



1/13/2008

FY2007 Annual Meeting Report

November 13, 2007

Officers

President – Kelvin Sampson
Vice President – Stephan Love
Secretary – Paula Helle
Treasurer – Steve Endsley

Board of Directors

Joan Johnson-Blackwell
Dennis Crawford
Marnie Eskridge
Crystal Hardesty
Sharron Harkless
Cynthia Richter
Bill Whitehouse (Gallery Coordinator)
Max Latimer (Advisor)

President's Report

In the fall of 2006 the Arts Council was just coming out of a period of low participation in shows and meetings. Earlier that year, the organization had suffered the resignation of several key officers and board members, and was struggling to continue. Due to these and other problems, the Arts Council newsletter and website had become inactive. This difficult time nearly resulted in the end of the oldest Arts Council in Illinois after 35 years.

Fortunately, several key people were willing to carry on stepped forward and a rebuilding process began. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish this year and are looking forward to the year ahead.

In November of 2006 a suite of new officers was elected, most of which, with the exception of Treasurer Steve Endsley, had not been Arts Council members very long. The Board of Directors was also composed of relatively new members. Nevertheless, we at least had an acceptable number of members willing to serve as officers and directors. Since that time we have added two more directors and are seeking to add more.

Financial Status

Although the Arts Council had been through a period time when it was difficult to keep the organization going, the membership remained loyal and continued to support the organization financially. Due to this our finances were in good order at the beginning of FY2007. In fact, there was a significant increase in our treasury over past years due to fewer expenses incurred as a direct result of inactivity during the previous year.

A budget for FY2007 was prepared and we are happy to report that we ended the year with a gain of \$132. The beginning balance for the year was \$1856. We anticipated an income of \$1412 from membership dues including a \$500 grant which we received from the Illinois Arts Council for general operating support. Our actual income was \$1525, \$113 more than anticipated. We budgeted \$2110 for maximum total expenses. Actual expenses for the year were \$1389, \$729 less than budgeted amount. The ending balance for FY2007 was \$1988.

We thankfully acknowledge the Illinois Arts Council for their continued support last year which has allowed us to be able to provide additional programming and partially fund other organizations arts related events.

Membership:

Memberships for FY2007 were down by 23 this year compared to FY2006. It is difficult to determine the cause of this decrease but it may be related to FY2006 being such an inactive year.

The FY2007 membership categories breaks down as follows: Student (\$4) – 0; Individual (\$10) – 27; Family (\$15) – 12; Business / Organization (\$20) – 5; Patron (\$25) – 10; Sponsor (\$50 or more) – 5. There were 59 memberships for FY2007.

Noteworthy is the fact that we had no student memberships this year which seems to indicate that we are not interfacing very well with young artists in our area. Perhaps we should explore ways to reach out to area schools or offer more programs designed for younger artists to stimulate interest in the Arts Council. Cultivating the interest of young artists in our area is critical to the long term survival of the organization.

Publications:

Critical to the survival and revitalization of the Fulton County Arts Council are our publications. This is the vehicle that keeps our membership informed on Arts Council opportunities and activities. A major goal for FY2007 was to re-design and re-establish these publications and produce regular updates, press releases, and newsletter issues. We are happy to report that these goals have been achieved.

Arts Council Design Package – As part of getting our publications back up and regular, the Arts Council has also taken on a new look. Our logo was re-designed and incorporated in series of new design templates for Arts Council documents, membership forms and brochures, and other promotional materials.

The Arts Newsletter – The highest priority this year was to get the newsletter back into operation since this is our main vehicle to keep our membership informed as to the business of the organization, upcoming events, and to distribute news about other area arts related events and opportunities. Getting the newsletter back in operation and on schedule is an important accomplishment. Members and the public are invited to submit items to be considered for the newsletter.

Website – The Arts Council website (www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com) was also completely re-designed and upgraded this year. Here you can find information about the organization, events, membership, and Arts Council news. In addition, the newly established Arts Alliance of Fulton County expressed interest in using our website as the home for Arts Alliance information. As part of this project, an events calendar system was installed which allows other area arts related organizations to post their events. Thus, in concept creates a single place where one can view all Fulton County arts events.

