C3 Hack-A-Thon Kicks Off at The Power of Two

by Brent Brotine
photos Stan Kotecki

Redesigning the C3 website, chicagocreative.org, began at full speed on November 17th at the first session of our four-part Hack-A-Thon. And because two brainy organizations are better than one, we’ve partnered with the Chicago Web Professionals Meetup Group to build what we intend to be a kick-#%* site.

We gathered at the Knox Avenue Music Rehearsal Facility, a new artist workspace on the north side, where we were greeted by host Karen Woodbury (who gave away Knox Avenue T-shirts to a lucky few) and welcomed by C3’s Mike Tanimura who served as the session facilitator. Dual-member Steve Starr introduced each group’s key members to each other, and provided background to the CWP members unfamiliar with our current site.

Mike provided the group with a web development framework based on what he uses at his own firm, Silver Image. Jason Feinberg spoke on our web redesign strategy and reviewed the results of our recent member survey. Then, Jeff London moderated a lively discussion on how the C3 website can best serve the Chicago Creative Coalition and its members.

TOP: For our opening game of charades, Karen Woodbury makes the gesture for “whole thing.”

Using giant post-it notes and a wall-sized whiteboard, we identified the goals, targets and audience needs that will be the foundation for part two. Right now the door is open for such improvements as enhanced content, a more robust portfolio area, and greater user control.

Check under “Upcoming Programs” for information on part two of our Hack-A-Thon.
Buy Local

Now that the biggest shopping season has passed, I hope we all heeded the call to Buy Local. As small business owners and artists, we have an obligation to help ourselves out.

With the economy still in a rough state, many of us are not working as much as we would like or need. This doesn’t just affect creative professionals. Most small businesses are struggling.

We need to be aware of our own purchases, whether for materials or services, so that we try to solicit small businesses and buy local as much as possible. At times, the cost may be a little higher, but the rewards to the community should be worth it. As our communities grow and prosper, so shall we.

Also, as artists, we need to support other artists to help keep the arts alive. Budget cuts seem to start in the arts, both in our schools and our neighborhoods. We could help by making purchases of art ourselves, whether for our personal enjoyment or as gifts.

Many C3 members display their art at festivals throughout the year. As we learn about these events, we will post them on our website. Please take a look at these artists and think about supporting them if the opportunity arises.

If we lead by example, we can teach others to buy from the mom and pop shops, to buy locally, and to support the arts. The benefits to our own businesses will be rewarded.

The C3 Mission

The Chicago Creative Coalition (C3) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the professional growth of our communication arts members. We provide programs on business and technology plus social and networking opportunities; all in a noncompetitive atmosphere that encourages member involvement.

2011–12 Board of Directors

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C3 Board meetings are open to all. They’re held the first Wednesday of the month from September–May at 6 pm. Join us.

C3 Newsletter

Print and Mail Services Marilyn Jones, Consolidated Printing
Newsletter Staff Brent Brotine, Cindy McEwen, Gerta Sorensen

We welcome editorial submissions (including opinion pieces) that may be of interest to our readers. Send your articles or ideas to Brent Brotine at Chicago Creative Coalition, P.O. Box 578477, Chicago, IL 60657-8477 or e-mail them to him at brent@brotine.com. Please note that we reserve the right to edit or reject any articles submitted to C3. Note that this newsletter does not return unsolicited materials. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s), not those of Chicago Creative Coalition.

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Connect with C3 online

ChicagoCreative.org
Upcoming Programs

by Gerta Sorensen and T. J. Hine

Especially for hackers . . .

On February 22, C3 will hold the second session of our Website Redesign Hack-A-Thon, a four-part series of hands-on, interactive sessions where we are building a new ChicagoCreative.org website. We’ve partnered with the Chicago Web Professionals Meetup Group to jointly undertake this project, and it’s been a great collaboration.

For part two, Steve Star and Francine Ziev will guide us through the development of “Visual Concepts for the Site Design.” You are invited to participate in giving visual form to all those whiteboard and post-it notations we developed during part one.

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
6:00 pm
Superior Street Rehearsal Facility
2744 West Superior Street, Chicago
C3 and Meetup members only; $5 to cover food and drink

Watch for more details on parts three and four this April and May.

For all creatives . . .

On March 8, C3 is holding a program that centers around the nature and mystery of creativity and personal creative growth. Our presenters will inspire you and provoke you to continue a personal exploration on how you can tap into your full creative potential. It’s a must-see event for all C3 members.

This unique, educational panel discussion will be moderated by Steven Fischer, a two-time Emmy-nominated writer/producer. Steven will show a 10-minute excerpt of his film, “Old School New School,” a personal study on creativity featuring celebrated actor Brian Cox, jazz legend McCoy Tyner, and six-time Oscar-nominated cinematographer William Fraker. Working professionals in the arts, as well as students, will all benefit from the insights and personal anecdotes of panelists working in a range of disciplines.

