



Newsletter

Winter 2008

“AS A COMMUNITY, WE NEED TO START PAYING MORE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE CREATIVE IDEAS OF OUR YOUNGEST, OUR OLDEST, AND GENERALLY OUR MOST MARGINALIZED MEMBERS.”

::: Richard Florida, *The Flight of the Creative Class* :::

Dear Friends,

These are exciting times at the White Bear Center for the Arts! Over the past year we have brought you exciting new workshops, free family art days, special events such as Northern Lights, ArtWatch, Community Iron Pour and over 525 high-quality art classes. This fall with the launch of our new EcoArt series, we brought you renown artists such as Kinji Akagawa and published poet and naturalist, John Caddy. Through new and expanding offerings our membership has grown to nearly 1,000 strong! While we have raised the caliber of class offerings, we are an organization founded on a mission to serve and ensure the accessibility of the arts to all. **Did you know that the WBCA is the only nonprofit 501(c)3 arts organization in the northeast metro area offering affordable, year-round art classes and art related outreach services?** Over the past year we have strengthened our commitment to community with programs that focus on reaching many underserved members of our community. In addition to our regularly scheduled classes we are serving the community through valuable outreach programs:

- Providing high-quality art experiences for elementary-age children in White Bear Public Elementary Schools
- Bringing art classes to homeless children and families at East Metro Women’s Council
- Providing before-school art programs for young children “at-risk”
- Engaging hundreds of teenagers in our annual high school writing contest
- Reaching emotionally and mentally challenged adults with art experiences through Transitions Plus and Phoenix Alternatives
- Connecting seniors through art with special art tours and classes at area senior centers
- Providing scholarships and reduced tuition to people in need of financial assistance

While tuition and memberships help cover the costs of our many classes, **WBCA outreach services are made possible through your financial contributions and year-end gifts.** Please ensure our ability to keep the arts accessible and the bonds of community strong by sharing a year-end gift to the White Bear Center for the Arts. Your support is critically important to us, and I encourage you to give as generously as you can. **Remember, every dollar makes a difference, and contributions are 100% tax deductible.** So today, before the rush of the holidays is upon us, please mail your year-end gift to the White Bear Center for the Arts. Together we strengthen our bonds of community through sharing.

Suzi Hudson, Executive Director
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