

Why THE HARDY GALLERY?

"I feel so strongly about the synergy of artists, and the Hardy is the only place in our county where things are done for the sake of art and artists for purely altruistic reasons. I've met a lot of wonderful artists and friends through the Hardy, and the networking has made it a great place to get involved. I really can't say enough about this great organization."

- Lyle LaMont



Nearly fifty years ago, businessman and artist Francis (Howe) Hardy knew in his heart that he and fellow artists needed a venue with which they could exhibit their artwork. He envisioned the existence of a gallery that would support the development of a growing Door County art community, fostering its growth, and furthering the understanding and appreciation of the visual arts and artists of the Door Peninsula. Upon his passing, Hardy's vision became a reality thanks to his wife Helen's energy and financial contributions. In 1962 the Hardy Gallery was launched here in Ephraim under the auspices of the Peninsula Arts Association.

Forty seven years later, the organization has grown to serve in more ways than Hardy ever imagined. The umbrella name Francis Hardy Center for the Arts was added in 2001 to reflect the organization's broadened scope of vision and ideas as it began its independence from the PAA. Today, the Hardy Gallery, as it is affectionately known, has initiatives that address the needs of the local artist community, creative enrichment of local youth, and is focused more than ever on educating the public and promoting the visual arts and artists of the Door County Peninsula.

The Hardy is a source of inspiration. It is a place to learn and discover. For me, these words describe the road I have traveled in the past year. Each and every day has presented new challenges, opportunity and adventure – an ongoing learning experience for me. While this statement is also true of my prior experiences with the organization, this transition year in particular has enabled me to explore the Hardy's future potential. Looking forward, we will continue to focus our work in the Door County art community, with ideas that will bring new vitality and visibility to the Hardy's programs and exhibitions. Maintaining and carrying this icon of Door County art history into the future is my primary goal and our remarkable successes from this year affirm that we are indeed headed in the right direction.

I am fortunate to have had the great privilege of working with a wealth of extremely knowledgeable, talented and dedicated individuals who serve as volunteer docents, committee and board members. I want to express my most sincere thanks to each and every one of these individuals for providing such outstanding support during this exciting year.

In this report, which recognizes and thanks the many contributors who make the Hardy's work possible, we look back on the past twelve months. We've seen challenge, change and success. In reflecting on these achievements and the strengths that drive them, I am most thankful for the herculean efforts of the aforementioned team and to everyone associated with paving the way for the Hardy's future, especially the foundations, businesses, artists and individuals who generously offer their support and time to our work throughout the year. We are grateful to all of you for enabling us to continue to build this organization. I hope you look upon the information contained in this report with great pride and I hope it inspires you, as it does me, for what's to come.

Elizabeth Meissner-Gigstead
Elizabeth Meissner-Gigstead
Executive Director

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to share some of our accomplishments from our 2008-2009 season in this Annual Report. Through the team efforts of the board and a committed and talented Executive Director and staff, we have had a very successful year.



- Significant time and labor was devoted to strategic and organizational planning and included a modification of the organization mission and vision statements, bylaws in addition to the creation of a Policies and Functions Manual. These documents provide a clear focus which have enabled us to begin charting a new course for our future.
- We have recruited new talented and knowledgeable board members who have added dimension to our work and vision.
- Fiscal responsibility has been at the forefront of our minds during these very difficult and challenging economic times. Operating expenses were reduced and earned income increased through grants and foundation support, sponsorships, exhibits and special event fundraising campaigns.
- Two major special-event fundraisers, the "Collectors Choice Benefit" and "Community Mosaic Project," exceeded budgeted projections. The "Hawaii on the Hardy" raffle was also successful raising \$9,940. The prize package and remaining expenses for the raffle were kindly underwritten by the Marriott Resort and Spa Hotel, Hawaii and Creative Group Inc. of Appleton, WI.
- The Hardy was the recipient of a \$20,000 Wisconsin Arts Board grant through the one-time Wisconsin Arts Job program. We were the sole Northeast WI arts organization (out of an applicant pool of 98 organizations) to receive this grant. We happily welcomed Melissa Ripp, who started her new position in October, as the Marketing & Community Relations Director.
- We presented a number of exciting exhibits this season: the *Wall-to-Wall Salon & 47th Annual Juried Exhibit*, the *Collection 2009 Invitational Exhibition* and *The Hardy Celebrates: A Century of Inspiration*, an exhibit that was dedicated to Peninsula State Park's centennial anniversary.
- We restructured our referral efforts for artists, offering individualized business cards to patrons interested in learning more about the work of exhibiting artists.
- We expanded our hours of operation with participation in the Ephraim Business Council's "Evenings in Ephraim" promotion, staying open until 8 p.m. on Monday nights.
- We launched a new initiative titled "Art from the Heart." The idea was born as a community outreach effort and gives emphasis to collaboration and networking between local non-profit organizations. Through "Art from the Heart," the Hardy will work in partnership each year with a fellow (local) non-profit to bring more awareness of our respective organizations to the public, and in some instances, support each other financially. We were happy to partner with Door CANcer this year with our "Hawaii on the Hardy" raffle. 10% of our profits (\$1,000) was presented to the Door CANcer board at their October meeting.
- The Hardy could not exist without our wonderful volunteers. Our 33 gallery docents welcomed a record 12,704 visitors this season, representing an 8.4% increase in attendance over 2008.

