

ARTWORKS

SPRING 2010

Strategic planning retreat – dreaming big

March 12, 2010 – A rainy Friday became an historic day for Artworks as thousands of people came together to plot out the course Artworks will take over the next five years. [Cue swelling orchestral music and lights.]

Ok, so perhaps there weren't thousands of people, and it may be a wee bit early to designate it an historical event, but nonetheless, March 12 was a notable day for Artworks. In the cozy confines of the forum in Washington College's Casey Academic Center, eighteen current and past Board members, Artworks' teachers and dedicated members met to forge a new compass for Artworks. The College's Associate Dean of Students, Carl Crowe, led our group through a day-long strategic planning retreat, helping us identify our greatest strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and to pull that information together to determine areas of focus and to create a new vision and a new set of goals.

Through the course of the day, we were able to celebrate those areas where Artworks excels: its dedicated, hardworking volunteers and Board members, the quality of the art and classes, the welcoming atmosphere, its central location, the Clay Studio and its community focus, just to name a few. Over the last ten years, Artworks has grown into a wonderful place to experience, acquire, and learn how to create art.

While that's certainly a great position to be in, we are continuing to set our sights high, to find ways to strengthen our weaker areas and develop new opportunities to serve our community and support our members. There were several recurring themes: the need to re-examine our mission, the need for an Executive Director, the desire to expand our community collaborations, the limitations of our current space and the ever-important need for a vibrant fundraising program to make it all happen. These areas prompted a lot of discussion, and identified even more basic needs such as a full-time staff, a director and sufficient funding to become a destination center for the arts and partnerships to create artists' camps and residency programs.

That Friday was a day to dream big. When Artworks first opened its doors back in April of 2000, the cover of one of its early brochures read, "Chester River Artworks – Dreaming a dream for regional arts and crafts." It's apparent that in many ways we are currently living the dreams of Artworks' founders, and we have our incredible members, volunteers and supporters to thank for that. The next five years at Artworks promise to be busy ones but also ones filled with excitement, successes, growth and adventure with plenty of opportunities for you to be a part of it all. As we look ahead, we invite you to dream with us and don't be afraid to dream BIG!



Dreaming the Dream . . .

Facilitated by Carl Crowe at Washington College, Joanne Scott, Zane Carter, JoLecia Crowe, Craig Damon, Sue Wright, Sandra Jackson, Betty Spence, Beryl Kemp and Barbara Gronning (shown above L to R) as well as Marilee Schumann, Gia Campana, Sarah Lyle, Margo Long, Cindy Fulton, Muriel Cole, Lolli Sherry, Barbara Vann, and Marjorie Morani came together on March 12 to lend their enthusiasm and support to a strategy retreat. Artworks is entering its second decade of service to Eastern Shore arts and our local arts community. Our thanks to Carl for his generous donation of time and expertise, to all the above who participated in person and to Joy Berghaus and Char Guschl who provided written input.

Education: What's New in 2010

Artworks is planning new course offerings covering a broad range of crafts. One that we are particularly excited about is **Beginner's Blacksmithing**, April 17-18, at the Baltimore Corner Forge in Henderson, MD, not far from Chestertown. There's a resurgence of interest in blacksmithing as an art form and the response has been terrific, bringing students from as far away as Oxford. (Update: the class is full with a waiting list; a second class is planned for June 12 - 13).

Fundamentals of Creative Writing with Lisa Biggar will address an interest currently unmet in our area. Poets, playwrights, fiction writers, creative non-fiction writers and memoir writers of all levels will be welcome. Scheduled for Wednesdays, October 6 – November 10. An informal writer's critique group may also be forming. Watch for more information.

Artworks welcomes new board member



We are pleased to announce the election of Joy Berghaus (left) to Artworks' Board of Directors. An artist, craftsperson and teacher, she brings a wealth of experience to the position. Now a resident of Galena, MD, her previous work experience includes store manager at the New Hampshire League of Arts and Crafts; Executive Secretary and Coordinator of docents, Belle Grove - National Trust for Historic Preservation; Retail Assistant, Handworks Gallery, and Marketing Manager, Eugene Smith Gallery both in Winchester VA; and owner and founder of A Country Legacy, a decorative fabric accessory business. She presently works part-time at Village House in Chestertown.

