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2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Brooke Serres, Accountant

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Denise Magee, Development Director
James O’Shea, Marketing Manager
Chloe Lawton, Marketing Assistant

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H. Bliz Snow carp, Events Coordinator

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Ross Sutherland, Director
Diane Hubbard, Assistant

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*Denotes change in staff

Dear Friends and Fellow-Supporters of the Arts,

In SAA’s current strategic plan we focused on expanding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as Goal #1. In response to this, the newly renamed Annex has become a Community Art Hub, developing unique programming that prioritizes access for communities previously underrepresented in the environment of Salem.

As an example, this intentional approach was demonstrated in the veteran’s show, January-February 2018. Veteran Matthew Boulay’s exhibition Combat Grass served as a memorial to the 160 female soldiers who have died in wars since the first servicewoman fell in 2002. The interactive installation, made up of both women’s combat boots as well as civilian shoes, invited visitors to honor the fallen soldiers who have died in wars since the first servicewoman fell in 2002. The interactive installation, made up of both women’s combat boots as well as civilian shoes, invited visitors to honor the fallen soldiers who have died in wars since the first servicewoman fell in 2002. The interactive installation, made up of both women’s combat boots as well as civilian shoes, invited visitors to honor the fallen soldiers who have died in wars since the first servicewoman fell in 2002.

In the stillness of the space and as the grass grew, covering the shoes, veterans, families, and community members came by to find a moment of silence and meaning to honor the fallen soldiers. A closing ceremony honoring these fallen soldiers included a reading of the 160 names of each woman. The names were read by the artist and retired female U.S. Marine, one who was 95 years old. The impact of the event was that people were not just seeing the somber reality of the enormous sacrifice of these soldiers, these women, these daughters, these sisters, mothers, these friends, who were loved by many.

And then in April the Annex held the LGBTQ+ identity-focused art project. Fractals of Identity, which included a juried exhibition, an Artist-In-Residence, workshops, and panel discussion. Kari River Blevins and Byron Kimball, both members of the LGBTQ+ community, not only conceptualized the idea, but they organized and led a workshop and panel discussion, curated the exhibition, and submitted an RFP for for entries and Artists-In-Residence.

The project gave people who identify as LGBTQ+ the opportunity to be seen and heard in a professional art gallery. The panel discussion and workshop explored how the LGBTQ+ community comes to understand personal identity, from sexuality to gender identity, and beyond. Photograher Dee Moore participated as the Artist-In-Residence and invited individuals from the LGBTQ+ community to visit the Bush Barn Annex and be photographed in ways they wanted to be portrayed. Funds from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation helped us leverage a $7,000 grant from the Oregon Arts Commission Arts Build Communities for the project.

Going forward, SAA will continue to support equity and inclusion as fundamental values. We all become richer as we embrace our neighbors and broaden our horizons of experience. Thank you for your part in this.

Sandra Burnett – Executive Director
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Salem Art Fair & Festival is SAA’s largest annual fundraiser, showcasing artists from across the nation and attracting approximately 36,000 visitors per year. The 2018 Art Fair featured 215 visual artist booths, 22 musical acts on two stages and it helped support over 50 local cultural and arts organizations. The event raised $136,657 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 and is one of the most anticipated events of the year. In 2018, due to the generosity of artists, sponsors, local businesses and art patrons Clay Ball: Silver Screen netted 526,497.

SAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“The Salem Art Association has become like a safe haven for me. After graduating from WOU, I knew I wanted to use my degree and my passion to reach out to the community. Then SAA opened their doors to me with welcoming arms. Three years ago I would not have believed that this is where I would be now, part of an amazing organization. Art holds a special place in my heart, so being able to create art, talk about art and work alongside other community members is a dream I didn’t think I’d be able to fulfill. I hope that I can also impact the young artists in the community alongside the SAA members, and inspire them so that they too believe that anything is possible.”

- Evelyn Picacho Sanchez, SAA Board of Directors

FINANCIALS

2018 brought many changes. Both Bush House Museum and Friends of Bush House (now Mission Street Parks Conservancy) became their own non-profits, considerably changing the presentation of SAA financials. We are pleased to report that SAA received positive net revenues - aside of the withdrawal of the FOBG funds. As a result of maintaining positive net revenues since 2011, SAA has fulfilled the requirements in its line of credit agreement and is now completely cleared of the debt incurred over multiple years prior to 2010. SAA also continues to build new and impactful programming and, in particular, has prioritized the intentional inclusion of previously underrepresented communities. These achievements are made possible by the generous and thoughtful support of our members, donors, grantors, sponsors, and through the efforts of our dedicated staff.

In 2018, SAA’s Community Arts Education (CAE) program served Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. CAE’s Thriving Schools program served more than 5,000 children, teachers, artists and community members through:

- Artists in the Schools, workshops and professional development experiences, including SAA’s Firefly Art Program and serving six McMinnville K-5 schools
- Artist Grants for individual classrooms and Art Modules for the Artists in the Schools Program were developed
- High School Art Mentorship Program provided a year-long experience for 10 students
- $22,000 for one-on-one mentorships with professional artists, twice monthly meetings and a final exhibition of students’ work
- Middle School Writing Program for area middle schools with a final community presentation

SAA’s Summer Art Tent included six sessions outside of the Annex by the park

CAE’s Thriving Annex Program supported artists by providing a place to showcase contemporary work, and a place to engage with artists/community. In 2018, the Annex hosted:

- 18 artists in the studio through the Artist-in-Residence Program
- 25 workshops
- 22 events including receptions, open studio, panel discussions, brown bag lunches and more
- CAE also supported weekly life drawing sessions and the SAA’s Cultural Corridor
- 10 exhibitions in the Annex including

Combat Grass, Matthew Boulay

Combat Grass honored the sacrifices of the more than 160 female soldiers who have died from war since 2002. The exhibition began with combat boots and shoes (representing the fallen soldiers and the lives they left behind outside of their military duties) strewn over unwatered grass seed. During the exhibition, visitors were invited to spread more seed, water the grass, eventually burying the boots and shoes.

Braid and Brawn: The Power of Girls, Diane Beals

Braid and Brawn: The Power of Girls was a photo documentary of forty girls around the state of Oregon ages 6-18, showcasing their strengths and what empowers them. Each girl completed the quote attached to their photograph, “I am empowered by…”

FRACtALS OF IDEntITY

LGBTQ+ focused, this exhibition was curated by Kai River Blevins and Byton J. Kimball. The exhibition, panel discussion and workshop explored how the LGBTQ+ community comes to understand personal identity, from sexuality to gender identity, and beyond. This exhibition included an AIR panel discussion, (Art) Identity: Banners of Bias (in the Art World) and workshop (Out of the Closet and Into the Art World).

SAA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

The Salem Art Association has an endowment currently valued at $823,635 and receives a 5% distribution annually. The endowment is held under the stewardship of the Salem Art Association Endowment Foundation (SAAEF) - a separate board that also works to increase the Endowment through legacy, major gifts and events.

“Through SAAEF, we have an opportunity to help ensure the future of SAA for the next generation. Whether making a gift now or in your estate plan, I strongly encourage you to consider SAAEF in your charitable giving.”

- Gary W. Hardrey, Board of Directors, SAAEF

Immeasurable thanks and appreciation to the members of the 2018 SAAEF Board of Directors for their distinctive service: Jon Lauer (president), Gary Hardrey (Treasurer), Janet Neuburg, Bob Speckman and Laura Zentheiser.