



# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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## Shirley Koller: The Curator & FB Neighbor ... *who is also a prolific painter & sculptress*

For six months in 2008, the sculptures of twelve regional artists were situated throughout FB's Historic District and giving "performance art" a new meaning. When May 2008 rolled around with the opening, the exhibition became the talk of the town and FB, and a lively and recurring destination. The FB community embraced the exhibition and artists (a few with international reputations), marveling as they installed their works. The community also proudly engaged local and foreign visitors with informal chats and regular tours of the fine sculptures that gracefully landed in neighbors' yards. But getting to that place required a curator par excellence, Shirley Koller.

Koller—a longtime artist, former teacher, and current curator at The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) headquarters building in Washington, D.C.—curated the exhibition. While it could be interpreted as an easy platitude, FB owes Shirley Koller a debt of gratitude. The reality behind the sentiment in terms of time and attention to the requirements of staging a "first" exhibition—budgeting, organizing, too many "ings" to note here—is daunting enough. The fact that the event was staged outdoors added that much more complication

**Shirley Koller with Mayor's Annual Innovation Arts Award for the "Arts, in Foggy Bottom" Exhibition (above); Koller with one of her paintings (left).**



to the planning. Such as: getting neighbors with yards to volunteer; matching and introducing artists and home owners; ascertaining yard size, slope and installation requirements for the works; and seemingly mundane things like insurance (which came in handy when one sculpture was damaged and had to be repaired). You get the picture.

Continuing to laud the core committee—Jackie Lemire, Jill Nevius and Mary Kay Shaw—as well as the extended committee for their contributions, Koller also noted the joy of working with the artists who subsequently staged another group exhibition—this time easy—that was "just" indoors.

Not only engineering the

requirements, criteria, and logistics to create a hit show, Koller used an ingeniously applied method that was seminal in guiding the exhibition to its crowning success, winner of The Mayor's Award for "Innovation in the Arts" in November 2008 over stiff competition.

### Looking Forward to ..

A graduate of Cleveland Institute of Art and Case/Western Reserve, Koller is busily preparing for her own show at Watergate Gallery in October. In the same breath she mentions how much she enjoys showing art-lovers around her Alexandria studio. And, as if her schedule is not busy enough, Koller has agreed to curate and has already begun work with her trusty committee on the second "Arts In Foggy Bottom" Sculpture Exhibition. It opens May 2010.

**To get to the top of the 2010 Exhibition volunteer list, and/or for a special visit through her studio, reach Shirley at ShirleyArtKoller@metronets.com**

## FBA MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010 YOU COUNT!

*And TOGETHER, we count to help our neighborhood! Updates on events and activities that affect us and our neighborhood and a local merchants program offering discounts to members.*

**It adds up to all of the above and more for \$15 (tax deductible) per year.**

**Membership year: August 15, 2009 – August 14, 2010**

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Membership Dues (\$15.00 per person).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Foggy Bottom Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.*

## THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

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