In addition to serving as Artworks' Volunteer Coordinator, her local outreach includes Sunshine Coordinator, The Georgetown Yacht Club, and member of the Sassafraz River-Shorewood Garden Club.

Studio Tour: Decade Two

Can you believe that Artworks is starting its second decade of the Artists Studio Tour? It's exciting for all of us to see how Studio Tour has become one of our major success stories. This year, it will be held the weekends of October 30-31 and November 6-7.

Since its creation by two of our founding directors, Barbara Finneson and Gerry Edwards, we have grown from fifteen artists to over fifty last year. At the same time, importantly, the number of visitors has grown dramatically. We estimate that last year there were some 500 visitors to the tour. With so many studios on the tour many tourists return annually to see what they'd missed the year before as well as to see new artists. From the perspective of our member artists the tour was deemed a success; most reported making sales and planning to return in 2010.

Cindy Fulton, who has brought exemplary leadership to the tour over the past six years as chair, is stepping down though she will continue to act as liaison with the artists. Replacing her are co-chairs Beryl Kemp and Barbara Gronning. With new leadership comes fresh ideas. This year there will be a collaboration with the Wildlife Festival (October 15-16) and the Schooner Sultana Downrigging (October 30-31). By promoting the three events together, we can better market Chestertown as a "go-to destination" for people in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Stay tuned for details -- our new Studio Tour Decade is well on its way to success...again...

A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SELL YOUR WORK: PARTICIPATE IN CHESTERTOWN'S NEW ARTISANS MARKET

Artworks and the Chestertown Arts League are collaborating to offer a new benefit to our members by providing sales booth space at the new Chestertown Artisans Market 2010. This expansion of the current Farmers Market is intended to build a stronger local economy, support small businesses, benefit our area artisans, and celebrate our community--much the same goals held by Artworks and CAL.

The Artisans Market opens in April and runs through Christmas on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fountain Park. If you want your own weekly booth or to share one with another artist, apply directly to artsmanager.chestertown@verizon.net. But if you want to take advantage of this opportunity to use the Artworks/CAL booth from time to time (by yourself or with another artist) you may email Barbara Vann at bvann11@verizon.net or call Artworks at 410-778-6300. The 12'x12' booth space can accommodate a table setup or tent. The daily fee is \$5.00 collected on market day. Each artist must have a Maryland State Sales and Use Certificate—we have information on filing for the free certificate online.

The Farmers Market is already popular and brings crowds to the park each week. The expansion of the Artisans Market should add to the festive atmosphere. If you have work to sell, take advantage of a new avenue of visibility while having fun.

CLAY STUDIO CLASS PREVIEW. CHECK YOUR MAIL AND OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS. CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE.

Whimsical Clay Birdhouses: Save April 17 and 18, 9 a.m. to noon for a workshop with Joan Reed of Georgetown Pottery. You will learn the secrets of her whimsical clay designs and make delightful birdhouses for your feathered friends or for gifts.

Low Fired Pottery using special clay and glazing techniques will be offered by Marilee Schumann for four weeks starting Tuesday, April 13, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

An eight-week **throwing class for continuing students** will start Wednesday, April 14, from 9:30 to noon. There's always lots of new things to learn and techniques to perfect with the aid of teacher/potter/sculptor artist Marilee Schumann.

Jen Wagner, well-known creative mosaic artist from Easton, MD, will help you **create a beautiful stained glass mosaic window** using vintage windows. Learn design, use of tools, breaking techniques, adhering and grouting and take away a stained glass mosaic window to be used indoors or out in the garden. Saturdays June 12, 19, 9:30-2:30 and June 26 9:30-11.

Mould making for slip casting. No experience necessary to learn from emerging artist Sarah House, a resident artist at Baltimore Clayworks. Learn the technique Sarah uses in her clay sculpture and installations. Check her out online at www.baltimoreclayworks.org - click artist in residence then click Sarah House. June 5-6 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Slip Into Something More Comfortable: Surface Decoration Using Colored Slips with Kay Jones of Cambridge, MD. Explore colored slips to create vibrant and exciting surfaces on functional tableware. Using hand-building methods create small plates, platters, cups, and bowls. Saturday and Sunday, May 1 & 2, 10am– 4pm, then two weeks later, Sunday May 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for glazing.

