

ARTS & LIVING

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Asheville arts council announces artists awards

ASHEVILLE — The Asheville Area Arts Council named Asheville artist Jonas Gerard its artist of the year on Wednesday.

Presenting its 2008 artist awards at its annual meeting at HandMade in America headquarters, the council said Gerard's artistic excellence, community service, creative thinking and leadership helped defined the arts for Asheville's audiences.

The council presented its Business in the Arts award, which honors an individual or organization for advocacy efforts that have had a significant impact on the visual, literary and performing arts in the Asheville area, to Charlotte Street Computers.

It named the Purple Ball committee, which organized the council's largest fundraising event this year, as its volunteer of the year.

Its teacher of the year award, which recognizes educators in Asheville and Buncombe County for dedication to preserving and expanding the arts in education, went to Cedric Nash.



SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

Jonas Gerard

The Artist Roundtable Scholarships are awarded annually to graduating seniors of public or private schools in Buncombe County who have demonstrated excellence in the arts and will enroll in an accredited college, university or other institution of formal training in the fall. Recipients are Benjamin Owensby, Manon Manavit, Tiadra Simpson and Calvin Beveridge, the council announced.

From staff reports