Rocket number three

One of the 2010 Rocket Grants was awarded to the team of performance artist Leralee Whittle and musician Paul Sprawl for WorkArtOut, which Whittle describes as "a contemporary dance performance featuring video, dance and live music, and offering some creative alternatives to the funny, strange ways people act when they enter sports work-out facilities." They are one of three artist teams to earn this award in its initial round. (Applications for the second round are in progress now.)


In 3 in White, says Whittle, "The combination of white hooded sweatsuits and Paul Sprawl's haunting music brought out the cultish quality of being part of a
sports team or team affiliation as a fan."

Whittle and Sprawl, with performers Marianne Evans-Lombe, Annie Wilsey, and Anne Bruce, staged WorkArtOut in November 2010 at the Community Building in Lawrence.

"The artists in the audience liked WorkArtOut very much because of its experimental nature," Whittle says. "The general audience response was favorable. The show was too outlandish or just plain too creative for the contingency used to overly sincere work lacking in irony, or for those who just came out to see their friends."


Whittle and Sprawl journey to the Texas desert next month to work on Stranger Friend, an exploration of human relationships and the tentative boundaries between dreams and waking life.