Hand building in Clay with Gia Campana: Fridays (eight weeks) starting April 23, 9:30-noon. Explore the wide world



Gia Campana with beginners' wheel class, February 2010.

of functional and decorative possibilities with hand building using a variety of techniques, decorations and glazes. Let your creativity take wings.

Fundamentals of Dyeing with Anne Alessi: May 22-23, 10-5. Bring your own PFD cotton, linen, and rayon fabrics or skeined yarns and learn to add creative color/ texture to make an original statement. Great for quilters. alessistudio@tds.net.

Artworks Clay Classes are supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

IT'S ALL ABOUT CHILDREN...

Under the capable direction of Board member Marj Morani, Artworks is sponsoring several exciting children's art programs this year. Emily Kalwaitis currently teaches a twelve-week pre-school program at Shared Opportunities Service (SOS), a Kent county nonprofit dedicating to helping family members become healthy, stable, self-sufficient participants in their community.

Meanwhile, Emmy Savage and Evie Baskin are teaching an after-school enrichment program at Garnett Elementary School. Initiated by Emmy and funded by Artworks with a grant from the Kent County Arts Council, the program uses art to stimulate right brain learning in certain students – those who show a strong interest in art and the potential to succeed – selected by the teachers and principal at Garnett. The youngsters have been invited to exhibit their work in our May Members' Gallery Show. Please stop by to meet these budding artists and offer your support.

Come summer, for a second year, a group of SOS youngsters ages 6-12 will be brought to our Clay Studio at Still Pond Station for an eight-week art and science camp. Once a week they will come with their SOS science teacher to enjoy an integrated program of clay projects with Gia Campana and environmental studies with their teacher.

Marj and her committee have many more plans for children's programs, needing only funds to make them come alive -- \$7,000 is required to implement their full plan. "More classroom space is needed," says Marj. "We are working on that. We hope to have in place by fall a program for 4-year-old students and another one for students 13-years-plus. At this point," she adds, "two of our teachers are on a volunteer basis and Artworks is supplying the materials. If anyone is interested in serving on the Education Committee your help would be most welcome. We are always looking for fresh ideas and volunteers for our programs – as well as contributions."



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Artworks – for artists and everyone who loves art

Celebrate Artworks’ 10th Anniversary

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Artworks, and we’d love to hear what Artworks has meant to you through the years. We’re putting together a special display where we can share those thoughts and memories along with pictures and other pieces of Artworks’ history. If you’d like be a part of this or if you are interested in helping with our celebratory plans, please contact JoLecia Crowe at elfladyjo@aol.com or by phone at 410-778-6300.

IN THE GALLERY

March: Artworks hosted an exciting art exhibition showcasing picturesque views of Chestertown as part of Historic Mainstreet Chestertown’s project to select art to be featured on colorful banners to enliven downtown.

April: A now-traditional champagne and chocolate reception delighted First Friday attendees at the annual Artworks fiber show. The exhibit offers art and fiber lovers a varied display by local Eastern Shore artists including clothing, tapestries, quilting, needlework, rugs, basketry, and artfully unusual fiber art. Through May 1.

May: First Friday, May 7, opens our annual Members’ Show -- the newest and best art and craft from Artworks’ richly talented members. It features a special children’s art show from our Garnett School project and, weather permitting, a Creation Station out front with fun and easy art activities for kids. Get ready to sample our members’ culinary art at a Chocolate Chip Cookie Bake-Off complete with milk for dunking. Drop-off is Monday, May 3, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment. \$5 hanging fee, a portion of which will go toward the People’s Choice Cash Award. For more detailed information contact Jolecia at elfladyjo@aol.com or 410-778-6300.

June: Solo Exhibition by well-known local artist Terry Wolf. Terry will be showing his latest works in egg tempera and watercolor. Egg tempera was the main medium used from Byzantine times until the Renaissance and is still used by major artists of our time. Opening First Friday, June 5.