



Newsletter

Winter 2011

::: Suzi Hudson :::

"Always take a job that is too big for you." Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-1969

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been. With the purchase of our new building last December we are experiencing a creative evolution! The site provides new opportunities along with lots of work to be done. The question of the day is: "When will we be moving into the new building?" While our goal is to be in by next fall, construction is estimated to take 5-6 months and we do not want to start until we have secured all of the funds needed to complete the project. As you can imagine, this is a job bigger than anything the White Bear Center for the Arts has taken on before (hence, the quote above!) Your tremendous support has us confident we will succeed, and when the renovations are completed, we will have a magnificent community center for the arts, unique to the region. This community continues to inspire all of us working towards this goal and we thank you for your support, encouragement, excitement and growing participation. The Open House event on October 1st welcomed over 320 visitors to the new building and raised \$48,761 towards the capital campaign, securing a matching challenge gift from Mardag Foundation for an additional \$40,000. And speaking of inspirational, just today we received an amazingly generous gift for \$200,000! Yes, count the zeroes...I had to too! With \$1,546,000 currently raised in gifts and pledges we are now at 62% of our total goal of 2.5 million dollars. In the words of one of our attendees at the Open House, "Never before have I seen such joyful generosity!" We couldn't agree more!

With this in mind, I remind you that your year end gift is still crucially important. The capital drive is a very separate account and does not support our classes, instructors or staff needed to maintain the more than 500 classes we offer each year, serving over 31,000 people through community events and arts education. When you receive our year end request in a few weeks, please know that your support is as important as it has ever been to the health of the White Bear Center for the Arts. Please make a tax deductible year end gift to the WBCA as a gift that will keep on giving! Thank you.

In the meantime, just look at these classes! With winter sneaking in through the cracks it's time to plan how you will thrive with classes designed especially for the Minnesota cool down. What better time to try your hand at felting wool or cooking paella? There are new classes for families; making treats to fill the bird feeders this winter, or your dog's tummy. If you have ever contemplated turning your art interest into a career, let us help with a class in "The Business of Art." From yoga to writing, jewelry to painting; the White Bear Center for the Arts is a community center for you, (and everyone else in your life!) We offer gift certificates for classes and scholarships for those in need of assistance; so remember the gift of art this season.

Join us in the creative evolution and start yours today. Come on... you know you want to!

Cheers and thanks for an amazing year!
Suzi Hudson, Executive Director