



Newsletter

Spring 2016

::: *Mary Gove* :::

Our art center had another great year, growing and maturing into its new role as an arts leader in the northeast region of the Twin Cities. White Bear Center for the Arts belongs to all of us in this area and is helping to build a community that is richer, more cultural, and more interesting in a multitude of ways. I am happy to have been a part of this amazing resource for the last six years!

In 2015 we once again added new members and offered a wide variety of art classes. We sponsored new events and gallery shows, including a show of paintings by local artist Edna Imm, and Small Art~Big Hearts, a new event where 1200 original art pieces donated by artists were available for purchase at an affordable price. We have found that people who attend our events are "wowed" by what we are doing and want to be a part of this growing organization. From 2013 to 2015 our membership increased by 31% while the number of classes we offer increased by 27% - impressive statistics.

This coming year the Board plans to take a close look at what it means to make art accessible to everyone. Our goal is to have a wider understanding of how we can involve every person within our region in the artistic process. It is exciting to imagine the potential impact across the community, if everyone were inspired to explore and embrace art in their daily lives!

All of us want to thank outgoing board members Mary Levins, Dan Wachtler, and Karen April Wong, who have all made outstanding contributions to the art center during their tenure. All of them have been integral to the growth and the success of WBCA. We also want to welcome our new board members Robert Brittain, Kathy Curran, Alan Kantrud, Matt Lipp, and Mark Shavlik. Their previous experience and background will be invaluable and I am confident they will provide tremendous energy and new insight.

Our staff, led by Executive Director Suzi Hudson, has worked diligently this year to create engaging classes and enticing new events. The growth in the art center's programs is inspiring, and the potential for the expansion of art activities throughout the community is an exciting goal. To continue growing and improving, we are going to need your ongoing support. Our budget for the coming year is approximately \$850,000. We earn 50% of our income and depend on donations, grants, and sponsorships for the other 50%. Thank you for your past donations and please continue to give generously, knowing that your gifts will allow the arts to grow and flourish in your community.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Board Chair this past year. I look forward to working with our new Board Chair, Nor Olson, and the White Bear Center for the Arts Board of Directors in 2016.

Mary Gove
Board Chair, 2015