



## Success Story Renaissance Fine Art Supplies



While many people seek travel and relaxation after deciding to retire, there are few who have plans to pursue entrepreneurship. Rick Jones, former Director of the Fitton Center for Creative Arts, retired after 25 years and returned to the workforce to start his own business. Renaissance Fine Art Supplies, the largest retail store in Hamilton, Ohio, offers a wide range of quality art supplies from watercolor paints to professional art sets.

"The 'Renaissance' name carries a double meaning," said Jones. "It recognizes a time in history during which the arts rose to perhaps their most magnificent heights, and also to celebrate the revival of Hamilton, a city of 63,000 that embraced the arts as a means to recharge economic energies." For years, Jones had plans to start a small business and after retirement he scheduled an appointment with his local Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for help. Mark Lankford, Associate Director and Advisor for the Butler County SBDC helped him put together a business plan and developed marketing strategies.

"He has done everything correctly, done an impressive amount of due diligence to give his business the best chance for success," said Lankford. "He's proving that you can be a risk taker, even after retirement." The Renaissance Fine Art Supplies store is located in a newly renovated, \$12 million, historic building project. The Artspace Hamilton Lofts is one of a kind in Ohio, offering "live/work" space for 42 artists. "I have a strong desire to make my community better," said Jones. "We want to provide continued growth of the arts in this town."

For more information about Ohio Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) programs and resources, visit: [www.sbdc.development.ohio.gov](http://www.sbdc.development.ohio.gov)