



# Newsletter

## Spring 2011

::: Roberta Johnson :::

Dear Friends,

After forty-one years as a nonprofit organization, the White Bear Center for the Arts on December 15, 2010, has its own home! The search for a new facility has taken several years, but thanks to donors and family foundations the acquisition of a new building including the adjacent property on Long Avenue in White Bear Lake was achieved. With this purchase, the WBCA wants to establish itself as a leading arts organization in Minnesota.

On December 15, 2010, tears of joy emanated from the board, donors, staff, and a few instructors as Suzi Hudson signed the papers closing the purchase of these properties.

A huge "Thank You" goes to all who have continued to believe in the mission of the art center. It is because of your belief in White Bear Center for the Arts that the center has reached this huge milestone. Hooray!

Members of the White Bear Lake Community have so graciously supported the first phase of the capital campaign. A leadership gift of \$330,000 from the O'Silas Foundation kicked off our efforts last fall and over \$1,100,000 in total have been raised or pledged since. Acknowledgment of all our generous contributors will be listed in our 2010 annual report. Without their help, the WBCA could not have purchased our new home. Thanks also go to the W.B. City Council and City Manager Mark Sather, who have supported the center by allowing us to have a home at the Armory since 1996.

The next steps are to focus on remodeling while continuing the capital campaign. The property includes an 8,000 square foot building that will be redesigned to our specifications and become the new Center. By purchasing the adjoining property, we have space for adequate parking, as well as outdoor space suitable for open-air programming, small art fairs, celebrations, and other events. In total the properties provide 1.5 acres.

About \$1 million in additional support will be needed for the full renovation and other project costs. We intend to officially launch the final phase of our Capital Campaign in March and have all funds committed by our anticipated Grand Opening - tentatively scheduled for late fall of 2011.

We look forward to offering our students and teachers spacious rooms to create works of art, music and other fine arts.

Thanks again for your support! We look forward to continuing our mission.

Sincerely,

Roberta Johnson  
Board Chair, 2011