We were also able to secure free hosting for the website through the Illinois State Museum. We gratefully acknowledge their support of the Fulton County Arts Council through their generous contribution.

Promotion:

We also recognize the importance of keeping the membership and public informed on Arts Council Activities, Shows, and Events. Promotion is also what brings people to our gallery, stimulates public interest, and cultivates new members. Promotion is accomplished by the website, but there is no substitute for submitting regular press releases to our area newspapers and radio stations, highlighting our activities.

Gallery:

The Fulton County Arts Council gallery is located in the lower level atrium space at Graham Hospital, in Canton. The gallery has 55 linear feet of wall space outfitted with hanging brackets and a security system that is used for the hanging of framed artworks. We also have two curio cabinets for the display of small three dimensional objects, one located in the gallery and one in the hospital lobby. We are very fortunate to have the support of the Graham Hospital and use their space for a gallery. There may not be another Arts Council in the state that can say that their gallery is open virtually all of the time.

The Arts Council hosted 6 shows in the gallery space this year. In addition, there were two shows of three dimensional items in our curio cabinets.

The first show of FY2007 was the **Annual Membership Show**. This show was open only to members and to all mediums. This show was held between November 13, 2006 and January 9, 2007. Entries this year consisted of paintings, photographs, digital art, ceramics, and woodcarving. Awards and cash prizes were given in two categories. The winner of the student/amateur division was Amanda Sampson, of Ellisville for her digital artwork titled "Roses". In the semi-professional category, first place went to Canton resident Bill Whitehouse for his woodcarving titled "Emiquon Woody" Second place was awarded to Canton resident Crystal Hardesty for her photograph "Native American". There were no entries in the Professional category this year.

Between January 9 and March 13 the Fulton County Arts Council hosted a show of works produced by a local artist. This year's show was titled **Impressions of Emiquon: the Watercolor Paintings of Nancy A. Jones**. Nancy is from Macomb and is a participant

in the Nature Conservancy's Corps of Discovery program, a group of people who are documenting the Emiquon Restoration with creative writing, art, and photography. Using these skills and others, members of the Corps of Discovery traveled to aesthetic points and pathways on the Emiquon Preserve and compiled a body of "creative data" such as journal entries, poetry, wood carvings, sketches, paintings, artistically composed photographs, and other collected materials that offer impressions of the landscape from non-scientists.

Emerging from Emiquon Corps of Discovery members is an artistic record of the restoration that is as intimate as it is thorough. Nancy successfully captures beauty hidden in the seemingly mundane scenes of fields, drainage ditches, trees, and flowering plants. Nancy's work challenges the viewer to look and also see the beauty in all that surrounds us

Between March 13 and May 8 was the **Digital Art Show** - This show features anything digitally created or manipulated by camera and computer. The winners in the Amateur / Student division were: First Place, Barb Kittel, "St John's"; Second Place Keith Kittel, "Butterfly Breakfast"; Third Place, Barb Kittel, "Frozen in Time". In the Semi-Professional division the winners were: First Place, Cheryl Swope, "Icicle Candle"; Second Place, Crystal Hardesty, "The Rose". In the Professional division First Place went to Kelvin Sampson, "Weeds".

Between May 8 and July 10 was the **Theme Art Show** – This year's theme was *Bygone Days*. This show was open to any medium except photography. Since participation this year was low only first places were awarded in each category. The winners are as follows. In the Amateur / Student division the winner was Stephan Love for his painting "Days of my Youth". In the Semi-Professional division the winner was Lois McCoy for her painting "Historic Elmwood Depot" and the winner of the Professional division was Kelvin Sampson with a hand-built ceramic vessel "Head Pot".

Between July 10 and September 11 was the **Art of Photography Show**. This show features digital or traditional photography. This continues to be our most popular show that featured an impressive group of photographs produced by 14 area photographers. Winners in the Amateur/Student division were: First Place, Becky Whitehouse, *Busy Bee*; Second Place, Sarah Whitehouse, *Vivid Woody*; Third Place, Barb Kittell, *Ring Around the Posie*. In the Semi-Professional division the winners were: First Place, Jessie Hibbs, *Touch of Death*; Second Place, Crystal Hardesty, *Sugar and Spice*; Third Place, Bill Whitehouse, *Snack Time*. In the Professional division: First Place, Sharron Harkless, *Copano Bay Sunset*.

