



## Newsletter

Spring 2015

::: *Dan Wachtler* :::

Dear Friends:

2014 was a year of growth and transition for your Art Center. In July, we celebrated one year in the new building and we are starting to settle in. Compared to 2013, we increased class offerings by 32% to 873 and class registrations are up by 48% to 5,070. In the past 12 months, close to 10,000 visitors attended classes and exhibitions. This past fall WBCA offered 212 classes, more than in any other quarter in our history. Clearly our community is taking advantage of its beautiful new regional Arts Center and the opportunities it presents. Indeed, memberships are up 30% compared to a year ago.

Our staff, led by Executive Director Suzi Hudson, has worked very hard to provide interesting and stimulating classes and programs. Likewise, our Board of Directors has responded with vigor and enthusiasm to meet the operational, financial, and organizational challenges presented by our growth. Together, the staff and Board have continued to focus on educating and nurturing artists, cultivating an appreciation of the Arts, and celebrating the joy of Art in its many forms. Our motto is "Do Art." We hope everyone in our community feels welcome at their new Art Center and comfortable with pursuing an artistic experience.

Special thanks to outgoing Board Members Bob Cuerden, Jan Gillen, Alan Kantrud, and Kraig Rasmussen. They have all been great contributors over the past six years and integral to our growth and success. Also, welcome to our new Board Members Kim Ford, Kevin Hart, Cindy Ihlenfeld, Karl Sevig, and Steve Wolgamot. Their previous experience and background will no doubt be invaluable. I am confident they will provide tremendous energy and new insight.

The future looks bright. The potential for your Art Center is unlimited, but it needs your continued support. Although we earn 50% of our income, we depend on donations, grants, and sponsorships for the other 50%. Needless to say, our budget has increased significantly since moving into the new building. Without your financial support, it will be difficult to make budget and continue offering all the wonderful classes and programs. So please be generous.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Board Chair this past year. I look forward to working with new Board Chair Mary Gove and our Board in 2015.

Dan Wachtler  
Outgoing Board Chair