

# Hurricane Katrina Aftermath

## How to Help Arts-Related Efforts

The Arts Alliance Mountain Empire board of directors and members offer our prayers and best wishes to all affected by Hurricane Katrina. As the tragic events surrounding this disaster continue to unfold, each of us is overwhelmed by the scope and impact of the destruction. It will take all of us working together to make a difference.

Many of the affected citizens are visual artists, dancers, music teachers, musicians, orchestra members, etc. They have lost their homes, studios, instruments, music — their very livelihoods. While there will be tax dollars to rebuild school music programs, the independent artist or teacher will not have the same assistance. What can you do to help?

First, work with national, state and local arts organizations. For example, the **Music Teachers National Association** has started a Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund to aid music teachers with the re-establishment of their studios. You may donate musical instruments (see [www.mtna.org/Inkind.htm](http://www.mtna.org/Inkind.htm)), make a cash donation (<https://members.mtna.org/Katrina/recoveryfund.asp>) or send it in the mail, marking the check for "Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund." Check the on-line bulletin board (<https://members.mtna.org/discussions/index.php>) for specific requests.

Other organizations around the country are doing the same for their colleagues. The **American Symphony Orchestra League** has been tracking information from member orchestras and others in Louisiana and surrounding states. If you have information about orchestras in the affected area, please contact Jan Wilson at [league@symphony.org](mailto:league@symphony.org). To keep you informed, the League is updating information on its website: [www.symphony.org](http://www.symphony.org). In addition, the League has established a **Gulf Coast**

**Orchestra Relief Fund** to help support those orchestras that were most affected by the storm, including the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Gulf Coast Symphony (Biloxi), the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, and the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra. Please make checks payable to the American Symphony Orchestra League, 33 West 60th St., Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10023 and write "Gulf Coast Orchestra Relief Fund" on the face of the check. For more information, contact Stacey Weston at [sweston@symphony.org](mailto:sweston@symphony.org).

The **American Association of Museums (AAM)** is compiling a list entitled "First Reports" detailing damage to various museums and organizations directly affected by the Hurricane Katrina disaster. For updates, go to [www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfm](http://www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/HurricaneFirstReports.cfm).

### Good News

As of Sept. 6, AAM reports that the **New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA)** survived the hurricane and its aftermath without significant damage. There was no structural damage and no water in the basement. During the storm, FEMA wanted NOMA security and maintenance employees to move to a safer location, but there was no way to secure the artwork inside, so the staff stayed on-site. Before the storm, museum workers had taken down some pieces in the sculpture garden, but a towering modernist sculpture that was left behind was reduced to a twisted mess in the lagoon. The museum has decided to bring in a larger generator for climate control instead of moving the collection. The sculpture park has many uprooted trees, but only one sculpture was damaged.

On Aug. 30, a spokesperson for the **Contemporary Arts Center** in New Orleans reported that the CAC suffered

only minor to moderate structural damage, mainly blown out windows on the first and fourth floors. However, conditions may have worsened after the levee broke because the CAC is closed until further notice. *A!*

### Donate Art to Local Gallery for Silent Auction

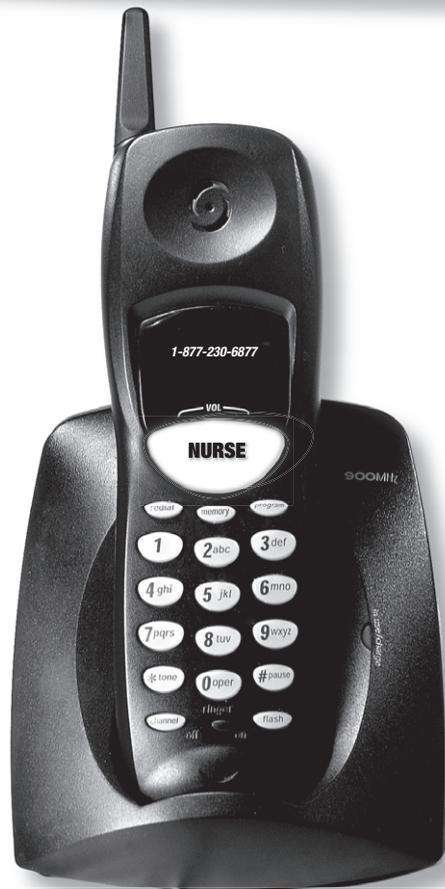
Usually, **First Friday** in downtown Johnson City celebrates the arts. This month, in addition to the regular gallery stroll, a **Silent Art Auction** will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. Oct. 7 at Nelson Fine Art Center.

Donations of art will be accepted up to Oct. 7, but are appreciated as soon as possible (the earlier, the better).

You may also donate cash, non-perishable food and water, clothing, baby items, hygiene products, etc. Money and donated items accepted by Nelson Fine Art Center will be given to The Good Samaritan Ministries of Johnson City which is working directly with displaced survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call 423-926-2931.

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