During the month of October we hosted **The Clothesline Project** which is a display of decorated t-shirts addressing the issue of domestic violence against women. This show was produced by clients of the Fulton/Mason County Crisis Center.

During the first part of the year our two curio cabinets were filled with a display of woodcarvings produced by Bill Whitehouse of Canton. During the later part of the year

these cabinets contained a display of Spoon River Scenic Drive memorabilia collected by Joan Johnson-Blackwell of Lewistown. This was the 40th anniversary year of the drive.

Special Events

On Saturday September 1, Dickson Mounds Museum hosted the Fulton County Arts Council's "Art in the Park" children's program. Thirty Three children from Fulton, Knox, McDonough, and Mason Counties attended. Arts Council members provided a series of eight Native American theme art and craft activities. These included corn husk dolls, cattail duck decoys, face painting with natural pigments, body ornamentation and turtle shell rattles. Delicious cookies and drinks were served and the program was enjoyed by all.

Partnership Events

The Fulton County Arts Council also co-sponsored three events this year.

The Eagle Days Art Competition was held in partnership with Dickson Mounds Museum, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Mason County Arts Council in January. Eagle theme art and poetry from Fulton and Mason County schools, is accepted, judged, and exhibited. Winning entries are posted on the Friends of Dickson Mounds website and wards are presented in a special ceremony on January 28. The Arts Council provided judges for this year's event.

On September 8, the Arts Council in partnership with the Historic Ellisville Restoration Organization (HERO) conducted a silent film festival. Charlie Chaplin's classic film *The Gold Rush* was shown to an audience of 55 people. Arts Council President Kelvin Sampson provided an introduction to the film and Arts Council Secretary Paula Helle did a masterful job providing piano accompaniment during the film.

On October 27, the Arts Council partnered with Dickson Mounds Museum to present a showing of the film "To Kill a Mockingbird". This was done as part of the "Big Read Project," a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, received by Spoon River College and the Parlin - Ingersoll Library. This was part of a series of events themed around Harper Lee's Nobel Peace Prize award winning book "To Kill a Mockingbird".

Sponsored Events

The Arts Council also sponsored several events this year with financial support. Due to the \$500 general operating support grant provided by the Illinois Arts Council we are able to provide small grants for arts related programs conducted by other area organizations. This year five requests for funding were received and all were approved for funding. We are proud to support these events as part of our mission to bring the arts to as many Fulton County people as possible.

Ellisville Sassafras Festival – Provided \$100 in emergency funding to the Historic Ellisville Restoration Organization (H.E.R.O.) to provide replacement musical entertainment for the event held on March 31.

Masters Day Poetry Competition – Provided \$200 funding to the Lewistown Chamber of Commerce to support the poetry competition held on June 2.

Spoon River Anthology Presentation – Provided \$100 in funding to assist in production of the presentation during the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive on October 7 and 14.

Harold Kee Welch Gallery – Provided \$100 in funding to allow the gallery to be open during this year's Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive on October 6, 7, 13, and 14.

Little Rascal's Children's Theater Troupe – Provided funding for props, and other materials needed for this year's presentation "Little House on Spoon River" theater presentation at the Ellisville Opera House during the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive on October 6, 7, and 14.

Summary and Acknowledgements:

It has been a busy year for the Fulton County Arts Council and it has also been a rebuilding year with several major accomplishments. We are pleased with the partnerships we have continued and the new ones we have developed. With excitement we are looking forward to the year ahead and plan to carry out a similar suite of programs and events. We're looking forward to continuing the Art in the Park program, and other programs with our partners. We also anticipate continuing the film festival at Ellisville Opera House, and continuing to support and sponsor other local events. We also plan to explore new opportunities, events, and partnerships.

We thank the membership for their continued support. Thanks are extended to our officers and board members for their willingness to serve. Special thanks go to Bill Whitehouse for his administration of the gallery space. We also gratefully acknowledge Graham Hospital for provision of meeting facilities and gallery space free of charge. The Illinois State Museum and Dickson Mounds also provides support with newsletter production, printing, and website hosting free of charge.