In the current fiscal year, HAI is presenting over 9,000 hours of workshops with attendance totaling more than 134,000.

The Gallery at HAI

Year Began: 1998

Exhibits art by self-taught artists with mental disabilities. Emphasis is placed on artists who participate in HAI workshops, including the internationally recognized Outsider Artists of HAI. Additional exhibits present artists from across North America. The Gallery is also made available to other nonprofit arts organizations. Outsider Artists who have exhibited at the Gallery include Ray Hamilton, "Lady Shalimar" Montague and Melvin "Milky" Way.

Arts Workshops

Year Began: 1970's

Participatory hands-on experiences in music, dance, drama, visual and media arts led by professional artists for people with disabilities. The program presently serves adults with serious and persistent mental illness, developmental disabilities, children with special needs and homeless families. Workshops take place at nursing homes, day treatment programs, residences, shelters, after-school and respite programs.

Professional Development

Year Began: 2001

Provides skills and techniques for educators and staff to use the arts with their constituencies. Teachers learn how to integrate the arts into their classroom curriculum; staff at programs for the mentally disabled learn how the arts enhance their treatment objectives. In-Service classes, which are accredited by the NYC Department of Education for computer graphics are also provided by HAI.

Saturday Studio

Year Began: 1994

An intensive art-making experience for adults with mental disabilities takes place each Saturday at HAI's office and loft space. Opportunities to create in traditional fine arts and cutting edge media arts are available to dedicated participants. The Studio is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

In Memoriam James Campbell Rice, III



Photo: courtesy of the Rice family.

HAI would not be here today, soon celebrating its 40th Anniversary, were it not for Jim Rice. He was a gentleman in all respects, recognizing the basic dignity of all human beings, especially if they were homeless and/or struggling with chronic mental illness, When the mental health Community Support System (CSS) was created in NYC over two decades ago under his supervision at the New York City Department of Mental Health, Jim made sure that people who benefited would be able to enjoy a rich quality of life in spite of their struggles with illness and or homelessness. This led to HAI being one of the first CSS contracts with the City, the mission being to reach out to the then growing number of homes for deinstitutionalized adults in the Far Rockaways. Now, over a decade and a half later, each week over 3,000 people from THREE HUNDRED CSS units citywide enjoy a rich array of cultural experiences.

In a city often characterized as cold, impersonal, if not brutal, Jim has made sure that New York's treatment of the mentally disabled recognizes the total human being and the need to be nurtured, the need to have a home of one's own and the need to have hope and inspiration as a part of a support system. Jim made sure that recovery meant a person was able to enjoy the abundance of cultural resources available as a part of a sustainable and rewarding existence. With his love of baseball, I hope he will become OUR Angel In the Outfield, as in the movie of that name, and provide a gentle guiding hand towards the continued betterment of people less fortunate here on earth.

Thanks to you Jim tens of thousands of people are off the streets, working and enjoying life.