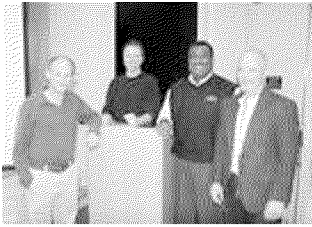


## Portage County: No excuse for starving artists ... The Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute being lured to Kent



By Cecil Giltz *Lifetimes staff writer*

Board members from The Artists Network of Kent recently hosted spokesman Seth Beattie, program manager from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, to explain the workings of the Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute. The informative meeting held in Kent attracted nearly 25 creative professionals from the community.

The realization of the institute locating in Kent during 2008 will depend on committed enrollment from area artists in the fields of craft arts, film, graphic arts, literary, performing arts and visual arts.

Beattie said that Northeastern Ohio is a good place for artists to live and work. He reminded the audience that Northeastern Ohio is a place with a relatively low cost of living, which can be important for a working artist.

He spoke of the area's proximity to other major markets where artists can sell their work. "This region," he said, "is home to a strong support infrastructure for artists; organizations throughout the community assist artists in securing grant funding, residencies, health insurance, low-cost space, business training and networking."

Besides introducing creative professionals to a supportive networking system, the institute's \$150 tuition fee will avail participants of the comprehensive business training program. Faculty members have diverse backgrounds, but the vast majority have had previous experience working with artist-founded businesses and many are themselves established artists.

Beattie concluded saying, "The Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute is only one important component of the support system that is being built for Northeastern Ohio artists. In Kent, the program could help to bolster existing efforts to assist artists in building their business capacity, work that is already being assisted by TANK and the KRBA. Together, these organizations are laying the groundwork for a community that is already home to an exceptional arts and culture sector."

For further information, contact Jim Williams at (330) 677-5415 or [tankmail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tankmail@sbcglobal.net).

(photo) Local artist and small business interests trying to attract the Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute to the Kent area in 2008 are spearheaded by members of The Artists Network of Kent and Kent Regional Business Alliance. From left are guest speaker Seth Beattie, program director from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, and hosts Jim Williams, TANK board member; Jack Crews, president and CEO KRBA; and Steve Jordan, TANK co-president.