

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2008

**Voices and Legends**, a community arts project, is happening in downtown Lapeer this week with three award winning musicians, an established visual artist, a few bus loads of local youth and the general public. Barbara Weisenburg's unique watermedia exhibit opened at Gallery 194 October 2nd accompanied by indigenous legends from around the world. Her initiative will expand as she is joined by the artistic efforts of local students and Detroit area musicians Friday evening at a concert/reception celebrating culture and the creative process.

Wednesday the master teacher will visit Lapeer to "workshop" student artists all day. Their artwork will dress the stage Friday at the Pix Theatre where Michigan's Troubadour Neil Woodward, Marianne Murphy and Gary Weisenburg will respond to the students' legend-inspired art, by performing original music at 7pm. A post concert meet-the-artist reception will complete the evening at Gallery 194 with refreshments and artful interaction. The general public is encouraged to enjoy the fruits of this collaboration for \$5 at the door.

"We work together every chance we get," explains Craig Martin, Pix Director, who is housed next to Gallery 194 in downtown Lapeer. "That way we can merge artistic disciplines and give the community a deeper aesthetic experience," continues Carolyn McCarter, Gallery 194 Director. "We are very fortunate to have a partner-in-art right next door!" These musical and visual visiting artists are part of what they call the BRIDGE project (Broad Roots Interactive Delivery Guaranteed Enjoyment) which empowers individuals to explore and express their own voices through the creative arts. "Individually they are all very accomplished artists, together - with the student participants - they will be awe-inspiring," concludes McCarter.

Students' one of a kind artwork will be added to Ms. Weisenburg's Voices and Legends exhibit currently on display at the gallery as complimentary art through November 8<sup>th</sup>. You can read more about Ms. Weisenburg at <http://blackberrymountainstudio.com/background.html>, Marianne Murphy at <http://cdbaby.com/cd/mmurphy2>, Neil Woodward at <http://www.neilwoodward.com/> and Gary Weisenburg at <http://www.theartistsproject.com/pages/Gary%20Weisenburg.html>.

The Voices and Legends community art project is made possible in by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs and the Optimist Club of Lapeer.

Gallery 194 is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 6pm. Admission is free and open to the public. Secondary exhibits featuring Weisenburg's framed watercolor expressions and James Connor's cityscape montages are housed in the west and east hallways of the lower gallery. Other student art is displayed in the front classroom space. Additionally, Lapeer Art Association boasts Color My World through November 8<sup>th</sup> in the Upper Gallery and Gallery Gifts offers local and regional art on sale during gallery hours. Log onto [www.gallery194.com](http://www.gallery194.com) or call 667-1495 for more information about special events and fall art classes.

