Dear Friends,

On Friday evening, September 23, 2016, the Salem Art Association (SAA) achieved a major milestone with the Grand (Re)Opening of the Annex to the public. The culmination of this project made this a landmark year.

The Annex and elevator unveiling began with an inspirational speech delivered by Mayor Anna Peterson, followed by a ceremonial ribbon cutting by Mary K. Compton. A special elevator attendant was available for the evening to aid visitors in navigating the four elevator levels, which now gives complete ADA accessibility throughout the Bush Barn Art Center and Annex complex. The public was invited to view the inaugural exhibition: looking forward: LOOKING BACK, containing audio interviews and visual art from past Salem Art Association artists and administrators. Visitors had an opportunity to reflect on the history of SAA and imagine what the future will hold for this exciting new space.

Because of your contributions and support, emerging and professional artists, youth and young adults, and other community members have this beautiful annex space where they make art happen on a daily basis. Soon after opening, the Annex began serving as a community art hub with many opportunities to meet diverse community needs, such as the Print Arts Northwest exhibition, printmaking classes, High School Art Mentorship programming, the Perrydale School Pop-up Show, Pint-Sized Painting workshop, the TEDxSalem Artist-in-Residence, and many more.

I’m proud to say that 60% of the funds raised for the Access Art Project have come from the community, demonstrating both the trust and farsightedness of all of you. These generous gifts have made art experiences possible for everyone, expanding the horizons of what we thought was possible. As we move into the future we know we have a place where all voices can be heard.

Sincerely,

Sandra Burnett
SAA Executive Director
BUCKET LIST

The Bush House Museum preserves and interprets the Bush House (1878) and Bush's Pasture Park to illuminate Oregon history and culture associated with Salem's Bush Family. The Museum welcomed over 3,000 visitors in 2016 for guided tours, educational programs and special events. The Bush House Museum is a collaborative effort of SAA, the City of Salem, Friends of Bush Gardens and others.

Preservation | Collections Projects
The Becoming Oregon: Letters to Asahel Bush II, Oregon Statesman Editor, 1850-1863 website project began with over $15,000 in grants from the Oregon Heritage Commission and Oregon Cultural Trust. Hundreds of original letters and WPA transcriptions were scanned by Bob Speckman and described by Willamette University Intern, Christopher Pollard. Biographies of each correspondent were written by Historian-in-Residence, Diane Huddleston. Complementing the City of Salem’s ongoing maintenance of the Museum, the carpets were re-padded with a Ralph Hull Foundation grant.

Interpretation | Education
The Arts & History Immersion Project brought 465 4th grade students from Priority and Focus Title 1 schools in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties to the Museum and Bush Barn Art Center. This program provides students from diverse backgrounds with a free tour and art activity through funding from the Reser Family Foundation, the PGE Foundation, the Salem Foundation and the William S. Walton Charitable Trust. Student evaluations showed that over 75% of these students had never been to a museum or art gallery.

Community Collaborations | Community Activities
Bush’s Pasture Park Exploration Day encouraged hundreds of children and their families to “Explore History, Explore the Arts, and Explore Bush’s Pasture Park.” Community Partners for this afternoon event included Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador Sara Pierson, Tokyo International University in America, Music Together with Mrs. D., OSU Extension, and SMART. The Friends of Bush Gardens, Community Arts Education and SAA Gallery Guides also participated. The life of Eugenia Bush (1833-1863), wife of Asahel Bush II, was featured in the Willamette Heritage Center’s Heritage Invitational Exhibit.

Friends of Bush Gardens (FOBG)
FOBG volunteers enhance and maintain the gardens around the Bush House Museum and the Bush Barn Art Center in partnership with the City of Salem. Their two annual plant sales fund many programs including the ongoing rehabilitation of the Civic Rose Garden. In 2016, FOBG began work on an interpretive signage project to bring the history of the Bush family farm complex, and the botanical and historical significance of Bush’s Pasture Park, to life for Salem citizens, visitors, and future generations.
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Salem Art Fair & Festival is SAA’s largest annual fundraiser, showcasing artists from all across the nation and attracting approximately 36,000 visitors per year. The 2016 Art Fair featured 21 musical acts on two stages, and it helped support over 55 local non-profit organizations. Although slightly lower than budgeted, the event raised $124,622 net income to help support the year-round programs of the Salem Art Association.

The annual Clay Ball art auction and dinner is SAA’s second largest fundraising event, attracting close to 500 attendees each year. In 2016, Clay Ball: Masquerade netted $42,092 due to the generosity of artists, sponsors, local businesses and art patrons.

COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION

In 2016, SAA’s Community Arts Education (CAE) program served the communities of Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties in a variety of ways.

FINANCIALS

We are pleased to report that SAA continues to achieve a balanced budget and in 2016 ended with a positive net revenue of $4,447. In addition, SAA completed construction of the Access Art Project, raising nearly $1M to install an elevator in the Bush Barn Art Center and to renovate the Annex as an art-hub for expanded programming. These achievements are only made possible by the generous and thoughtful support of our members, donors, grantors, and sponsors, and through the efforts of our dedicated staff. Through our creative and innovative programs, we will continue to serve the diverse communities across the mid-Willamette Valley.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salem Art Fair &amp; Festival*</td>
<td>$326,047</td>
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<td>Bush House Museum</td>
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<td>Bush Barn Art Center*</td>
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<td>Access Art</td>
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<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
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*SAF&F, BBAC, & FOBG revenue presented net of direct costs

SAA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

SAA receives a 5% distribution annually from its endowment fund, which increased to $936,603 in 2016. This endowment is crucial to the sustainability of SAA and is held under the stewardship of the Salem Art Association Endowment Foundation (SAAEF).

2016 SAAEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GRANTORS

City of Salem TOT Fund | The Collins Foundation | Larry and Jeanette Epping Family Foundation
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- Oregon Heritage OPRD - Museum Grant | Oregon Community Foundation | PGE Foundation