



## Newsletter

Spring 2012

::: Roberta Johnson :::

Dear Friends,

Fostering our dream is becoming our reality. How can one describe the changes that are taking place for White Bear Center for the Arts?

As 2011 progressed, WBCA's Board of Directors and Building Committee were hard at work. Currently, the architectural and engineering documents for the renovation are 90% complete, the site plan has been approved by the City of White Bear Lake, and the storm water management plan has been approved by the watershed district. Numerous dedicated volunteers have devoted countless hours overseeing these and all necessary details requiring finality in order that renovations, once initiated, are implemented as seamlessly as possible.

The Campaign Committee has remained focused on its mission to secure the necessary \$2.5 million to complete this project. Due to the incredible generosity of many individuals, foundations, and corporations, we are now 65% of the way toward reaching the goal. Upon completion, WBCA will create a comprehensive arts campus, the only such amenity in the northeast region of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. Members of the Campaign Committee are committed to securing the remaining \$875,000 in early 2012 so renovations can begin, and doors to the new campus can be opened as soon as possible.

On a personal note, I became the Chair of the Board in 2009. After years of searching for a permanent facility, our efforts led us to the unique and ideal site at Long Avenue in White Bear Lake. Through a tremendous outpouring of generosity and support, individuals who believed in this dream made it possible for the art center to purchase the building and surrounding property, with no mortgage! It was an historic time for the WBCA. How proud I am to have been the Board Chair during these phenomenal proceedings. As I leave the Chair in 2012, I will continue to serve on the Board and volunteer to help the art center with its many functions and community events. Our newly elected Chair, Robert Cuerden, has served as Vice-Chair for the past three years and is well prepared for this leadership role. Bob has also served as the Chair of the Building Committee, so we know that WBCA is in good hands.

While we welcome new roles, we also say goodbye to Kathy Blegen-Huntley, who completes a one year contract to serve as assistant director. Providing time for Suzi to concentrate on the efforts of the Building Committee and launch the capital campaign in 2011, Kathy's contributions and support were very much appreciated. On behalf of the staff and board, we thank Kathy for her excellent work and wish her the very best in her new ventures.

To provide a gateway to diverse arts experiences is our mission. When completed, our new facility will provide a permanent gateway to diverse arts experiences -- through art education, art exhibitions, performances, and community events and celebrations. How proud we are to see the dream of a new home become not just a reality, but a prominent feature of our artistic community. As the year passes, changes will be happening with the art center's site. Keep a watchful eye for progress and updates!

Thank you for your continued support of White Bear Center for the Arts.

Roberta Johnson