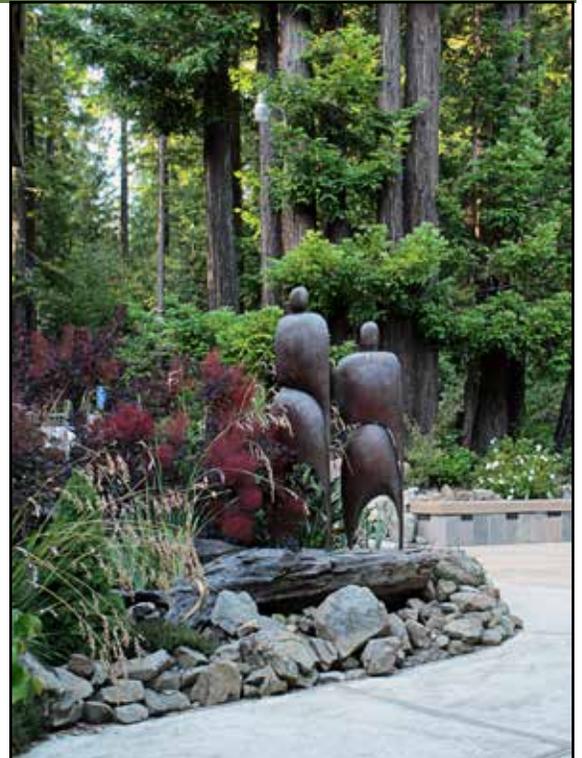


## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



## A New Year!



It seems that we are always planning for the next exhibit, concert, lecture, fund-raising event or meeting. While we are planning, designing Sketches, updating the website, entering memberships, meeting a deadline, printing a program, cutting checks, welcoming the public, someone in the building is setting up chairs and tables for their event, creating art or practicing for opening night. The kitchen is humming with people lovingly preparing food for others; the bar is getting stocked to pour libations while a class is underway in the Mohr Memorial Mezzanine.

The doors open, patrons walk through the threshold into the Jacob Foyer Gallery with eyes wide in anticipation. The Burnett Gallery is adorned with the hearts and souls of our local artists' offerings. Thespians backstage are warming their voices to the musical director's fingers on the keys. The patrons talk to artists learning about their visions, which have come to life and are being shared with the community.

"Two minutes!" The lights blink. "Two minutes!"

Guests finish their drinks, grab one last culinary treat and head to their seats in the Coleman Auditorium. The curtain opens, the music starts, harmonies fill the air and the magic of theater begins. The audience cheers, laughs and even sheds tears. The curtain closes and the roar of the applause fills the hearts of the actors breaking a leg.

Everyone grabs their own chairs and stacks it against

the wall and the room of over a hundred is cleared within minutes, then they are off to their cars in a well lit parking lot, while staff does the final lights out and setting of the alarm to secure the facility for the next morning's activities.

As my father used to say "and the beat goes on..."

Thank you to the legions of past, present and future drummers (artists, volunteers, sponsors, donors, members, curators, board members, patrons and staff) that keep the hearts of arts alive and thriving!

Looking forward to creating and sharing beats the New Year has to offer with you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sus" with a stylized flourish.

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