

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Less than one year ago, President Michele Marshall, made the pledge at the "50 Years, 50 More" workshop that Gualala Arts was going to install an elevator and an emergency generator. And the community responded! Along with major donors of \$5,000 or more (Elaine Jacob, Pacific Piecemakers Quilt Guild, Andrea A. Lunsford, Shepherd by the Sea, Jan and Dennis Carter, Sharon Nickodem via Intel Foundation matching funds), around 100 people gave financial donations to help meet the fundraising objective of \$140 thousand. Although that goal was not met, huge donations of time and skills from Howard Curtis, structural engineer, the Gualala Arts "Tuesday Boys" Building Committee lead by Ben Klagenberg and newly named GA Volunteer of the Year Len Hiles, and many more volunteers and community members who gave their time or helped with in-kind donations combined to make the elevator happen. And, to top it off, when our funds would not permit, the elevator supplier, J.T. Lawrence Co., donated a

generator as well as a free, long term, maintenance and inspection service to make sure the new equipment keeps functioning for future users. The generator will guarantee that no one ends up being stranded in the elevator and will provide for safe use and egress from the building in the event of one of our all too frequent power failures. Volunteers have installed the elevator on a new concrete pad, and improved the drainage in the area to insure a long service life for the new equipment. In addition to providing access to all parts of the building, an operating elevator will make it possible for Gualala Arts to compete for grants from foundations.

A job well done by all...the major project for the year was accomplished...on time, and using most but not all of the funds which had been raised.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Gualala Arts celebrated its 50th anniversary of Art in the Redwoods this past August and it did not disappoint. Hundreds of artists shared their vision with the community, thousands of visitors came to appreciate it, dedicated staff worked tirelessly, hundreds of volunteers set up tents, moved lots of things from A to B to C then back to A, hung the art show, parked cars, cooked food, sold tickets, baked sweets, painted pedestals, performed music, read stories but most of all we HAD FUN! When complimented, "Thank you Sus, I don't know how you do you it all?" My response is "I don't...WE do it, so thank YOU!"

Now you may be thinking...so how did we do financially? It was a bit slower at the entrance gates over the weekend and art sales followed that trend inside and out. BUT most food sales were up, the pizzas from the new pizza oven sold out both days, it looks as if we started another Art in the Redwoods tradition. The judges critique and champagne preview were attended about the same as last year. The shining star of the weekend financially was the Top Hat Dinner; attendance was up again this year! We have been continuing to try to keep our costs down throughout the festival and we were able to do that again this year, thanks to our generous sponsors. Financially, Art in the Redwoods continues to be on an up trend. WE did it again!

Speaking of working together, Gualala Arts is teaming up with other non-profits this year for the

benefit of our entire coast. In May, we partnered up with the Soroptimists on the "Architectural Tour and Wine Tasting." "Taste of the North Coast" is a new event with the Rotary that is proving to be a hit. In November the Sea Ranch Lodge is hosting a fundraiser dinner titled, "Better Together" with Action Network, Redwood Coast Humane Society and Gualala Arts being the beneficiaries. I truly believe that by working together we will all benefit and "the whole is more than the sum of its parts."

Last year the community came together under the vision of Michele Marshall and the board of directors for an elevator. We planned, fundraised, volunteered, donated, built and had the ribbon cutting ceremony. The project was completed on time and under budget! This year the board has a vision under the direction of President Dave Bower to kick off an annual fund drive to ensure that what we have all worked so hard on will continue to succeed and thrive!

It was a wonderfully busy spring and summer and we look forward to a great fall and winter ahead. Once again, I thank each and everyone one of you for helping write the success story we know as Gualala Arts. We could not do it without each and everyone of US!



David 'Sus' Susalla
Executive Director
Gualala Arts, Inc.