Had the gallery been operated by paid staff, it would have cost the Hardy \$10,932. Seven new docents joined our efforts this year and in addition, an auxiliary team of twenty volunteers generously supplied and served refreshments at our four opening receptions to 1,141 guests. All the volunteers and training were expertly coordinated by our volunteer Human Resources Coordinator, Shirley Williams.

In closing, it has been a privilege and honor to serve as president for the last two years. My term of office ended in October and Peggy Lott will take the helm as our interim president. She is a knowledgeable and experienced leader – past board member and president – and committed to the Hardy and its future. I will remain on the board and look forward to continuing our mission of "enriching the vibrancy of the Door County community by promoting and fostering local art."

The Hardy is successful because of individuals like you and it is clear that you are at the heart of our future. The years ahead will be exciting and promising for local professional and emerging artists, students, residents, and visitors alike. I invite you to help us ensure that this one-of-a-kind "gem" will remain a viable and vital component to the cultural life in Door County.

Best wishes,

Pamela J. Lecy

Pamela J. Lecy
Past President

FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2009

REVENUES

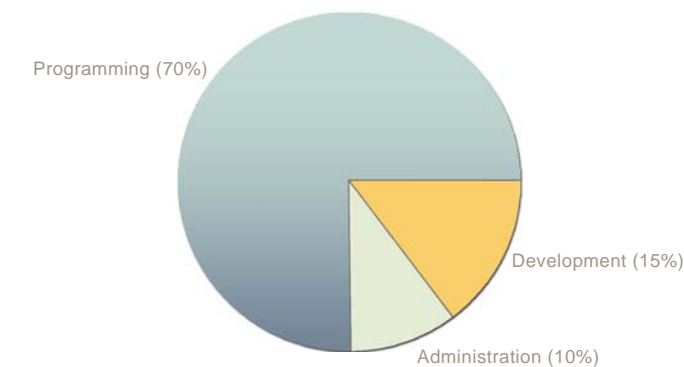
Contributions	\$ 39,739
Grants and Sponsorships	56,199
Earned Income	43,885
TOTAL REVENUES	139,823

EXPENSES

Personnel	42,703
Programming	28,221
Administrative (printing, postage, occupancy, etc.)	16,274
Development	7,550
TOTAL EXPENSES	94,748

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$45,075

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



ART CAMP

Art Camp is a two-week, arts-focused program component of Gibraltar's Migrant Education Program that aims to provide migratory students with opportunities to engage in the arts and encouragement to explore their personal creativity, thereby furthering intellectual development, personal growth and an expanded understanding of the world in which they live.

The 2009 theme was color - from the creation of a simple color wheel for learning primary and secondary colors to exploring its use in the students' everyday lives. Donna Brown, local artist and art instructor, used color as a starting point for art projects that included printmaking, bead-making, tie-dyeing and icing color wheel cookies. Specific emphasis was given to integrating core program requirements including math (fractions) and select vocabulary into the projects. For variety and activity the group also played two color-related games, Twister and I Spy.

Contour drawing and negative space were also introduced and a series of monotype prints of their shoes were created. The images provided a nice focus on the gift of new converse shoes for the children from a local church (several of their prints may be used as cards to help fund raise for next year's shoes). To end the August program, the student work was displayed to the general public at the Hardy Gallery, where the students spoke about their projects and read thank yous they each had written.

