



## Newsletter

Fall 2016

::: Suzi Hudson :::

Dear Friends,

White Bear Center for the Arts (WBCA) recently marked its third anniversary in its new home on Long Avenue. WBCA's new facility was built with the vision to become a world class center and leader in the arts. The work and resources that continue to be so generously invested in achieving this dream are immeasurable. **Thank you!**

We believe that every one of your gifts carries the responsibility to ensure WBCA is a resource which is accessible to all our community's citizens. As such, the Board of Directors and staff consistently assess WBCA's position on that continuum. We strive to improve our awareness of the barriers that still exist while working with community partners to help remove them, ensuring we are meeting the needs of our entire community. We recognize the community's growing diversity and ask for your help in becoming a more culturally responsive and inclusive place for all.

In April, the Board drafted and adopted a new Diversity and Inclusion Statement which we believe makes a stronger commitment towards increasing equity and access. Please take a moment to read WBCA's full statement below. I share this with you because we want you to hold WBCA accountable in these efforts. Equally important is *your* individual resolve to be personally welcoming and inclusive in our community. If we are to succeed, it will require all of us risking some awkwardness and vulnerability in this space. It will require us to challenge our assumptions and preconceptions about one another. And most of all, it will require daily practice and commitment. Isn't it interesting that these are many of the same elements required of making art? We've got this!

Please double your efforts to extend a welcoming hand to someone you don't know, a simple smile or greeting in the hall. Invite people into the center. Continue to muster the courage to have conversations about differences, contrasting ideas, heritage, experiences, and lifestyles. Use your art to be a bridge. Just imagine what this sort of commitment might inspire if the rest of the world decides to join us.

Until then, thank you for making a difference, right here. Right now.

**Suzi Hudson**  
**Executive Director**

# WHITE BEAR CENTER FOR THE ARTS'

## **Diversity and Inclusion Statement**

*Approved and adopted by WBCA Board of Directors on 4/27/16*

To ensure an atmosphere of joy and wonder for the White Bear Center for the Arts (WBCA) and that its programming is accessible to all members of the community, WBCA must be a culturally responsive center that reflects the diversity of our local area.

WBCA believes that diversity, inclusion and equity are essential to fulfilling our mission to provide a gateway to diverse arts experiences for all people in the Northeastern metro suburban area who wish to participate. WBCA embraces differences and commonalities across race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental & physical ability, religion, age, & social economic class.

We believe that in order to build a more diverse membership, we must work to identify barriers and commit to removing these limitations.

We commit to expanding our awareness about, and representation in, the greater diverse arts experience and strive to make art an intrinsic part of everyday life.

To meaningfully and measurably foster a culture of inclusion we will focus on:

1. Building our cultural capacity through education, cultural training, and intentional engagement with diverse artists and audiences;
2. Providing accessible programs of relevance by engaging diverse artists in planning and delivery of programs at WBCA.
3. Seeking opportunities that expand outreach to diverse populations in our community.

**WBCA stands behind the importance of long-term sustainable relationships built on genuine respect for the creative, social and cultural spirit of each individual. This initiative will be the bedrock for all action and planning done by the Board and Staff at White Bear Center for the Arts.**