstration on a centrally-located stage.

Available at each participating Art Center, a “validation card” has been created to encourage attendance to each of the local Centers in advance of the June 4 event; attend two or more Art Centers before June 4 and bring the validated Card to this event to receive a prize! Prizes will be awarded to those who visit two, four, six, eight, or all ten Chicago Art Centers.

The event is free, but reservations are recommended. To reserve your seat and for more information, visit [www.wbez.org/events](http://www.wbez.org/events).

#### **About Off-Air Event Series**

The **Off-Air Series** is a production of Chicago Public Media (WBEZ-Chicago), through collaborations with our Partners and friends, designed to bring together public radio fans, their friends and anyone else we can find to experience the rich traditions of Chicago culture. The print/online media sponsor for the *Off-Air Series* is The Chicago Reader. For tickets and a complete listing of all 2010-2011 events go to: [www.wbez.org/events](http://www.wbez.org/events)

#### **About Chicago Public Media**

Chicago Public Media is an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation, and our world. Chicago Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Sound Opinions*, *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR), *Eight Forty-Eight*, *Worldview*, and *Radio M*. It operates WBEZ 91.5 FM, one of the country's premiere public radio stations, and Vocalo 89.5 FM, an experimental web/radio service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, please visit [www.chicagopublicmedia.org](http://www.chicagopublicmedia.org).

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