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ART-SPEAK, THE CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION
ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Four new board members recently joined the Art-Speak, the City of Portsmouth Cultural Commission.

Christopher Greiner

Chris Greiner is the box office manager at The Music Hall, a non-profit performing arts center. Also an active songwriter and musician, he heads a band, *Northern*, whose first album is due to be released in April 2005. Additionally, he writes a local music column for the weekly arts and culture newspaper, *The Wire*.

Russell Grazier

Russ Grazier, Jr. founded and is executive director of the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, a nonprofit community music school. For the past 20 years, Mr. Grazier has been active as a composer, saxophonist and music educator working with musicians of all ages and abilities. In addition to teaching at the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, Mr. Grazier is on the faculty of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School. He has taught at the Boston Conservatory, Roosevelt University, The University of Chicago, The Merit Music School, and the Bell Center for the Performing Arts.

Leanne Spees

Ms. Spees is the Vice President of Commercial Lending at Ocean National Bank. She has nearly twenty-five years of experience as a corporate-finance professional. Prior to joining Ocean, she was the Managing Director, International Corporate Finance at FleetBoston Financial for eleven years. While at FleetBoston she served corporate clients with operations in the U.S., Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

Mimi White

Ms. White is a poet and teacher, who has been working for over 25 years with students of all ages. She has been a member of the faculty at the University of New Hampshire, Northern Essex Community College, and Lesley University. Her poems have been published in dozens of journals. She is the author of two collections of poetry *Into the Darkness We Go* and the *The Singed Horizon*, which was selected by Robert Creeley as the recipient of the 2000 Philbrick Poetry Award.

What is Art-Speak?

Art-Speak is the City Cultural Commission, an agency created as a direct result of the Portsmouth Cultural Plan. Art-Speak exists officially on behalf of the City of Portsmouth to represent and promote arts and culture, and to act on all related matters. Its mission is to “promote appreciation, awareness, participation, and dialogue in support of arts and culture. Art-Speak performs these services for the City of Portsmouth and its City Council and all artists and art/cultural-related organizations in the Seacoast community.”

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