

# Turning Points

online

October 2012

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

FROM THE CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A year ago - June 2011 - our 25th year - we secured the new site for The Center at 141 N. 3rd Street. Soon after, we rebranded with a new name and logo, and started construction at 141 N. 3rd Street, Old City Philadelphia. We transitioned into The Center for Art in Wood - to finally reflect the breadth and depth of work The Center has featured for years! The design and construction teams transformed an old gym into a beautiful, functional white box to show what artists create in wood.



In November, 2011, we moved in and celebrated with many of you. Over the intervening six months, it's been a whirlwind of publicity, exhibitions, discovery by new audiences, interactions with the Philadelphia community and great sales in the Museum Store. In the first six months, we'd had a 600% increase in visitation over a whole year at our old site. We knew a busy location would be good for wood artists. Sales of art objects and in the Museum Store are up too - because people easily find us.

Tour groups also have discovered The Center as a venue for events up to 150 people. The Philadelphia Inquirer featured The Center in February, along with interviews on the local public radio station, WHYY. We've also hosted local dignitaries and funders such as the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation; Former Governor Ed Rendell's book signing, AAW wood turning chapters, arts and culture groups, and others.

I flash back on almost 25 years ago - to the International Turned Objects Show (ITOS), which opened September 17, 1988 at the Port of History Museum, Philadelphia. This was the first international publication and exhibition in a museum setting, featuring lathe-turned art in wood, metal and alabaster. It was also my first big project under the banner of the Wood Turning Center, and included 105 artists from 8 countries. Generous early funders made the book happen, including Ronald Abramson, John and Robyn Horn; Arthur and Jane Mason; Samuel Rosenfeld and Ron Wormick. To thank me for the exhibition, artists, led by Johannes Michelson, Giles Gilson and friends, surprised me with the triple-decker cane set many of you have seen at my office. The intervening 24 years has flown by. Time flies when you're having .....

Albert LeCoff  
Co-Founder & Executive Director

## A Letter from our Board President Richard R. Goldberg

Our visionary Executive Director Albert LeCoff has detailed all of the marvelous developments that have occurred since we

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### New in Our Museum Store



Marc Ricourt, France  
Elm, scorched and waxed  
19" x 12"  
Price: \$3,600



Camden Rose Toys  
Ann Arbor, MI  
[Cars - Price \\$9](#)



Camden Rose Toys  
Ann Arbor, MI  
[Stackers - Price \\$20](#)

have moved into our new space in the heart of the Philadelphia's arts district in Old City. As President, I would like to keep you informed about the more mundane business side of our enterprise.

The most positive event is the dedication and efforts of our senior staff members - Ron Humbertson, Director of Exhibitions; Tracy Jenish, Director of Development; Tina LeCoff, Director of Special Events and Lori Reece, Director of Administration - who have all done a fabulous job during the implementation of the move and thereafter to insure that the new facility has achieved the success shown by our greatly increased visitor count, sales and overwhelming publicity. Of all of the honors we received, to be selected by the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), the non-profit development arm of the City of Philadelphia, to be on the cover of their annual report and to host the annual PIDC event is a singular tribute to the power brought to The Center by our relocation which of course could not have been accomplished without the financial help of the City and all the rest of you who supported our efforts.

The response to our Windgate Challenge grant has been marvelous. We will achieve our goal this year and, hopefully, the momentum established this year will carry over to the remaining two years of the Windgate Challenge. Windgate, however, provides only 60% of our annual needs. The Center has both grown in presence and scope bringing about a more mature need for financial support than ever. With the assistance of the Arts and Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, which provided Carolyn Ashburn, an excellent volunteer business consultant, we have developed a staffing plan for measured growth and the first elements of a successorship plan for when Albert eventually decides to step down as Executive Director. Replacing a founder will be a long and arduous process and requires the kind of expertise that our consultant and the Council have graciously provided.

The prospects for the Center have never been brighter. I hope to be able to greet as many of you as possible at our upcoming events and our next annual meeting in November. Words try to portray the Center as newly developed...but only your personal presence at the facility will help you experience the remarkable strides which we have accomplished over the past year.

Richard R. Goldberg  
Board President

## Phase Two Dedications

Friday, October 12, 2012 | 5:30 P.M.