Thursday, March 8, 2012
Harrington College of Design
200 West Madison Street, Chicago

Additional details to come.

Thanks, Mary . . .
Welcome, Gerta

by Cindy McEwen

You may have noticed a slightly different look and feel to the newsletter starting with the fall issue. Gerta Sorensen has taken over the newsletter layout responsibilities. We welcome her while at the same time saying a big thank you to Mary Badinger who has graciously donated her time to that task for the past several years.

In honor of both designers, we are highlighting them in this issue in the Portfolio Profile and Creative’s Corner sections. Without the help of volunteers like Gerta and Mary, the newsletter wouldn’t happen. Thanks to both of them!

Sponsorship Programs

C3 offers both members and non-members an opportunity to place products and services before our membership through two Sponsorship Programs: an Individual Program Sponsor and an Annual Sustaining Sponsor. For more information, contact Nate Marks, Sponsorship Director, at nate@AD-BIZ.BIZ.

CanDo Dinners

Mark your calendars for upcoming CanDo 2012 dinner dates.

January 19   April 19
February 16  May 17
March 15     June 21

Time  6 pm
Location  New China Buffet,
3246 West Addison Street, Chicago

For more information visit www.ChicagoCreative.org or contact Nate Marks at nate@AD-BIZ.BIZ.

How to join C3

The easiest access to a C3 membership application is through our website: www.chicagocreative.org/member app.php. Pay online through PayPal or contact mike@sicreative.com for a membership application to fill out and mail with a check to: Chicago Creative Coalition, P.O. Box 578477, Chicago, IL 60657-8477, Attn: Membership Director.

E-mail questions to: C3@ChicagoCreative.org or to the Membership Director: Mike@sicreative.com
Getting The Full Monty of Fulton Market

by Brent Brotine
photos by Mike Tanimura and Cindy McEwen

It’s an annual C3 event that gets more interesting every year, and Tuesday, October 11, 2011 lived up to expectations when twenty C3 members and guests toured four art galleries in the burgeoning Fulton Market. Again this year, Ginny Van Alyea, publisher and executive editor of Chicago Gallery News, served as our tour leader and provided her exclusive insights at each stop.

Our first visit was Packer Schopf Gallery at 924 W. Lake, which has shifted from folk art to contemporary art over the years but remains true to its commitment to showcase the unconventional. Owner Aron Packer introduced us to Lorraine Peltz’s dazzling oils with chandelier imagery, Doug Smitheny’s artwork based on YouTube images, Bill Harrison’s scratchboard portraits of “Outlaws and Patriots,” and Michael Dinges’s Dremel-tool engraved artifacts.

Our second stop was the Linda Warren Gallery at 1052 W. Fulton Market, where assistant director Chris Smith showed us the thought-provoking portrait paintings of Ed Valentine. All untitled, they are meant to engage the viewer. We also viewed a selection of dramatic portraits from photographer Tom Van Eynde.

Our third stop was the shared space of Kasia Kay Art Projects and E|C Gallery at 215 N. Aberdeen. E|C director Ewa Czeremuszkin showed us the works of painter and mixed media enthusiast Robert Hardgrave, whose exhibition “The Apple Doesn’t Fall too Far from the Tree” included acrylic-and-thread paintings on burlap plus a very large work on paper.

We ended the evening at Mars Gallery, 1139 W. Fulton Market, featuring the artwork of Peter Mars and other pop art and contemporary artists—and reportedly directly on top of the “Fulton Street Energy Vortex” which owner Barb Gazdik says leads to the creativity of the space. Among Peter Mars’s works on display were new Elvis works recently exhibited at the Clinton Presidential Library. The gallery is a premier rental space for parties, receptions and special events, and as such served as a fitting locale for our wine and cheese reception.

Steve Starr honored as 2011 Friend of C3

by Brent Brotine

While we usually present this award at the C3 Annual Meeting, this year our surprise recipient Steve Starr wasn’t able to attend and we chose to wait until the next time Steve showed in person. Happily, it was the Gallery Walk, and we were able to present Steve with this richly-deserved award for all the time and effort he regularly puts into C3 programming and events. Congratulations, Steve!
C3 Attacks Hipster Ground Zero at Coyote Fest 2011

by David Tanimura
photos Stan Kotecki

We hit Bucktown hard with a surgical strike. Our seasoned group rolled up to the drop-zone and unloaded our cargo under bitter rain. Once inside the Flatiron, we knew we were in for a bit of excitement.

Coyote Fest is always a wonderful event for C3: creative professionals connecting with professional artists, gallery owners and art lovers. For me, gallery shows are all about conversation. Don’t get me wrong—I’m a married graphic designer/artist in my late 20s with 3 part-time jobs trying to make a living during a recession. I’d love to sell some art, but that’s not really what excites me about putting on a show.

