Support for the Hardy Gallery has been provided in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funds in support of the Marketing and Community Relations Director position have been provided in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, made possible by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am eager to personally share with you news that 2010 was one of many achievements for the Hardy Gallery, an organization that continues to foster and support our vibrant visual art community here in the cultural Mecca that is Door County.

I take great pride – as should you – with the information contained in the pages of this year’s report. The successes outlined stand as affirmation of your commitment to our mission and are a reality due in no small part to your dedication along with a creative, dynamic and hardworking board of directors, staff and the generosity of our volunteers, docents, committee members, business partners and, at the core of our operations, our local artists.

With the launch of a new Door County Arts Map in May of 2010, a publication dedicated to the promotion of our visual art community, we are bringing a fresh addition to the Door County cultural landscape – celebrating the galleries, studios, creative spaces, organizations and businesses that abound, enriching our lives. Recognizing the void that was left after the original arts map ceased publication in 2007, this project is, without question, seamlessly aligned with our mission and provides new opportunity for growth.

Another milestone this year was the unveiling of our first-ever self-published book, The Community Mosaic Project: Complete Artworks 2008-2009 in August. The book chronicles the history of our unique and compelling community outreach project that has caught the attention of artists, art educators and arts administrators both locally and nationally. This list includes California, Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina and many here in our great state of Wisconsin. I have personally communicated with many of the inspired individuals and heard their unique stories, trials and tribulations of bringing the project to their communities. “The book is incredible,” one patron noted. Indeed it is as are the artwork and writings contained in it. We thank all of the project participants – your creativity has brought the project and subsequent book to life! We are eagerly anticipating the launch of the fourth year of our “Community Mosaic Project,” which is set to kick-off in April of 2011.

While each year presents new financial opportunities and challenges, careful monitoring and prudent management by our board of directors has and continues to play a vital role in the Hardy Gallery’s successes. Lest we not forget the position of the organization at this time in 2008 and the resulting positive growth we’ve seen over the two-year span. The economic crisis, coupled with significant organizational change, were difficult challenges we faced. This provided cause to carefully examine our operations and revealed the importance and need for effective strategic planning. In January of 2011, the board of directors will convene to conduct a careful internal audit and ensure our organization’s viability into the future with the development of a new plan for the coming 3 years. 2012 will be an important year for us – we will commemorate 50 years of operations in our iconic, graffiti-covered warehouse on Ephraim’s Anderson Dock. It is a very exciting time to be at the helm of this great organization and I enthusiastically look forward to working with the board to begin writing the next chapter of the Hardy’s history. I know that a vibrant future awaits us.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to all who are connected and involved with the Hardy Gallery. To all our donors, you continue to help deepen our lives through art, making possible the exhibits, community outreach programs and events we present. Thank you. Your continued investment in the Hardy is greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth Meissner-Gigstead
Executive Director
The Year at a Glance

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I’m delighted to share with you, our supporters, an overview of the Hardy’s 48th Season!

By all measures it was a banner year for the organization. The expanded and re-energized board worked diligently with our dedicated staff and volunteers to formulate and realize a season packed full of compelling exhibits, events and fundraisers.

- Our docent program is thriving! This spring we launched a new Volunteer Resource Committee to oversee all volunteer operations with a specific emphasis on our docent program. Efforts were concentrated on streamlining our existing docent operations with the creation of a new 25-page docent training and resource manual, assistance with scheduling, and the planning and implementation of training sessions. We welcomed 7 new docents (a 21.2% increase over 2009) this year alone and have seen steady attendance and participation at trainings and service at the gallery.

- Fiscal responsibility continues to be at the forefront of our minds during these very difficult and challenging economic times. We’ve continued in our efforts to diversify our income sources and have sought out granting agencies to support our programming. Last year we received $13,252 from 6 different granting agencies to support initiatives such as ETC, 2010 Arts Map, Art Camp, etc.

- Progress continues with regard to building a strong, diverse and effective Board of Directors. We now have nine active members, an increase of 22.2% over year end 2009.

- On September 3, the Hardy debuted Dimension in Door County: Form Transcending Function. This exhibit highlighted the work of 18 Door and Kewaunee county sculptors and craftsmen, focusing on different technical aspects of the creation of the work and the artists’ creative processes. This exhibit was a welcome selection of original work exploring form and was the first solely three-dimensional exhibition in recent Hardy Gallery history.

- In an all-school assembly held on February 24, 2010 at the Door Community Auditorium, Gibraltar High School students presented artwork created in the ETC (Exposure to Creativity) 09-10 program to the Door County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity as part of FOG’s “Service Learning” theme for the year. Executive Director Rick Nelson stated, “We were very satisfied with the artwork that our partners received through our collaboration. Many people had positive things to say both about the quality of the artwork and the broader concept of artists supporting the low income people that we serve.”

