

## GRANTS AND GIVING

### ART leadership post is a tough fill

By Charles Storch  
Tribune reporter

October 26, 2008

*Art Resources in Teaching* has staying power in spades—ART has been part of the Chicago scene since its founding in *Hull-House* in 1894. At least in recent years, the same can't be said of its executive directors.

ART has had three different executive directors since January 2005 and is searching for a new one. Whether because of a demanding board or something wanting in its hires, the resulting turmoil hasn't helped the non-profit during a difficult financial time.

Despite the internal drama, ART still draws praise for programs that bring visual artists to the public schools to work with teachers and students, including some 30,000 from low-income city households.

Since May, ART has been run by interim chief *Almarie Wagner*.

After retiring from the *American Heart Association*, Wagner, 63, joined ART under an *Executive Service Corps* program offering non-profits temporary management help.

ART's last full-time executive director, *Naomi Sheridan*, left in March after about seven months in the post. Preceding her was *Richard Friedman*, who served 21/2 years. He succeeded *Jeanne Becker*, who had been there seven years.

Efforts to reach Sheridan were unsuccessful. Friedman, the new executive director of Chicago's *CircEsteem* (which helps children build confidence by mastering circus skills), said ART "was not the right fit for me." He declined to elaborate, though he praised ART's board and programs.

Wagner said the last two fiscal years have been tough for ART, with schools making deeper cuts in arts spending, some multiyear grants expiring and the economy sapping fundraising. In fiscal 2007, ART had a deficit of \$124,554 on a \$1.47 million budget. Fiscal 2008 results are pending, but Wagner said they will show another deficit.

ART's board began raising funds in summer to ease the pressure. ART laid off three of its 13 staffers in June, though no artists were let go.

"We're tightening our belts in every conceivable way, and we've met with funders to let them know what is going on," said Wagner, citing steps many non-profits are taking now. "The program quality remains strong. This organization is amazing in terms of its work and reputation in the educational community."

*Grants:* The *Shirley H. and Benjamin Z. Gould Family Foundation* of Skokie gave nearly \$1 million to endow the *Chicago Public Library Foundation's* Teachers in the Library program, in which students get after-school help.

*Kudos:* *Richard Goldstone*, the South African who was chief prosecutor for the *International Criminal Tribunals* for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, has won the \$100,000 MacArthur Award for International Justice, given by the *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*.

*People:* *Sylvia Zaldivar-Sykes* is *Lake County Community Foundation's* new executive director. ... *Sharon Kayser* was named executive director at *Apna Ghar*. ... *Northeastern Illinois University* hired *Kathleen Pace* as assistant vice president for development and alumni relations.

[cstorch@tribune.com](mailto:cstorch@tribune.com)

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