




[View area storm coverage and share your photos.](#)



Fri, June 27
Today's high:
83°F

NEWS SPORTS OPINION LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS COLUMNISTS GAMES & COMICS ARCHIVES

LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT Vows

[email story](#) [print story](#)

Art where you least expect it

Offbeat exhibits and performances popping up this summer as part of BLINK program

[Katjusa Cisar](#) — 6/24/2008 6:05 am

A celebration of neighborhoods, particularly the near east side of Madison, pulls a common thread through the five public art projects recently announced by the Madison Arts Commission's BLINK program.

Other than that, they're as varied as it gets: spider-inspired hanging lanterns, porch dances, a neighborhood photography project, a Tibetan flag walk and a roving band of klezmer musicians. Madison residents can look forward to seeing them -- sometimes when they least expect it -- around town later this summer.

BLINK is a city-sponsored "opportunity for experimental, ad-hoc, temporary works of art to sprout up throughout the community and vanish, leaving residents and visitors eager to see what is next," according to its application. The deadline for applications for next year is in October, with awards of \$750 to \$1500 granted in June.

When dancer **Georgia Corner** moved in 2005 from New York City to the east side, near Orton Park, she noticed how "porchy and outdoorsy" it was. She's had the idea for her BLINK project in the back of her mind since then.

It's a 20-minute dance piece that moves from porch to porch on the block that faces Orton Park from the south. She's planned her project so that it coincides with the 40th Annual Orton Park Festival on August 24.

Here's how it works: neighborhood kids will gather an audience from the festival across the street and guide them to the first porch using "crowd control" flags and streamers they created the day before in a workshop with artist and Wil-Mar neighborhood resident Abby Shotwell. A group of Kanopy dancers will then perform on a series of four porches, accompanied by singer Anna Vogel of the Reptile Palace Orchestra and drummer Marcel Colbert.

"The concepts of the project and choreography are a direct result of my living near the corner of Few and Spaight Streets, where I see the daily ebb and flow of activity through and around the park and its surrounding porches," said Corner, 44.

In New York City, she performed in concerts with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company and worked with postmodern choreographer Douglas Dunn. But she's also participated in more "site-specific" performances -- like a piece that included "swimming in Lake Mendota and creeping across the Union terrace."

Public art breaks down barriers and "makes art out of your usual experience, instead of you spending \$100 to see 'Spamalot,'" she said.

Artist **Becky Peebles** is organizing a project that combines performance and textile printmaking. On Aug. 16, between five and 60 volunteers will create a human Tibetan prayer flag and walk from the east side to the west side wearing colored shirts designed by Peebles.

"It's an effort to re-gift what I've received by living on the east side of Madison," said Peebles, 26. When she moved to Madison two years ago, she noticed the proliferation of Tibetan prayer flags in the Marquette neighborhood and was drawn to their message.

"Gradually, they fall apart over time. The wind carries those offerings and they're dissipated into the Earth," she said. The prayer flag walk is a non-



Angela Richardson

[2 total images](#) | [view them here](#)

Angela Richardson's photos of her neighbors in the Schenk-Atwood area will start appearing in unusual spots in the east side neighborhood later this summer as part of the BLINK public art project.

Other Stories

- Songs, skits and shots highlight Yahara Bay show
- 'Musical of Musicals' pokes fun at Broadway
- 'Before the Rains' more of a spring shower than monsoon
- 'Roman' manipulative, overplotted, and yet ...
- Madison-grown film director looks at surfing's first family
- A little Eden, a little hell in fascinating 'Surfwise'

wardbrodt Madison's Premier Music Store

- Better Grades
- Higher Retention Levels
- Better Math Skills
- Higher Self-Esteem

Most Popular

- Those close to Marino express relief, hope from arrest
- Madison man dies in Bobcat accident

Community Pages sponsored by:



your community energy company



Services

- About us
- Contact our staff
- Frequently asked questions
- Births & deaths
- Obituaries
- Vows
- Evjue Foundation
- Write a letter
- Photo reprints
- Advertiser Services

proselytizing way to bring "joy, care and goodwill for the places we walk and the people there."

Like Peebles, photographer **Angela Richardson's** project originates in her neighborhood. She has been living in Madison for 18 years but recently moved into the Schenk-Atwood neighborhood. The idea for "The Face of a Place" came out of a photography challenge she undertook in January to take a daily photo for 365 days and post them on [her Flickr site](#). What better way to meet her neighbors, she thought, then to go around taking pictures of them?

Since starting on "The Face of a Place" project, she's been carrying a camera everywhere she goes. Some of her photographs are entirely spontaneous, others she sets up as portraits with more forethought. Along the way, she gets "an in-depth peek at people's lives, snippets of their stories."

Starting in August, Richardson, 37, will start displaying the photos around the Schenk-Atwood area -- in the community gardens, on posts, on random empty windows, in storefronts.

Eric Melton-White's project will be right at the edge of the Schenk-Atwood neighborhood, where Williamson Street crosses the Yahara River. This summer, he'll be making solar-powered light sculptures in shapes inspired by insects and spiders, especially tent worms. In September, an arborist will help him hang strings of them on trees by the river.

"They'll be like a brood over the Yahara River," said Melton-White, 36, a cabinetmaker who's lived in Madison for 13 years. He wants to bring attention to the water with his installation and hopes to be able to program the LED (solar-powered) batteries so that the sculptures light up on cue at night and pulsate.

Yid Vicious have done "a little busking and playing in parks," said horn player Kia Karlen, but their BLINK project could take the klezmer ensemble onto Madison Metro buses (if they get clearance to do so).

Even if the band can't play directly on board, the "Car-Free Klezmer" project will take them to the transfer points and along Madison bike paths in September. The idea came from the annual Car-Free Challenge organized by Madison Environmental Group, said Karlen. In celebration of World Car-Free Day on September 22, the Challenge asks city residents to live without cars for one day, one week or one month, and instead use alternative modes of transportation like bicycles or bus routes.

The theme fits well with klezmer's tradition as the "rootless" Jewish secular music played by traveling musicians in Eastern Europe and it's the kind of music you make with the instruments and people on hand, said Karlen.

This won't be Yid Vicious' first public performance art in Madison. During the summer, the band pulled off a "Yammer Summer Guerrilla Laundromat Tour."

Local filmmaker Brian Standing will be documenting their roaming performances and some spontaneous, some not and screening it on October 3 as part of a "bike-in theatre" event at Just Coffee, 1129 E. Wilson St.

[Katjusa Cisar](#) — 6/24/2008 6:05 am

Post a Comment:

Name:

Email:

This email is never shared.

Characters remaining:

- Storms could impact Rhythm and Booms
- Strange behavior led police to Marino's alleged killer
- Crash causes outage, detour in Monona
- Bucks' first-round pick a 'freakish athlete'
- 'Overwhelming,' Marino's dad says of arrest in murder case
- No injuries reported in Beltline bus fire
- Mazomanie church nixes altar girls
- Mike Lucas: Cosgrove the consultant

- Reader Services
- Subscribe
- Careers
- The Capital Times Kids Fund

The Capital Times © 2008 - Freelance writers retain the copyright for their work that appears on this site.

Send technical questions or comments to our [web editor](#)

[madison.com](#) © 2008 Capital Newspapers



[reader services](#) | [advertiser services](#) | [contact us](#) |