- With the most fortunate addition of Melissa Ripp to our staff, a heralded new Door County Arts Map was launched and proved an invaluable aid in promoting Door County’s visual arts and artists. This was launched in October 2009 and fits seamlessly into the express mission of the Hardy Gallery — to promote and foster Door County’s visual arts and artists. The map includes representation of eighty galleries and studios from both Door & Kewaunee Counties, seven community sponsors, one silent sponsor, one underwriting sponsor (Wisconsin Public Radio) and was funded in-part by a grant from the Peninsula Arts Association and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. 40,000 maps were printed and literally flew off shelves. The Hardy has been complemented by gallery owners, artists, and art appreciators alike for this easy-to-use, functional and inviting map.

- In April 2010, we signed off on our first-ever self published book, The Community Mosaic Project: Complete Artworks, 2008-2009. The book, which includes a forward by Mosaic Project participant and celebrated Door County artist Charles L. Peterson, details the history and process of the Community Mosaic Project, one of the Hardy’s most recognizable outreach projects. 1,500 books were delivered to the gallery in August 2010, just in time for a book-signing celebration. As a fundraiser for the Hardy in 2010, 1,500 books were ordered, and sales have been steady since their arrival. A short article was written by Sara Baker in AmericanStyle Magazine (a national magazine highlighting the best in the United States art and craft scene). This bit of national press is a huge boost to our small non-profit organization!

- This summer, the Hardy and the Peninsula Pulse newspaper collaborated on an arts feature called “An Artist, An Influence.” The feature lets Door County artists speak to who has influenced their work as an artist and a photo or two usually accompanies the article. 20 artists participated in the “An Artist, An Influence” feature over the course of the 2010 summer season, which means added exposure for their art and their respective galleries.

- The Hardy was the recipient of a Google Grant through Google.com, the online search engine. To this date, Google has given grants out to only 4,000 non-profit organizations in the United States for free advertising through Google.com. The amount awarded to an organization varies (because the grant monies are based on pay-per-click online advertising), but usually work out to about $3,600/year.

In closing, I especially want to praise our unparalleled Executive Director, Elizabeth Meissner-Gigstead, for her creative energy, professional talent and unflappable good humor. We are fortunate indeed to have the perfect combination of staff, board members, volunteers and donors (yes, you, readers!) all committed to continuing the Hardy’s mission to enrich the vibrancy of the Door County community by supporting and promoting our local visual art community.

Thank you for your continued support!

[Signature]
Margaret S. Lott
Past Interim President
COMMUNITY MOSAIC PROJECT

The 3rd annual Community Mosaic Project was unveiled on July 23 to an eager audience! 325 6-inch by 6-inch canvases were created by artists and community members of all ages and abilities. The canvases were then constructed into a colorful mosaic (pictured, above), which hung concurrently with the 2010 Collection Invitational exhibit. Each year, throughout the duration of the exhibit, the general public has the opportunity to purchase the artworks by picking a number at random for $25 each. The number corresponding to the numbered artworks are packaged and mailed directly to patrons. Thank you everyone who supported this outreach project and fundraiser - it generated more than $7,500! Many thanks to the Artists Guild, LLC in Sturgeon Bay for sponsoring the project this year. Be sure to watch your e-mail inboxes and local papers - the project will make a return in 2011 with information to be disseminated early this coming spring.

ART CAMP

The Hardy’s annual Art Camp program took place from July 13 - 29, 2010 with 13 participants ranging in age from 6 to 14 years (the broadest spectrum to date). This year’s projects were designed to balance process with thought and creativity. A component of movement was added to spark imagination, spontaneity and self-confidence and wherever possible program staff attempted to correlate subject matter with the academic focus of the Summer Migrant Program, therefore enhancing both curriculums.

Projects included dimensional masks made of mat board, painted and embellished to depict an animal of the student’s choosing. To introduce color mixing student’s made color wheels on paper plates (the animal environment was painted on the second plate, and the two were joined and filled with sound-making matter (beans, rice, bottle caps)). Wherever possible simple, inexpensive materials as well as found and recycled items were used.

Students also created simple monotypes made with styrofoam plates. By layering primary paint colors, secondary colors were created to illustrate color mixing principles. The students were prompted to use as image sources symbols that related to places they live part of the year along with ones from which they live. Standard painting on the second plate, and the two were joined and filled with sound-making matter (beans, rice, bottle caps). Wherever possible simple, inexpensive materials as well as found and recycled items were used.

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Anually, Hardy friends reaffirm their recognition of the vital role the Hardy plays in the Door County community and its rich visual arts landscape with financial gifts. While these gifts can be directed towards specific programs meaningful to each donor, gifts are also given to the organization to use where funds are most needed. Whatever the purpose, financial gifts to the Hardy Gallery are deeply appreciated and are used to continue our mission of enriching the vibrancy of our community by supporting and fostering Door County's visual arts and artists. We applaud & thank these generous donors who have made contributions in the 2009–2010 fiscal year.

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Dorie Zimmerman

Although we do our best to ensure this list is accurate, accidents do happen. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact us at (920) 854–2210 so that we can immediately correct our records. Thank you!

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