Phase Two Dedications and Reception

Meet artists Benjamin Volta and Gord Peteran

### Mural

Join us for the dedication of the new Mural on Quarry Street at N. 3rd Street - *Written in Wood* by Benjamin Volta. The mural is an innovative collaboration between The Center for Art in Wood and the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program. The mural highlights the objects on view in the museum collection at The Center, which contains over 850 objects from around the world, ranging from traditional functional every-day objects to contemporary sculpture. Black silhouettes depict sculptures and furniture found in The Center's museum collection. Stretched abstracts of the objects inspired the wood grain background. The artwork creates a landmark encouraging passersby to explore the diversity of art made from wood at the nonprofit Center. Participants in the Mural Arts Program's Guild Program assisted in the creation of the work. *Written in Wood* was made possible by the generous support of the Hummingbird Foundation.



Green Jewelry  
San Diego, CA  
Earrings \$15



Hilary Pfeifer, USA  
Woody Elephant \$45



Hilary Pfeifer, USA  
Guitar Monster \$48



**Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey** is published in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the renowned Wood Turning Center as it takes a new name-The Center for Art in Wood-and moves to an exciting new location among the art galleries in Old City Philadelphia. The Portfolio also documents the 25th anniversary exhibition showcasing over 100 works from The Center's permanent collection.

Limited edition  
of only 250  
\$125.00 plus tax and  
shipping

[More information and  
to order online.](#)

CURRENT AND  
UPCOMING  
EXHIBITIONS:

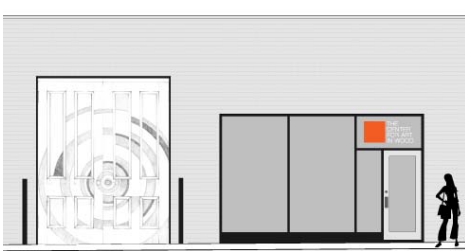
*allTURNatives:Form +  
Spirit 2012*



### Delivery Doors

Designed by artist Gord Peteran and titled, **AT THE CENTER**. The doors will greatly facilitate climate control inside The Center and the transfer of art crates and big deliveries. The 11' 4" doors with transom will be a huge improvement. The doors and the installation process is being designed, built and installed by; Matthew Millian Architects, Inc. - Technical design; Caliper Guild - Fabricators of Wood doors and transoms; Legacy Restoration LLC, Alex Pientka - General Contractors. Dedicating the doors will be part of the October 12 celebration. Sponsored in part by The Philadelphia Commerce Department, Ron and Anita Wornick, and Seymore Rubin Associates.

**We thank everybody involved in making the Delivery Door a reality!**



### Collection Gallery Cabinets Unveiled !

Next, Executive Director, Albert LeCoff will lead tours of the Collection Galley on the mezzanine level of The Center. Local artist, Jack Larimore, in consultation with Lou Krupnick, designed the prototype for 26 cabinets to securely house The Center's museum collection. To enable public access to the Collection Gallery, the design includes lockable glass shower doors mounted on metal tracks, as designed by KOHLER.

### THANKS TO MANY PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS HAPPEN:

Professionals from the Carpenters Joint Apprentice Committee donated the labor and materials and built the cabinets in their shop and installed them at The Center. Funding to obtain and install the glass door system was generously provided by Edward Bresler and Family of Rockville, MD. Thank you Edward etal !



August 3, 2012 -  
October 20, 2012

### YOUR PERSONAL HANG-UPS

Curated by Gail M. Brown  
November 2,  
2012-February 16, 2013

### Robin Wood's CORES Recycled:

Exhibit & Fundraiser  
November 2, 2012-  
February 16, 2013

### Special Membership Offer

The Center for Art in Wood has a limited time special membership opportunity. Join or renew now at Student, Individual, Craftsperson, Artist Cambium or Master Craftsman level and get our new museum book "Turning to Art in Wood: A Creative Journey" Hardcover Edition for a discounted price of \$44.00 (regularly \$59.95) with your membership.

There is no better time to join or renew - your membership dues will be matched 2 to 1 by Windgate Charitable Foundation.

To join or renew online today visit our website.

[Membership](#)

### Visit the Center

The Center is open  
Tuesday - Saturday  
10am to 5pm  
and by appointment

Get your daily Center fix

[On the web](#)





The doors have been professionally installed by Robert Ellsworth, Janice Smith and assistant Natalie Brown. Thank you Door Team!

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware of Minneapolis, MN has donated brackets for the glass shelves for the cabinets. Thank you!

Volunteer collections registrar Nancy Fago is working with Ron Humbertson, Director of Exhibitions and Collections, on the conservation properties for the collection drawers in the base of each cabinet. Drawers with boxes and niches will allow storage of small objects that are visually available for study but secured under clear covers. Ron Sheehan and friends are volunteering making all 64 drawers. Rockler also donated glides and locks for the drawers.

