



Newsletter

Winter 2016

::: Suzi Hudson :::

Dear Friends,

White Bear Center for the Arts' mission to provide a gateway to diverse arts experiences is essentially a gateway to your own creativity, nudging you towards unique, transformative experiences. However, we hope it does not end there because the real power of art is experiencing a moment that enables you to connect more deeply with another person. When that happens, the process of transformation becomes collective. Your art center is here to transform – not only you – but your community as well.

In January, WBCA will host *A is for Animal: Artworks from the Minnesota Museum of American Art*, newly named "the M". We are thrilled to be partnering with the M, offering you direct access to rarely seen works from the museum's archive.

WBCA's commitment to increasing access to the arts was recently highlighted by two major awards from the Minnesota State Arts Board. These funds are targeting to reach beyond current programming, providing unique opportunities to area youth, artists, and more members of the community. These activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Here is a brief description of each:

Arts Learning Award will support artist Wing Young Huie to work with area high school students in an arts residency program that utilizes photography to develop cultural and social awareness. Wing Young Huie has been honored with such prestigious awards that include the Star Tribune's Artist of the Year, US Bank Sally Irvine Ordway Vision Award, and the Emerging Leaders Spotlight Award from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The students' photographs will be on display at WBCA spring 2017.

Arts Access Award will provide support for culturally relevant art experiences to build relationships with Hmong-American artists and community members. WBCA will partner with the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent to offer "Art Saves Us" programs for area youth, while also introducing several new performing artists and teachers. Arts Access will include an exhibition with artist Sieng Lee, awarded a Jerome Emerging Artist Fellowship Award and lead artist of the *We Are Hmong Minnesota* exhibition recently at the Minnesota History Center.

Your art center has plenty of opportunities to transform you this winter. So look inside both the catalog and yourself. What you'll discover will be more *WOW!*

Suzi Hudson
Executive Director