

2007 Annual Report Summary



2007 was a banner year for Gualala Arts! I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for making 2007 a year to remember for Gualala Arts! What a pleasure it has been to be the Executive Director of such an exciting, successful organization.

Artistically we hit several home runs last year. On the visual art front; the exhibits in the Burnett, Jacob Foyer, Dolphin and the newly Gualala Arts-managed Sea Ranch Lodge Front Gallery, reached new heights for our community. Gualala Arts brought to you close to forty different exhibits representing almost every form of fine art produced by hundreds of artists ranging the age span from three to ninety-three! The artists, curators, hangers, volunteers and patrons really out did themselves and raised the bar! If we missed an art form that you would like to see and/or help curate we are currently accepting proposals for our 2009 exhibit calendar (see page 13 of this issue).

Gualala Arts hosted thirty-nine live performance events in the Coleman Auditorium for thousands of attendees who gave several standing ovations. We brought you world class chamber music, professional and local theater, jazz legends, pop icons and even a chorus from Slovenia! Over half of the performances were sold out in 2007 and we expect that number to grow in 2008, so please get your tickets early so you will not miss out. We are always looking for help producing these wonderful performances; it takes literally hundreds of dedicated volunteers to help bring these exciting events to life!

Sound like enough for one Arts organization? Not this one! You asked for more art classes and workshops and we responded! We hosted close to forty art workshop & classes, countless interest groups meetings and weekly drop in clay studio and life drawing sessions.

You also helped put on several fabulous events including the 46th annual Art in the Redwoods, Inaugural Gala Top Hat Dinner, Garden Guild luncheon, Festival of Trees Marketplace, monthly Lecture Series, Dinners at Six, Summer Saturday Arts Festivals, and the Studio Discovery Tour. Many of these events are invaluable fundraisers for Gualala Arts to help subsidize our diverse programming. We continued to develop and foster relations with our business community as sponsors to help “roll out the redwood carpet” to all our visiting artists, patrons, and tourists.



In 2007 we also hosted several community events here at the Arts Center including service group functions, school plays, proms, weddings and fundraisers.



I could not be more proud of our fundraising committee and the progress they made last year. Thanks to the committee, successful events and you, our loyal financial patrons of the arts, we have not had such a successful year since we were raising funds to build the center. We are now raising funds for the Gualala Arts Endowment to ensure that what you (our community) built will be here in perpetuity.

I am also proud to be your Executive Director and cannot put into words my gratitude to each and every one of you artists, volunteers, patrons, and of course our dedicated office staff.

Cheers to 2008!

David “Sus” Susalla, Executive Director, Gualala Arts