



Newsletter

Spring 2009

"Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of the imagination."

::: *JOHN DEWEY, 1859 - 1952* :::

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year—Here's to spring!

Last September we voiced the financial needs of the White Bear Center for the Arts to the community, asking for your support. The great news: You have answered that call! On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I want to thank you for your overwhelming show of support for preserving access to the arts at the local level. In 2008 we offered over 525 art classes, began many new outreach programs, including, working with mentally disabled adult groups, new classes at our senior center, expanded free classes and lectures to the community, and the implementation of delivering art experiences to over 3,700 elementary age children in our WBL schools. We wouldn't be here but for you; our community of members, artists, supporting businesses and patrons. Hundreds of individual donations and businesses contributed: from \$5, to an unprecedented gift of \$20,000, and positioned WBCA financially sound as we closed the books on our 40th year of serving our community. Thank you to the City of White Bear Lake for their continued support through facility use, partnership and generous 2008 contribution. We are truly fortunate to have so many committed members and partners, with the "audacity to come together" in challenging times.

As we begin 2009, we evaluate our known resources and accept projected cuts in funding that have enabled us to increase staff and programming over the past four years. In order to assure our financial stability and the caliber of quality art education classes core to our mission, we are forced to put many of our special events on hold for 2009. These are temporary changes which will enable us to carry the WBCA into the future when grants and funding will once again allow us to add these valuable services back on our calendar. I am fortunate to have such a professional and hard working staff, appropriately named: "Team Awesome" comprised of Danielle Cezanne— Education Coordinator, who brilliantly puts together outstanding varieties of instructors and classes; Tara Burns—Graphics Specialist, who magically arranges all the information into an esthetically beautiful and reader-friendly formatted catalog and maintains a top-rate website as a resource for members and artists, and Kim Bakken-Parr—Office Coordinator, who miraculously manages all the details of registration, membership and tracking the money. I want to thank them for their commitment to the WBCA. While we are reducing staff hours, we are not reducing our team or our commitment to quality and accessibility. As are many businesses and nonprofits, staff at WBCA has taken a salary freeze in addition to reduced hours. This places even more value and need on our volunteers. Membership and individual

donations remain our most important revenue of support, so please renew your membership as soon as it expires and consider becoming a sustaining member that renews your WBCA membership automatically each year. This will help us save considerable time and paper – which translates into resource funds for programming. Our office hours will remain the same, M-F, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

So, with the audacity of hope and imagination, we welcome the coming year with renewed commitment to a community brimming with goodwill and culture and opportunities to explore the creative gifts of the arts. Please know you are an important part of that vision!

Suzi Hudson, Executive Director
suzi@whitebeararts.org