Newsletter

Summer 2009

"The best thing about the White Bear Center for the Arts is that it's really about the art of friendship."

::: *Jeff, Friend of the WBCA* :::

Dear Friends,

The other day I received what I think is one of the greatest compliments about the WBCA, the above quote by Jeff, a friend and member of the White Bear Center for the Arts.

Thanks Jeff! I couldn't agree more! Friendships are a byproduct of a welcoming environment that values and nurtures creative expression, individual respect and the encouragement to explore and share. How often do we find these opportunities in a society that continues to race towards over-commercialization, multi-tasking and text messaging? My son recently asked me what might be the results of growing up in an environment of constant exposure to flashing commercials on the internet, streaming pop-ups on the TV and a landscape forested with more billboards than trees? Think about the filters our young people are developing just to cope with the barrage!

Art requires learning how to recognize our own filters, deconstruct our internal critic and risk being vulnerable to the creative muse. I believe that when this process is explored with a group of people, we begin to recognize our shared apprehensions and at the same time; how unique our individual answers are to artistic challenges. This begins a very exciting process of shared learning and growing confidence in our technical abilities and artistic individuality. Only by recognizing our unique gifts and voices do we begin to discover what we alone have to offer the world at large. Here is where true artistic growth begins.

Through diverse programs, talented instructors and a welcoming and supportive environment, White Bear Center for the Arts is a place for everyone to enjoy the Art of Friendship - The Art of Community. And what of it? Well maybe as a result, we build the confidence to become the best Artistic Selves we were born to be! Come and find out!!

Suzi Hudson, Executive Director
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