Instructor Donna Brown said, "The group is challenging but fun to work with. We had ten children this year ranging in age from seven to thirteen years (seven boys and three girls). As always, it requires a great deal of improvisation given the structure and timing of the program but the children always love the art focus and get so much out of the projects. This year it was especially appreciated as a diversion from the academically-mandated math focus. Art Camp is a wonderful opportunity for these students and I have thoroughly enjoyed working in tandem with the Hardy to plan and deliver the program."

ETC (EXPOSURE TO CREATIVITY)

For many Door County high school students, the rich and textured art community that exists on the peninsula is a bit unknown. Recognizing this, the Exposure to Creativity (ETC) program was created in 2007 as a means to provide youth, ages 14-18 years, with access to the ample, diverse and creative resources that abound in our art community and is provided at a time – during the school day and year – when the students are in school and not working full or part-time jobs.

The ETC program consists of two components – two half-day, hands-on creative workshops that every Gibraltar High School student participates in (as well as any interested home-schooled students); and, for those who accept the opportunity, a

mentor program in the months following the workshops. These mentorships provide encouragement, support, and in-depth training by artists and creative professionals in an arts field of each students' choice.

The hands-on ETC workshops replaced Gibraltar High School's regular curriculum on two separate days – November 4 and 18, 2008 – and dealt with such diverse subjects as watercolor painting, glasswork, dance, theater, and poetry, among others. In total, 26 workshops were provided to all 217 GHS students. The mentor program, which utilized local artists and creative professionals, were held from February through May 2009. 13 students worked with six artist mentors for a



2008-09 ETC (Exposure to Creativity) mentor program participants.

total of 66 combined hours of mentoring in small group sessions dedicated to one particular field of study.

ETC allows all students the access to broad and equal participation, not only those with the parental encouragement, free time, and financial means to afford private lessons or classes in a particular artistic field. In addition, the Hardy was able to give each artist stipends for their time and expertise, thus increasing their potential to expand their own professional horizons through teaching and outreach activities. The Hardy takes pride in the fact that this program supports youth arts education in our community and at the same time contributes to the livelihood of local artists, who strive to make a living in a field where finding recognition and financial success can be a challenge.

The program is co-sponsored by the Hardy Gallery and the Friends of Gibraltar (FOG) with additional financial and in-kind support from Gibraltar High School, Northern Door YMCA, and the Peninsula School of Art.

COMMUNITY MOSAIC PROJECT

The 2nd annual Community Mosaic Project was well received again this year, consisting of 351 canvases! Over the spring and summer, professional artists and community members of all ages and abilities created 6-inch by 6-inch artworks. The canvases were then constructed into a colorful mosaic (pictured, left) that hung

concurrently with the Collection Invitational exhibit. Throughout the duration of the exhibit, the general public had the opportunity to purchase the artworks by picking a number at random for \$25 each. The number corresponding to the numbered artwork was then packaged and mailed directly to patrons. Thank you everyone who supported this outreach effort and fundraiser! Be sure to watch your e-mail inboxes and local papers - the project will make a return in 2010 with information to be disseminated early this coming spring.



The Hardy Gallery
Art is the reason.

2008-2009 Annual Report

WE APPLAUD & THANK THESE GENEROUS DONORS WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR.

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Photography by Nancy Rafal and Melissa Ripp, cover photo by Devan Schultz (sophomore, Gibraltar High School).

2008-2009 Contributions



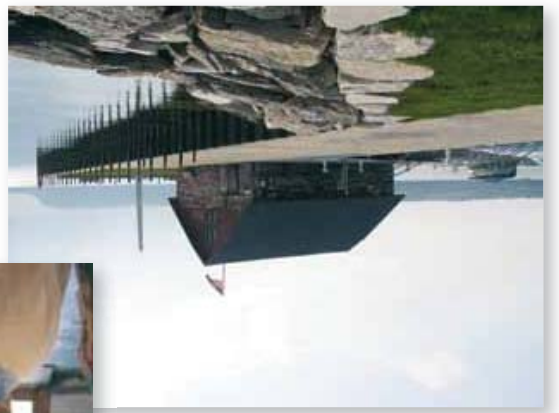
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