Individuals who have funded a drawer for \$ 250.00 will have their name on the drawer and those who have funded a cabinet for \$2,500.00 will have their name on the cabinet, and help us manage the collection.

Please let us know if you can name a drawer or a cabinet with a plaque to honor you or in memory of someone.

### Light the Mural!

[The Mural](#) highlights nearly 100 objects from The Center's museum collection...and we want people to be able to see it day and night. Lighting the mural will allow people to not only see the mural day AND night it will also help light Quarry Street at the N. 3rd Street end through the night. We have already raised \$7,300 towards the total of \$12,300....**we only have \$5,000 to go to LIGHT THE MURAL!**

Can you help? Between now and November 11, 2012, buy a raffle ticket and HELP light the Mural. Tickets are available through Sunday, November 11, 2012 at 11:59 P.M. The drawing will be on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at noon.

For more information, to view the raffle items and purchase raffle tickets visit [Light the Mural!](#)

### Current Exhibition

**allTURNatives: Form + Spirit 2012**



**Open until October 20, 2012**

Celebrating The Center's 17th year hosting the International Turning Exchange Residency (ITE) program, the residents worked together for 2 months in Philadelphia to collaborate and focus on new directions in their work. The grand finale exhibition for the 2012 ITE program is the exhibit. This multi-disciplinary exhibit reflects each resident fellows' experiences including objects produced before and during the residency. Three-dimensional work is accompanied by photos, essays, films, and other documentation depicting the summer experience. Each resident's artist statement describes their personal and professional summer experience.

[View the Exhibition online!](#)

The 2012 ITE Resident Fellows:

Sarah Archer, Scholar, (Philadelphia, PA)

[Maria Anasazi](#), Artist, (Philadelphia, PA)

[Darrell Copeland](#), Artist, (Weaverville, NC)

John Hallett, Artist, (South Australia)

[Michael M. Koehler](#), Photojournalist, (Philadelphia, PA)

[Daniel Ostrov](#), Artist, (Philadelphia, PA)

[Jeannette Rein](#), Artist, (West Australia)



A diverse sample of 2012 ITE works  
(Deena and Jerry Kaplan Gallery Bench by Brad Smith in the background)

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS

**Nov. 2, 2012-Feb 16, 2013**

[YOUR PERSONAL HANG-UPS](#). Curated by Gail M. Brown

Opening First Friday

November 2, 2012 | 5:30 - 8 P.M.

Gail M. Brown asked artists to explore inventive forms inspired by their individual interpretation of "personal hang-ups"- both as functional and conceptual ideas. Not to be confused simply with lifelong neuroses, but suggested by practical considerations which serve functions in our daily lives, each maker responded with thoughtful, witty and unexpected alternatives for the containment of our material possessions.

*"We all need visual and organizational 'cues' in our domestic environment to enhance and support our personal material culture. What would be more enticing to attract those cues than a unique clothes tree/hanger/pole or other functional object...a linear form of unique grace and personality in the recognizable visual vocabulary and particular palette of a singular maker- a master, mid-career or emerging artist- to lure our attention and seduce a hands-on, interactive connection, to non-verbally remind us of our inherently personal relationship with unique, handmade, functional objects." - Gail M. Brown, Curator*



Katie Hudnall,  
*The H.M.S. Katie*, 2012



Gabriel L. Romeu, *Personal Hangups, all natural*, 2011-12  
(Showing Autumn displayed and dressed)

To see the entire exhibition visit the [exhibit page](#).

### Robin Wood's CORES Recycled: Exhibit & Fundraiser

Opening First Friday  
November 2, 2012 | 5:30 - 8 P.M.

Robin Wood of the UK is an accomplished pole turner and author, known for his historical and functional objects. His leg-power process results in thousands of solid, round waste chunks that get broken out of the center of the bowl at the last moment. The refuse of this process is known as a CORE.

The CORES fundraiser was inspired by Robin's installation in The Center's **Challenge VII: dysFUNCTIONal exhibition (2008)**. He submitted a pile of CORES, representing the remainders of bowls turned over a two-year period, and a video of him turning and knocking off the CORES that result in heaps outside his shop.

#### Examples of pieces from the CORES Challenge



Norm Sartorius, *Plum Spoon*, 2012



Michelle Holzapfel, *Cores Collage Arranged According to the Laws of Chance*, 2012,

To see the entire exhibition visit the [exhibit page](#).

### Windgate Charitable Foundation Challenge Grant

From the Executive Director

Once again in May 2012, [Windgate challenged](#) The Center to raise new friends and new funding for programs.

We KNOW - you are tired of being asked to help with

programming, exhibitions, our ITE residency, and educational programs...

