

Artstline

Winter 2010

Notes from the Board

A Message from DAC to the Future

Although I am a member of the board of directors of the Durango Arts Center, I'm here today as a musician, a former dancer, an educator, a parent and as someone whose home is filled with art created by local artists. I'm also here for a reason that I'm not too proud of, which is that despite the fact that I've been a Durango resident for over 23 years, I have consistently taken the Arts Center for granted. I performed here, watched my children and my students perform here, I attended visual art and social events here, sent in my membership fee every year, but never thought twice about who or what kept these doors open. Now I know differently.

We've heard from several sources today about the DAC's impact on the community of Durango-educationally, culturally, intellectually and economically. If you'll permit me, I'd like to add one more perspective. Last week I saw some incredible photographs of street children from Bolivia. I learned from Eric Greitens, the photographer, that the teachers who work with these homeless children never begin their instruction with reading, math or even personal hygiene. Instead, their curriculum begins with the arts. Why is that? Because in their words: "First we must help these children discover two things: that there is beauty in the world, and that they themselves can create beauty. Only after they understand these concepts, do they have the hope that gives them strength to learn and grow."

I believe that Beauty sustains us and gives us hope.

When we look throughout history, how do we analyze past cultures and civilizations? What gives us the greatest insight into the question "Who were those guys (or girls)?" What is left when the leaders and the followers and all the rest of the people are gone? What continues to enhance our lives and give us hope today? I believe that the answer to each of these questions is our arts-visual, performing and literary.

These ARE tough times, but these are also times that make us need and appreciate the arts the most. **Beauty sustains us and gives us hope, and the arts define us as a people. The question is, how do WE want to be defined as a community?**

You have been invited today because you are someone who views the arts as part of the Durango definition. **We need your help.** Our amazing volunteers have kept the doors open and the programs going, but they cannot take the place of the funding we have lost. Right now it costs nearly \$14,000 per month simply to keep the doors open with a greatly reduced staff. With a paid executive director and programs in full force, our budget ranged from \$33,000 to \$38,000 per month.

Your contribution can help cover anything from art supplies for children, to gallery and theater lighting, to commissioning a new play, underwriting a traveling exhibit, creating a new media center for teenagers to explore film, audio and digital arts, to funding the search for a permanent executive director. If you have a special idea or project, we welcome your suggestions and ask that you contact Scott Hagler directly to discuss how we can accommodate your request. We're also hoping that you might consider making a multi-year pledge that will help us realize our *DAC to the Future* vision. But most importantly, please **help us define Durango as a community that continues to value the arts.**

Rochelle Mann, DAC Board of Directors

Board Names Interim Executive Director

On behalf of the executive director hire committee, the DAC's board of directors is pleased to announce that Sheri Rochford has agreed to serve as the interim executive director of the Durango Arts Center beginning in January. A Durango native, Sheri served for many years as the director of admissions and the director of development at Fort Lewis College. Most recently, she has been serving as gallery director for Sorrel Sky Gallery and as a member of several non-profit boards.



During the six months of her tenure, Sheri will bring to the DAC the experience, vision and leadership skills that will be essential to its success. Her work ethic, energy and incomparable local and regional networks will make her a great fit for this job.

Welcome, New Board Members

The board welcomes new members, Bobby Duthie, Crystal Hartman, Tara Homburg and Terry Swan, who will serve as the board president. Other new officers are Rochelle Mann, vice president; Maureen May, secretary; Tara Homburg and Cynthia Roebuck, co-treasurers.

Thanks to Scott Hagler for filling the role of interim executive director in 2009. For the remainder of his term, Scott will play an active part in marketing and web site design. Diane Panelli will serve another year with the board and will be the facilitator for theater rentals and events.

The board wishes to extend its gratitude to Janice Weeks who has retired from the board after serving her three-year term as treasurer.

DAC Docents



Docent Sandra Mapel selects materials for an Art in the Schools presentation.

The docent committee is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers who have prepared lectures and hands-on activities about exemplary artists such as Frederic Remington, Vincent van Gogh, Frida Khalo, Leonardo da Vinci and Durango icon Stanton Englehart, presented to classrooms and other groups around the region through the popular Art in the Schools program.

The docents meet at 10 a.m. on the last Monday of each month, and new members are welcome. Call Marta Snow, docent chair, at 375-2852 or write to docents@durangoarts.org for more information about the program.

Many thanks to the members of the docent committee: MaryAlinda Abernathy, Susie Bonds, Rosemary Juskevich, Caroline Lippincott, Linda MacCannell, Sandra Mapel, Bonni Pacheco, Sari Ross, Maggie Sauer, Florence Short, Cindy Smart and Marta Snow.