

U-M Nonprofit and Public Management Center eNewsletter

Practical Insights for Future Leaders

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IN THIS **November 2008** ISSUE:

AT THE CENTER

***ASSESSING THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS—
DECEMBER 3**

***STUDENT COURSE GUIDE OF NONPROFIT CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN**

AROUND CAMPUS AND TOWN

***CREATIVITY AND ART; BUSINESS AND BEYOND: MAKING INNOVATIVE IDEAS
A REALITY WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS—November 10**

***RAISING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN
CHALLENGING ECONOMIC TIMES—NOVEMBER 14**

***THE PROMISES AND PERILS OF THE ART INDUSTRY—NOVEMBER 19**

***IRS TO HOLD WORKSHOPS FOR SMALL AND MID-SIZED TAX-EXEMPT
ORGANIZATIONS—NOVEMBER 18, 19 & 20**

IN THE NEWS

***CHARITIES URGE NEXT PRESIDENT TO EXPAND GIVING INCENTIVES**

AT THE CENTER

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Assessing the Financial Health of Nonprofit Organizations

Wednesday, December 3, 4:30-6 p.m. E1530, Ross School of Business

Please join Dione Alexander, Detroit Site Director, Nonprofit Finance Fund, in a discussion of how to discern financial strength and weakness in a nonprofit organization. Whether you're involved with nonprofits as a board member, volunteer, staff member or donor, understanding their financial health is crucial to helping the organization meet its mission. The Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) is a national leader in financing nonprofits, strengthening their financial health and improving their capacity to serve their communities. With NFF's help, nonprofits across the country build and renovate facilities, fund growth needs, and expand and sustain operations over time.

Student Course Guide of Nonprofit Classes at University of Michigan

[Click here](#) to see a list of Winter 2009 courses from the professional schools at the University with a focus on nonprofit topics. Please note that last minute changes, additions, and deletions always occur.

Check with each school registrar for the latest information. Please help us keep this course directory accurate by contacting the NPM Center with any additions or corrections.

AROUND CAMPUS AND TOWN

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Creativity and Art; Business and Beyond: Making Innovative Ideas a Reality within Organizations

Monday, November 10, 5:10-6:30 p.m., E0530, Ross School of Business

Melissa Dibble, Director of Client Partnerships and General Manager of EmcArts, is nationally renowned for her work as an arts and business consultant. The EmcArts Team, comprised of an ensemble of experienced arts management consultants, was formed as a response to the challenges and ever-changing demands of the arts and culture marketplace. On behalf of EmcArts, Melissa will be working with community arts leaders and business students from the Ross School to discuss running an arts consulting firm, and how art and business have shaped her career and company. Come hear the unique experiences of someone who makes innovative ideas a reality. Sponsored by Arts Enterprise Initiative.

Raising Sustainable Funding for Nonprofit Organizations in Challenging Economic Times Friday, November 14, 9 a.m-noon, Educational Conference Center, School of Social Work, 1080 S. University Avenue

Terry Axelrod, founder and CEO of Benevon, presents a continuing education workshop. Terry introduces key principles of sustainable funding and methods, emphasizing a mission-based system. A panel of professionals representing nonprofit organizations that have successfully implemented the Benevon Model will illustrate successes and challenges of moving to a sustainable funding model. This lively, interactive session is an excellent opportunity to learn and ask questions about how your organization can transform its relationships with new and existing donors and grow a legacy of mission-centered individual giving. The cost for this mini-course is \$75. [Click here for registration details](#) or phone (734) 763-3395.

The Promises and Perils of the Art Industry

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30-8 p.m., Work Gallery, 306 State Street, Ann Arbor

Michael Jensen, Assistant Professor, Ross School of Business, will discuss some of the economic properties of arts organizations and the art industry that suggest that even if art and artists are becoming increasingly important, they will not necessarily be able to fully appropriate all the value they provide to the economy. The talk will end with a brief discussion of various strategies to improve the ability of arts organizations and artists to appropriate more of the value they generate. Sponsored by Arts Enterprise Initiative.

IRS To Hold Workshops For Small And Mid-Sized Tax-Exempt Organizations

November 18, 19 and 20, 9 a.m-4 p.m., 1500 Town Center, Southfield

The Internal Revenue Service will hold three one-day workshops for small and mid-sized tax-exempt organizations in Detroit on Nov. 18, 19 and 20, 2008. The workshops will cover information and procedures to help tax-exempt organizations comply with their tax obligations and maintain their tax-exempt status. The workshops are designed for board members, officers, volunteers and staff of small and mid-sized tax-exempt organizations and the practitioners and stakeholders who work with them.

IRS revenue agents will lead the workshops, which will provide an overview of the “nuts and bolts” of tax-compliance for exempt organizations. Workshop topics include an in-depth discussion of activities

that can jeopardize 501(c)(3) status, unrelated business income and gaming, and employment issues for tax exempt organizations. Particular emphasis is given to a discussion and a walkthrough of the revised Form 990 and 990-EZ information returns.

The Detroit workshops will be held just outside the city at the Westin Southfield--Detroit, 1500 Town Center in Southfield, Mich. The cost of the workshop is \$45 per person and includes a text and relevant IRS forms and publications. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, go to the Charities and Nonprofits page on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/eo and click the "Calendar of Events" link. Information and registration is also available by calling Events by Design, Inc, IRS's registration services provider, at 800-521-3980.

IN THE NEWS

Charities Urge Next President to Expand Giving Incentives

The Chronicle of Philanthropy

As charities grapple with the economic crisis, their executives would like to see the next president take steps to promote giving and to strengthen the nonprofit work force, according to a recently released report.

The survey asked charity executives what a new presidential administration could do to help nonprofit groups and their clients handle the economic crisis. Roughly 80 percent of respondents said "reinstatement and expansion of tax incentives for individual charitable giving" would be "very helpful," according to a report on the survey. Executives of nonprofit groups also strongly supported restoring the estate tax — which they believe would stimulate more charitable giving — and restoring or increasing funds in the federal budget for services that charities provide. Leaders of orchestras, theaters, and museums were the biggest fans of changes that would stimulate charitable giving.

The survey was conducted in September by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies, in Baltimore, as part of the Nonprofit Listening Post Project, a research effort that conducts regular surveys on issues facing nonprofit groups. It was based on responses from executives at more than 1,000 nonprofit organizations that focus on four causes: children and family services, housing and services for older people, neighborhood and economic development, and the arts.

The charity leaders also said they would like to see changes that would help them recruit and retain workers. At least 84 percent of executives said it would be somewhat or extremely useful for the government to provide funds for nonprofit training, forgive students loans for people who choose to work at nonprofit organizations; and provide special health-insurance tax credits for nonprofit workers.

[Click here to read the whole report.](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

ABOUT THE NONPROFIT & PUBLIC MANAGEMENT CENTER

The Nonprofit & Public Management Center is a collaboration among the University of Michigan's School of Social Work, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and Stephen M. Ross School of

Business. For more information about NPM, visit <http://www.nonprofit.umich.edu>. If you have an announcement you would like to include in the next issue of this eNewsletter, please send information to the Center at nonprofit@umich.edu