BUT - nonprofits have a huge overhead bill as they serve others - staging exhibitions is expensive; as well as hands on educational programs which serve some who cannot pay to participate, and the annual ITE residency stipends, wood shop, materials, and dorm, and travel expenses, etc. etc. Nonprofits also have rent, light, water, phone bills, just like everyone.

SO - inspired by Foundations and Funders, it's my job is to continually ask others to help The Center support our NONPROFIT Education, Preservation and Promotion mission and the programming that familiar and new audiences are enjoying - when I stop asking you for help, I'll be useless...

Every dollar people donate to The Center in 2012, 2013 and 2014 - will be reciprocated with \$ 2 from Windgate. Where else can you get that kind of return ???

This new [WINDGATE CHALLENGE](#) creates an incredible opportunity to support 3-years of programs. More details inside .... \$ 2 for each \$ 1 ! Can we count on your help in 2012, 2013 and 2014 ?

As soon as we raise \$ 100,000 in 2012, Windgate will send us a check for \$ 200,000. All donations are tax deductible per the law.

Please [join us online](#) and at The Center, whenever you're in the region. As Tom Boudet says, "we'll keep the lights on for you."

## Educational Programming at The Center

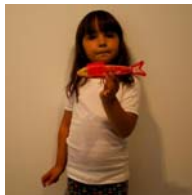
The Center for Art in Wood is pleased to announce that our brand new Education and Community Outreach Programs are underway!

Critically acclaimed working artist, and seasoned teacher, Rachel Bliss has joined our team to develop and implement these new and exciting educational art programs. Bliss' work has been seen in such places as The New York Times, The Village Voice, The New Yorker, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and currently is on display at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.



Art critic, Edward J. Sozanski of The Philadelphia Inquirer had this to say in response to an art mentorship Bliss facilitated with children in a Philadelphia public school that culminated in an incredible exhibition of the children's work at the Snyderman Gallery: "Bliss' passion glows white-hot when she explains the show's concept. Her young proteges appear to have absorbed the lesson of how to express their inner selves through uninhibited visual expression".

Rachel believes that the creation of art is one of the most visceral forms of human expression. She believes this expression should be a lifelong activity and she is committed to collaborating with others to create environments that inspire these possibilities for all.





For more information about our [educational programming](#) and to [check out the video](#) of a recent workshop at The Center led by Rachel.

### Challenge VIII: Bartram's Boxes Remix Update

The Center is pleased to announce the next Challenge series which opens in February 2014 and is also available for tour starting Spring 2014.

[Challenge VIII: Bartrams Boxes Remix](#) was an exhibition call to wood turners, furniture makers, sculptors, painters, printers, video, installation, performance, and multi-media artists. In total, 58 proposals were submitted for this exhibition.

Artists Beth Feldman Brandt and Claire Owen are collaborating to produce 3 boxes of images, artifacts and poetry. As part of their proposal for the exhibit: "we aim to set up a virtual commonplace book where Bartram/tree scholars and fans can add their favorite Bartram quotes."

Website: <http://www.brandtwords.com/bartram/>

Artist Christopher Storb, who is collaborating with Don Miller, started a blog to document their onsite project at Bartram's Garden for the exhibition. Learn more about what Christopher and Don have been discovering at Bartram's and see the project unfold. <http://chrisstorb.wordpress.com/>

#### Two Proposals to this Exhibition

To see the entire exhibition visit the [Bartram's Page](#) on our website.



**Amy Forsyth, United States, PA & Katie Hudnall, United States, KY**

Proposal: Rather than a literal use of the materials on the site, we would like to explore a metaphorical sense of the idea of seeds that travel. We would like to recreate the exchange between far-away botanists by boxing up "seeds" of ideas and sending them to one another to inspire one another's work. Amy's "seeds" might be drawings, images and sayings from Pennsylvania, small constructed items, hardware, etc. These objects would be placed in a box designed and built especially for this collection and sent to Katie near the beginning of the project.



**Fred Rose, United States, CA**

Proposal: The odd branchy piece would be set in a base similar to a scholars stone or suiseki. Pieces of wood not suitable for milling would potentially be perfect for this. The clean straight grain piece of wood would be milled into boards used to make boxes with glass fronts containing preserved leaves, flowers, seeds, and hand illustrated botanic information on that tree. Each would be labeled with proper and scientific name as well as origin of the sample. These frames would be attached by an arrangement of arms and spindles to the Scholars Stump.





THE  
CENTER  
FOR ART  
IN WOOD

**Presenting the finest contemporary works of art in wood**

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