

Artsline

Summer 2010

Director's Notes

"Art is important. We tend to think it is a luxury, but it gives people deep pleasure because beauty is the personification of hope that something grander is at work." (Gil Dellinger, artist)

The artist Gil Dellinger, in his quote, says it much better than I ever could. The Durango Arts Center is an integral part of our Four Corners economy, and I believe we do give the community hope that great things are always present, especially if we stop to enjoy them.

What a joy it has been for me to watch the artists at work here at the DAC, no matter their medium. The people who come through our doors are visual artists, theater artists, people whose goal is to be artists. I don't want to forget the people who are like me — they simply love art. All of us involved with the DAC would like to think that we do give all people hope that the world is a better place because of art.

I'd like to thank former DAC board president Karen Thompson and her husband, Larry Eads, for stepping up with a leadership donation. Karen also served as interim executive director after Brian Wagner left, and she continues to volunteer and devote her energies to creating a better Durango Arts Center. Thanks also to Mary and Tom Orsini who continue to be great supporters of art in our community, and their recent pledge to the DAC is truly appreciated.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our business neighbors on Second Avenue who provide continuing support to the DAC. My thanks go to Steamworks Brewing Company, Cyprus Café, Eno Wine Bar, Leland House, Rochester Hotel and Muttu's.

If you didn't see the recent Salt Fire Circus performances at the DAC, you missed some great talent. The DAC is proud to have a community theater where local artists can express and showcase their talents. The 34th Annual *Juried Exhibit* brought out a record number of artists. For a small community we have so much to brag about.

All who are a part of the DAC, whether they are dedicated staff, volunteers, artists, musicians, actors, donors, patrons or people who just want to learn about and love the arts, keep the DAC the vibrant place we enjoy as a community. We are working hard, and we want to continue to earn the confidence and support of our members and donors. We believe art is important, and it gives us hope that so many people in our community support us in this belief.

Sheri Rochford Figgs
Executive Director

A Note from Your Board President

I am convinced the DAC must develop and maintain a membership base of at least 1000. We ended 2009 with only 480 members. This year an aggressive campaign has increased membership to just under 600. That's 600 folks who are pulling the DAC cart for a community of 45,000. Remember, the DAC receives no government funding; all of our support comes from our members. This year we are operating a \$500,000 budget and have only one full-time employee. Most of our funds go to debt service and art programs serving the Durango community. We have already raised more money this year than all of last year, but I still anticipate donations to make up only 25% of our total income. Most of our income is earned in the DAC Theater through rentals, bar proceeds and our own productions like *Always...Patsy Cline*, which runs weekends all summer.

To stay in our own building and support the programs we currently run, we must broaden our membership base. I believe we must have at least 1000 members by the beginning of next year or the DAC will have to reinvent itself. Our current business plan does not support a 17,000 SF building and the five full-time employees we would need to keep up the building and operate our present programs. The answer is a stable membership of at least 1000 who donate time and money. I believe we can achieve this goal. Will you recruit your neighbors, friends and local businesses to join the DAC? Membership forms are available on line at www.durangoarts.org and at the DAC's front desk. Call or e-mail me or any board member if you want to be heard. The DAC needs your help.

Terry Swan
President, DAC Board of Directors
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An Exciting Season at the DAC! Seven Reasons to See *Always...Patsy Cline*

Always... *Patsy Cline* opened June 11 at the DAC and runs weekends through September 18. Here are seven reasons to see the show:

First, Ted Swindley's bio-musical about the country singer who died in a plane crash in 1963 has been a hit nation-wide since it opened in 1993. Reviewers say, "It's a show even country music-haters will love." Next, the DAC's production is high-quality, popular entertainment led by professional actress-singer, Traci Lyn Thomas. Third, tickets are priced competitively — \$20 for adults and \$18 for age 16 and under. DAC members qualify for \$18 tickets. Fourth, it's a guest-friendly performance for all ages, and one you won't mind attending more than once. Fifth, it features 27 of Cline's classic songs — not a bad tune in the bunch. Sixth, more than a musical review, the true-story drama chronicles her relationship with her fan, Louise Seger, revealing why her short life resembles the heart-torn lyrics of her many ballads. Finally, see *Always...Patsy Cline* just to support your local arts center, which is indeed BACK and continuing to present a variety of visual and performing arts to Durango audiences.



Warning: *Always*... *Patsy Cline* won't *always* be here. There are only 30 performances remaining; many will sell out.

Durango Autumn Arts Festival

Mark your calendar for September 11 and 12 when the much-anticipated arts festival returns to Second Avenue. Stroll between 7th and 9th Streets where you can view and purchase the works of fine artists and artisans, sample food from some of the area's notable culinary artists and imbibe in spirits from area wineries as well as in non-alcoholic teas and lemonades offered by a variety of drink vendors, then stop a while and listen to performances by local and regional groups and soloists on the DAC's sound stage. The festival will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 11 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 12.

Call to Volunteers! This festival cannot happen without the participation of many volunteers. Sign up now to help! Call festival volunteer coordinators Karen Thompson at (970) 259-7738 or J.M. Jones at (970) 247-1243 for information and to reserve your volunteer spot.

Durango Showcase of the Arts

This city-wide festival celebrating the arts in Durango, which includes the Durango Autumn Arts Festival and Durango Open Studios Tour, takes place September 10 through 19 in various locations around town. For a complete schedule of events, go to www.durangohowcaseofthearts.org.

DAC's New Doors

Sheri Rochford Figgs, executive director, cuts the ribbon and dedicates the new doors at the DAC. Joining her for the ceremony are the Durango Diplomats and several members of Durango Fire & Rescue, the DAC's board, advisory board and staff.



Thanks to generous contributions from DAC patrons, the building now has new fire-approved front doors, which were crafted by Durango Glass and dedicated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 7.

Also adding pizzazz to the building are flower boxes constructed by Jonas Grushkin, DAC's building manager, and planted by Garden of Delight Landscaping, Gardens by Eve, master gardener Sue Kohlhardt, Native Roots Garden Center, the Soil Sisters and DAC staff members and volunteers. And, when you come into the lobby, you will be greeted by flower arrangements delivered weekly compliments of April's Garden.