BREAKING GROUND
THE ARTSPACE CELEBRATION

THE ARTSPACE ARTIST AWARDS

Presented annually in May at The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts and streaming live online. Visit artspace.org/BreakingGround for details.

The Artspace Awards recognize the achievements of three individual artists and one Artspace supporter who have shown a commitment to advancing the arts and enriching their communities. The Artspace Awards are presented annually at Breaking Ground – The Artspace Celebration. Each award is named for an artist or Artspace supporter who dedicated his or her life, in part, to making a difference in the arts community and in the larger community as well.

THE DEJUNIUS HUGHES AWARD FOR SOCIAL ACTIVISM



Film maker.
Activist.
Agitator.
Artist.

Dejunius Hughes was an important figure in Artspace's history. As an early resident of the Tilsner Artists' Cooperative in St. Paul, an employee of Artspace, and the founder of the Twin Cities International Black Film Festival, Dejunius was a change agent. More than that, he was a force to be reckoned with.

When Dejunius passed away in 2007, the Star Tribune ran a respectful obituary that described him as "a filmmaker whose art was intertwined with a sense of community and social activism." Well, that's true enough. But for many who knew him, Dwight Hobbes' tribute in Insight News was more to the point. It began like this: "Dejunius Hughes wasn't nothin' nice. Through grit, mother wit, and his fiery determination to realize the autonomy of Black cinema, Hughes changed the Twin Cities film scene."

Hughes' films include "Chase the Shadows from Daylight," about a Minneapolis neighborhood near Chicago and Lake Streets; and "Invocation," featuring dancers at night on the roof of a Minneapolis commercial building. Invocation was included in one of the oldest black film festivals in the world, in Burkina Faso, Africa, in 1997.

After attending college in Michigan, Hughes served in the Air Force, serving in Saudi Arabia. Following his military service he lived in a number of European and U.S. cities, documenting lives and cultures with a still camera. He graduated from Chicago's Columbia College with an associate degree in arts, and a technical college in Milwaukee, where he learned how to make films. Active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s and '70s, he documented the fight for social justice as he participated in it.

Artspace is proud to name this award in honor of Dejunius Hughes and his lifelong commitment to social justice.

THE SU JOB AWARD FOR EDUCATION



Fiber artist.
Teacher.
Mentor.
Organizer.

Su Job was a member of Seattle's Pioneer Square artist community for more than two decades, managing several floors of artist studios at the former artist colony, the 619 Western building, and finally residing at Artspace's Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts. When Artspace opened the Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts in 2004, she was one of the first artists to move in. She was thrilled: "It's new and clean and all the appliances work," she said. "Best of all, I'm secure. I have room to work and a place to sleep. The rent will not go up, and I won't get kicked out. It's my place as long as I live."

Su attended the University of Tenessee, and graduate school at the University of Washington. She taught Art History at several local arts colleges and ran her own silk clothing business, Fiber at Large, producing one-of-a-kind silk scarves, which sold at specialty retail shops across the country. Her fiber-based fine art was exhibited in galleries and museums, including the Museum of Contemporary Craft in Portland.

A woman of extraordinary energy and drive, and fiercely dedicated to her art, Su was very busy, yet somehow always made time for her friends, students and those she mentored. A bold intellect, a large, unrestrained smile, intense curiosity, and a commitment to live life on her own terms; these are just a few of the characteristics that made her an unforgettable force of nature. When news of her terminal illness was announced in the press, letters from former students poured in. Along with expressions of sadness, they shared their personal and moving stories of how her mentorship created a lasting, positive impact on their lives. She garnered a golden place in the hearts of those who knew her.

To honor her legacy, we're very pleased to name this award for Su Job.

THE STEVE KRAMER AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Steve Kramer's eclectic career included stints as an avant-garde artist, frontman for the punk-polka band The Wallets, head of an ad agency, commercial jingle writer, sound effects artist, and composer. Among other things.

In the 1970s, Steve was part of the burgeoning New York art scene, where he worked as an artist, actor, and as an assistant to multimedia artist Red Grooms. One of his works of art, called "Destructive Mouse," was featured in the seminal 1978 "Punk Art Show" in Washington, D.C., which was widely considered the starting point of the post-modern era.

Minnesotans know him best, though, as the frontman for The Wallets. They were a punk rock band, but as a recent City Pages article put it, they were "more of an art project than something as mundane as a punk rock band. They couldn't have been from any other time, or any other place. They represented the Minneapolis iconoclast at its finest,



Musician.
Writer.
Collaborator.
Prankster.

and love them or hate them, you always walked away entertained. They knew it was about more than the music."

Steve found joy and wonder in everything he did, including his support for those who struggled, as he did, to overcome addictions. As a tribute to his giving nature and his lifelong commitment to artistic collaboration, we're thrilled to name this award in honor of Steve Kramer.

THE PAUL BRAWNER AWARD FOR SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

Paul Brawner served on the Artspace Board of Directors from 1999 until his untimely passing in 2012. Paul served with distinction not only on the full Board but also on the Audit Committee and the Consulting and Strategic Partnerships Committee.

He was a tireless and highly effective ambassador for Artspace in the banking community.

We fondly remember Paul for his dedication, his sharp intelligence, his quick wit, his respectful and gracious manner, and, not least, his Oklahoma drawl. And let it be noted: He was without question the most dapper member of the Artspace Board.



Banker.
Volunteer.
Board member.
Friend.

Because his motto in life was a simple one — "serve others" — we're honored to name this award for our friend Paul Brawner.

For more information about Breaking Ground - The Artspace Celebration and the Artspace Artist Awards visit artspace.org/BreakingGround.