Annual Report for 2012

We are pleased to report that 2012 was a very good year for Lake City Arts. Our operating revenues were back to normal levels, and our programming was excellent, varied and well received. And perhaps most importantly, we took a major step to assure the physical integrity of the Moseley Arts Center by replacing the roof and making much-needed repairs to associated architectural features. Some challenges remain, but we expect 2013 to be another outstanding year in terms of artistic and entertainment offerings and financial stability.

Facilities – By far the most significant accomplishment of 2012 was the rescue of the Arts Center building from the threat posed by its badly-deteriorated roof. After twice being turned down for a State Historical Fund grant to replace it, we became very concerned that the nearly 30-year-old roof had reached the point where it made the building vulnerable to serious damage if we were to have another severe winter. At that dark hour in late summer, Jack Moseley stepped forward with a donation that equaled what the Fund would have provided, and on top of that he offered a challenge grant for the 25% matching share that Lake City Arts would have had to raise to qualify for the Fund’s grant. The board immediately authorized a fundraising campaign in response to Jack’s challenge. That campaign brought forth a heartening response from many members and friends, whose generosity enabled us to meet and then exceed Jack’s challenge. Long story short, the weather cooperated, and work on the new roof was completed in December. As is often the case with old buildings, some surprises were encountered, and the $85,000 project went over budget and ended up costing about $120,000. The good news is that the Arts Center now has a brand new roof built to the latest structural and technical standards and repaired masonry parapets and metal cornices that, together, should assure the structural integrity of the building for decades to come. We still need to raise something less than $10,000 to cover the full cost, but we are thankful beyond words for the support provided by Jack and the many other individuals and organizations whose generosity and dedication made this major milestone in the life of the building a reality. We are especially grateful to our contractors, Native Sun Construction of Lake City and Jim Thomas Construction of Crested Butte, for the quality of their work.

Programming -- The year got off to an early start with the third March appearance of Opera Colorado’s young artists spring tour presenting a dazzling production of Carmen to an enthusiastic audience of local students and adults. Our beloved Cabin Fever Players were back on stage with Southern Hospitality, another in their great series of Faro, Texas, domestic sagas. We also watched with pride as our own Don Farmer joined the ranks of Sam Shepard and Agatha Christie in seeing his first play, the retirement-home mystery An Ace in the Hole, go into production for our audiences.

We had a full schedule of other offerings that included bluegrass, Dixieland, military band, honky-tonk, and cowboy/western musical performers. The always popular “East Meets West” shows by the Magdalene belly dancers and Lakettes cloggers filled the house almost every performance. In addition, our quality chamber music series – chaired by Gwen Powell and Helen Dewey and supported by an outstanding group of underwriters led by Mort and Ceil Weir – successfully added a fourth concert to the schedule.

Events – We welcomed summer with a new tradition, the first annual Blossom Festival, timed to coincide with the blooming of our wonderful flowering crab trees on the patio. Although the trees weren’t on the same schedule, it was a well-attended evening of appetizers, refreshments, door prizes and conversation. Other special summer events included a ceremony naming of the local artists’ show in memory of our dear friend Natalie Reeve. The exhibit schedule continued with the Bob Stigall photography show and the combined Sarah Boettcher and Patrick Kelley painting/
photography show. The Fourth of July bake sale in Town Park brought in record receipts, thanks to the great array of delicious goodies donated by the community’s artists of the oven. We also presented the 37th annual juried Arts & Crafts Festival in July and its smaller sibling, the September Colorfest Arts & Crafts Fair, both of which were very well attended by shoppers and appreciated by the vendors. In August the board hosted the annual membership appreciation reception, where auxiliary board member/bake sale chair and all-round dynamo for the arts, Betty Touchon, received richly-deserved recognition as our Volunteer of the Year.

Membership – Membership for the year held steady but somewhat below the 5-year average. We continued to promote our Sponsoring Business Member membership category that, in return for a premium membership fee, provided a special-recognition package for each participant; and we were pleased to count 12 local establishments in this category. The board was especially grateful for the more than 6,500 hours (not a typo: 6,500 hours!) of volunteer service in every aspect of Lake City Arts’ operations, and we were constantly aware that these efforts were at the heart of all the organization was able to accomplish in 2012.

Financial – Bouncing back from a lean 2011, our solid lineup of entertainment, as well as fully-leased rental spaces on the second floor, brought in much-improved operating revenues, and we ended the year solidly in the black. Even so, the line of credit that was established at Miners & Merchants Bank several years ago provided a welcome measure of comfort that we would not become cash-starved during periods of reduced revenues.

Development – In addition to the magnificent roof project donation from Jack Moseley and those generous members and friends who responded to his challenge grant, funds for a range of purposes were received through grants from the Pioneer Jubilee Women’s Club ($1,500), the Hinsdale County Lodging Tax Board ($1,500), the Lake Fork Community Foundation ($1,000), the Texas Instruments Foundation ($970), the Shell Oil Foundation ($1,400), the Helme Shaw Foundation ($1,000) and donations from many individuals who gave directly and through the annual campaigns of the Lake Fork Community Foundation and the online Colorado Gives Day. Late in the year we were stunned to receive word that Natalie Reeve had made a sizeable and unexpected bequest to Lake City Arts in her will. The board will be considering ways to apply this bequest in ways that best perpetuate the lovely memory of Natalie’s generous spirit and all that she meant to us and did for us over so many years. Again in 2012, every board member was a contributor to the Development Fund.

Governance -- The board continued its work to maintain governance practices that meet the expectations of our stakeholders in this era of heightened scrutiny of nonprofits’ transparency and accountability. Our website’s “Governance” section provided full-time public access to the basic documents that describe our governance policies and procedures. Included in this section were all of our IRS Form 990 and Form 990-T filings.

Board & Staff Activities – The board held its annual evaluation and planning workshop in November and examined the previous year while identifying immediate and long-term goals for the organization. This year we welcomed Cathy Smith and Dan Wampler as new members. Dan continued his outstanding service as our Facility Manager, and Administrative Assistant Belinda Gianola once again proved invaluable to the smooth functioning of countless aspects of our operations.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, please contact any board member. We look forward to seeing you at the Moseley Arts Center this summer and extend our thanks for your steadfast support and encouragement.

Lake City Arts Board of Directors

Peggy Bales, Faye Bielser, Kerry Coy, Paula Davis, Bonnie Fleming, Jodie Krystyniak, Teresa Pippin, Jennifer Quinn, Konrad Rock, Cathy Smith, John Smith, Josha Smith, Carolyn Virden and Dan Wampler