



## Newsletter

Fall 2013

::: Suzi Hudson :::

Dear Friends,

Exactly three years ago, I accompanied a small group of individuals through a commercial warehouse building on the north end of downtown White Bear Lake. The building, which was recently bank owned, had a leaky roof, crumbling sheetrock, a few dingy windows (mostly dry rotted and sealed shut with bars), a broken toilet, and a parking lot overgrowing with weeds. Yet as we walked through the building, a vision emerged of spacious studio classrooms, outdoor working patios, a public gallery opening onto an artists' commons, a cozy artist resource library (maybe with a fireplace?), a welcoming atrium with skylights, a state-of-the-art clay studio, a kiln room for firing, and an inspirational walking labyrinth garden surrounded by towering pines. After nearly 50 years of visionary stewards who have practiced the art of seeing a real and permanent home for White Bear Center for the Arts, I am so very pleased and honored to announce: **YOUR ART CENTER IS HERE!** So mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate your new art center, affectionately known as White Bear Center for the Arts, at the GRAND OPENING on Saturday, September 21, 7:30-10:00 PM. With live music, refreshments, and a premier exhibition featuring the art of over 60 Minnesota artists who teach at White Bear Center for the Arts, we will bring in a new era for the arts in the Greater Northeast Metro Area. While the new parking lot is generous, I encourage you to carpool, bike, or even stroll with a friend to this special occasion.

In the meantime, just look inside at all the incredible new offerings your art center has waiting for you. With the addition of the new *Tom Hartzell Clay Studio*, Danielle has lined up more than a dozen new clay classes alone. Come on. Come play. But be forewarned, you'll want to stay!

While it is a joyous time to celebrate a grand achievement, without the tremendous work of the capital campaign committee and generosity of capital donors so far, this vision would still be an unfulfilled dream. WE NEED YOU to join us in the final stretch.

So in a few weeks, you'll receive a request to help close out the *Gateway to the Arts Capital Campaign*. Please give as generously as possible. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to say: *I helped build my new art center.*

Just imagine the celebration if, together, we close the final gap in time for the Grand Opening. Guess what...wilder things have happened. I'm seeing it! Can you?

With joy,

Suzi Hudson