



# THE LINKAGE PROJECT of the Prison Creative Arts Project

PCAP Linkage Project Newsletter  
December 2011-February 2012



## MEET THE LINKAGE PROJECT STAFF

Vanessa Mayesky and Heather Wilson joined the Linkage Project staff this fall. Vanessa works full-time as the Linkage and Portfolio Coordinator. Heather works part-time as the Assistant Coordinator.

*Vanessa, what brought you to the PCAP Linkage Project?*

I facilitated theater workshops with PCAP for eight years, then took a break from volunteering. The opportunity to bring my professional skills home to an organization I love is one I couldn't pass up.

*What other work have you done?*

I've worked in nonprofits for 15 years, doing a little bit of everything.

*What are you looking forward to?*

Meeting everyone in person!

*Heather, what brought you to the PCAP Linkage Project?*

I believe in the transformative power of the arts. I jumped at the opportunity to be part of a project that embodies my passions for social justice through artistic expression.

*What other work have you done?*

I've worked in many areas of the non-profit sector, creating/developing programs and advocating for underserved persons.

*What are you looking forward to?*

Knowing you and your art!

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### Featured Artists:

- Sam Neal
- Robert Dockter
- Nancy Stephens-King

Send your art or writing to [PCAPLinkage@umich.edu](mailto:PCAPLinkage@umich.edu) to be featured in upcoming newsletters.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCE APRIL 2012

We are excited to announce the PCAP Linkage Project Conference will be held in Detroit, Michigan in early April 2012. We will be celebrating artistic development with workshops, local cuisine, and a cultural event.

We need your help to plan a great conference! Please answer the attached Linkage Project registration form honestly and completely. Your conference interests and transportation needs will be included in planning.

**Linkage Members, complete and return the registration form by January 6, 2012 to receive a gift card for art or writing supplies!**

## PROJECT CHANGES

We have made changes to improve the Linkage Project. Returning citizens can participate right away as Linkage Members. Members can apply twice a year for a Linkage Fellowship. Volunteers have new opportunities, too. See below for more details.

### Linkage Members

All returning citizens who have participated in PCAP programs are welcome to become Linkage Members. Members must complete an annual registration form and are asked to sign a release of information. Benefits include:

- Connections to arts and cultural organizations in your area,
- Exhibition and performance opportunities,
- Annual conference and workshops,
- Invitations to PCAP events,
- Peer support from Linkage Members,
- Regular contact from PCAP Linkage Project staff,
- Opportunity to apply for Linkage Fellowship.

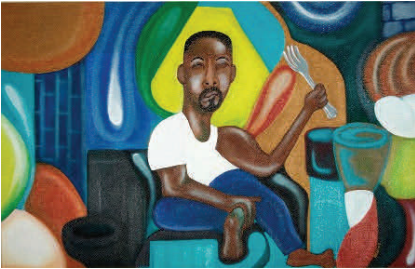
### Linkage Fellows

Linkage Members who are ready to focus intensely on their creative work should apply for a Linkage Fellowship. Linkage Fellows participate in a one-year arts mentorship and receive a \$500 stipend. Applications are accepted in January and July. Up to 10 Linkage Fellowships are awarded each year. Linkage Fellows must meet participation requirements to maintain fellowship benefits. Benefits include:

- One-year mentorship with an established artist/writer/performer,
- \$500 stipend for supplies, classes, and related costs,
- Professional assistance with goal setting and tracking your progress toward success.

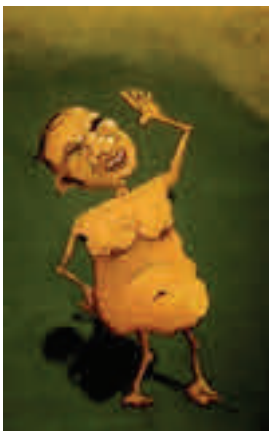
### Linkage Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome to participate on a one-time or ongoing basis. Opportunities include teaching a workshop session, leading a workshop series, mentoring a Linkage Fellow, sharing studio or meeting space, connecting the Linkage Project with potential partners, and assisting with exhibitions. All volunteers receive support from the PCAP Linkage Project staff. Mentors receive additional training and a \$500 stipend. We invite you to think creatively about how you might use your own skills, networks, and resources to affirm the creativity of adults and youth returning from incarceration!



Painting by Sam Neal

**The aim of art  
is to represent  
not the outward  
appearance of  
things, but their  
inward  
significance.  
— Aristotle**



Painting by  
Robert Dockter

## HERE TO HELP

As Prison Creative Arts Linkage Project staff, Heather and Vanessa are here to support you in your artistic endeavors.

What you can expect from us:

- We will check in with you on a regular basis. Please don't hesitate to share any questions, concerns or celebrations. Please tell us if your contact information changes.
- We will schedule a Linkage Project meeting in your area.
- We will keep you updated on project information, events, and artistic opportunities through a quarterly newsletter.
- We will work to find a network in your area of arts resources relevant to your needs and interests.
- We will listen to your feedback and adapt our goals accordingly.

In short, we're here to help and available to you.



Painting by Nancy Stephens-King

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

Linkage Members, please join us this spring at a regional member meeting! Come meet your peers and share your thoughts on the Linkage Project. Discussion will include: How can Linkage Members support each other? What do you need as an artist/writer/performer? How does creative expression fit into your life? We will contact you with more information. **Please return your registration form so we know you are interested!**

## CALL FOR CREATIVE WORK

The Linkage Project wants to share your work with the world! If you have completed artwork or creative writing, please contact the office or bring it to a regional meeting.

We are working on exhibition opportunities throughout the year. We also would like to include your art and writing on the PCAP website ([www.prisonarts.org](http://www.prisonarts.org)) and in promotional materials. Thank you for sharing your work!

## UPCOMING EXHIBITION SPRING 2012

Ridge Point Community Church in Holland, Michigan will host a Linkage exhibition April 20-May 5, 2012. The opening event will be held April 20, 2012. Artists will have the option to sell their work.

The exhibit will include 25-50 pieces. We will collect artwork at the Linkage Conference in early April. Watch for submission guidelines this winter.

## CONTACT US

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Please send address updates and requests to leave the mailing list to [PCAPLinkage@umich.edu](mailto:PCAPLinkage@umich.edu) or call 734-647-6771.

### Mission Statement

The Prison Creative Arts Project's mission is to collaborate with incarcerated adults, incarcerated youth, urban youth and the formerly incarcerated to strengthen our community through creative expression.

The Linkage Project affirms the creativity of adults and youth returning from incarceration. All returning citizens who have participated in PCAP programs are welcome to join.

## CALENDAR

### January

**Registration Form Deadline for Gift Card: January 8**

Southeast Michigan Member Meeting

Linkage Fellows application

### February

West Michigan Member Meeting

### March

Northeast Michigan Member Meeting

Northwest Michigan Member Meeting

### April

Linkage Conference (*Exhibition Works Collection Deadline*)

Ridge Point Community Church Exhibition April 20-May 5, 2012

*This project made possible through the support of:*

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION