



## Newsletter

### Summer 2011

::: *Suzi Hudson* :::

Greetings!

The White Bear Center for the Arts has been busy-busy! As was recently announced, we are the proud new owners of a warehouse located at the north end of downtown White Bear Lake. There is much to do before the building and site are ready but we are making measurable progress. In order for me to shift focus to the building project and capital campaign we have hired Assistant Director, Kathy Blegen-Huntley who will be handling the majority of my usual duties this year. Also new to our staff is Andy Vollbrecht, Program Assistant. We welcome Kathy and Andy to our growing organization and hope you will stop by the office and introduce yourself to them. We value getting to know each of you!

Over the past several months the building committee has visited nearly 20 regional art centers and held countless interviews and focus groups with artists, instructors, students and gallery directors, ensuring the new facility will be "re-educated" to serve our specific needs. The recently completed architectural plans include a 2,500 SF gallery, four studio classrooms, a designated clay studio, a detached metal/3-D studio and a beautiful outdoor walking labyrinth and garden. The surrounding green space and wetlands will provide an idyllic setting for inspiration, reflection and connection with others and our environment.

Aligning with our mission to provide a gateway to diverse arts experiences, this new community art center will beautifully support our goals to educate, cultivate and celebrate the arts. As you can imagine, the new facility will greatly increase our ability to provide the highest in quality art programs and activities. It is critical that we hear from you as we plan for our future program development; after all, this is YOUR community art center. We are currently conducting an important survey of our members and patrons. Please watch your email for the survey or visit our website to find it on the homepage at [www.whitebeararts.org](http://www.whitebeararts.org). Paper surveys are also available by calling the office and we will gladly get one to you in the mail. It will only take a few minutes and we want EVERYONE to participate. Thank you in advance!

And now, the million (or really 3.2 million dollar question): When will the new art center be ready? Our timeline looks to be early spring 2012. As anxious as we are, the Board of Directors' goal is to build it right so it will serve the community well for the next 43 years. Hang in there; with careful planning, tremendous support, exuberant enthusiasm, and 43 years of community commitment behind us, it'll be here before we know it. In the meantime, commit to experiencing the joys of art, right here, right now! Just look inside the catalog and we'll show you how

Peace and love,

Suzi Hudson

Executive Director