There’s nothing that can really describe the moment when a viewer connects with your art. For a halting moment, I can see my creative vision reflected in their eyes. I give them that fleeting moment to be frozen in time before I approach and offer a helping hand to guide their brain to catch up with their emotions. “If you have any questions, please let me know.”

“Yes… uh—Wow. What… what am I looking at?”

Then we talk and philosophize, stumble and recover. Eventually I take a deep breath and step back, letting my art do the talking for a while. I go and talk to my fellow C3 members and we share our stories of the day and have a quick bite to eat and sip of wine.

Coyote is a tiring and fulfilling three days. We take our art down from the walls. We say “goodbye” to the gallery space and “talk soon” to our new connections with dreams of grand future projects. We fit the art back into our vehicles and head home. Even as we are leaving Bucktown, the hive of hipsters, art freaks and bicycle punks—we can’t wait to come back next year.

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Lila Stromer explains to visitor Maureen Duffy why the hipster-centric Coyote Fest makes an exception for C3 members.

While Claudia earns Laura Marie’s trust by performing “here’s the church, here’s the steeple,” David prefers swearing on a Bible that everything is genuine.
Here are a few samples from my work with JCC Chicago: brand development, art direction, sales collateral, direct mail, ads, print, and electronic communications.

Mary Eagan Badinger
Creative Director
JCC Chicago
badinger@mac.com
Bob Tolchin was one of 30 photographers exhibiting at the Coalition of Photographic Arts 5th Annual Midwest Juried Exhibition. Running from December 2–January 21 at Walker’s Point Center for the Arts in Milwaukee, the show was judged by Chicago gallery owner Catherine Edelman. The exhibited photo, at right, was taken with a Holga camera. To see more, visit Bob’s blog at www.roberttolchin.tumblr.com.

Carolyn Aronson had a full schedule of fall shows, including the Eugene Field Park, Waters Elementary and Bucktown Holiday Art Shows, featuring her beautiful beaded jewelry. She is available for home shows if you would like her to bring jewelry to your home.

Nate Marks has unleashed a web comic The Adventures of Major Senseless. It’s the story about a rabbit who wants to be a super hero and clean up the city—getting rid of all the evildoers. You can catch all the fun every Monday at www.harebawls.wordpress.com.

Joy Panos Stauber announces that Stauber Design Studio is now—after submitting mountains of paperwork—officially WBE/FBE/DBE Certified. The studio has developed brand communications for 800-CEO-READ for over 5 years, and the most recent edition of the yearly report “Work Better: In the Books 2010”, has been accepted into Graphic Design USA’s American Graphic Design Awards.

New C3 Member

Janice McNeil Baker
J.M. Baker Graphic Design
773.283.3246
janicebaker8685@sbcglobal.net
C3 Talks with Gerta Sorensen

Name Gerta Sorensen
Company Sorensen London Design
Occupation Graphic Designer

Current Project Latest issue of *Erikson on Children*, a quarterly magazine for Erikson Institute (a graduate school in child development)

Family/Kids/Pets Married to C3 member Jeff London. We have one teenage son, Evan, and two cats, C.C. and Pixel, who keep us company during our day in the studio.

Hobbies/Interests I play clawhammer-style banjo, often with an informal string band (fiddle, guitar, mandolin, etc.).

Gadget I Can’t Live Without A coffee maker and my Bodum latte milk frother.

Favorite Movies The classic films by Alfred Hitchcock.
Favorite Food Thai cuisine
Book I’m Reading Right Now *The Paris Wife: A Novel* by Paula McLain
My Fantasy Is I would love to travel somewhere exciting or exotic once a year and not have to worry about packing or clients.
My Inspiration Comes From My clients and the ideas they need to communicate.
Favorite Restaurant Tre Kroner for breakfast.
Favorite Radio Station(s)/Air Personalities WBEZ. We often have it on while we work.

I’d Give Anything to Meet Johannes Gutenberg
Places I’ve Traveled I lived in Salzburg, Austria for a year during college. I’ve also been to Italy, France, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and Oaxaca, Mexico.
Prized Possession A photograph from my grandmother (see below). The panoramic image is 36” wide by 12” high. It was taken in 1914 and shows the townspeople of Dagmar, Montana attending Midsommer Fest. My grandmother was seven.

Favorite Restaurants Tre Kroner

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Ink Printed digitally on Xerox 700.
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My Inspiration Comes From My clients and the ideas they need to communicate.

C3 Newsletter Advertising Opportunities

The C3 newsletter is published quarterly from September to July and reaches a wide range of communication arts professionals. Display and classified ads are available to members and non-members.
For more information contact Cindy McEwen at macindy@aol.com.

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