



desoto arts council

artbeat →

Aug 2016

ART MATTERS

By: Edith Herring, DAC President

DAC ANNUAL MEETING

The DeSoto Arts Council held its Sixth Annual Meeting on July 19, 2016 in the DAC Gallery in Grand Cane, LA. While members conducted the official business of the organization, including approvals for 2015 Minutes and Financial Report and the election of DAC Board Members, visitors present were able to observe how the organization functions and the projects that DAC sponsors. Board Members elected were: **Linda Brown, Margaret Dickerson, Jerline Jackson, Carol Paga** (returning) and **Mark Poole** and **Wayne Roberts** (new). DAC Board Members not returning were recognized and thanked for their service: **Rowena Anderson, Bobbie Cunningham, Melanie Glenn, Joe Hartley** and **Edith Herring**.

Business also included recognition of DAC Gallery Volunteers: **Rowena Anderson, Linda Brown, Linda Callia, Bobbie Cunningham, Lenora DeLude, Margaret Dickerson, Melanie Glenn, Jody Gore, Barbie Larson, Tamara McKinley, Azzie Mitchell, Emma Mouser, Carol Paga, Mark Poole, Wayne & Bobbie Roberts**.

Following the short business session, members and visitors were treated to a very interesting and informative program by **Neil Johnson**, professional photographer from Shreveport, LA. Johnson shared the development of photography as an art form and traced his works from the old film methods to the modern digital software available today. **Johnson** shared his passion for translating the world around us into a photograph. He also writes a column for the Shreveport Times, "Eye on Art." His display of his works was beautiful and inspirational. After his presentation, everyone enjoyed refreshments and fellowship. As he reminded us in a recent Shreveport Times column, "Remember to Always Keep Your Eyeballs on ART!"

WATERCOLOR CLASSES



DAC Gallery artist, **Vicky Williamson** completed a 3-day Water Color Class on July 14, 15 & 16. from 10:30 am – 2 pm for students **Debbie Carr** and **Paula Bottoms**. The comprehensive course covered the beginning techniques of watercolor art. **Vicky Williamson** has been a watercolorist for over 35 years, is a Signature Member of the Watercolor Art Society of Houston. Her paintings have been accepted into the International

Watercolor Show and she has won various awards for her paintings. She has plans to offer more one-day courses next summer.

DAC GALLERY VOLUNTEERS



DAC Gallery Volunteers were honored at their Annual Appreciation event on Thursday, June 14 at 6 pm in the DAC Gallery in Grand Cane, LA. **Bobbie Cunningham**, Volunteer Coordinator joined the group for a "make & take" project, led by DAC Gallery Artist **Vicky Williamson**. DAC Gallery Volunteers attending were: **Rowena Anderson, Bobbie Cunningham, Jody Gore, Emma Mouser, & Mark Poole**. Volunteers unable to attend were: **Linda Brown, Lenora DeLude, Margaret Dickerson, Melanie Glenn, Barbie Larson, Tamara McKinley, Azzie Mitchell, Bobbie & Wayne Roberts, Becky Lawson, Gloria Peters, Jerline Jackson & Edith Herring** coordinated and hosted the event.

'Art is the Answer....What was the Question'

Exploring the positive influence of art on child development.

Sarah Glenn Duncan, B.A. M.S. LPC

As another summer draws to a close and the school year revs up again, there is dread but also a little relief!, at the return of routines and schedules. Rightly or wrongly, summers represent carefree, lazy days full of barefeet, swimming, and popsicles; nights of hammocks, fireworks, and lightening bugs. But the summers seem shorter because they are shorter, and the school year seems more daunting because--for many-it is!

An increasing body of research indicates that the early adultification (sadly, yes, that IS a word!) of children is having more and more serious effects on youths, especially those predisposed to idiosyncrasies or sensitive to stress and overstimulation. The wisdom from both the clinical field and veteran parents advises not something more to do, or another activity in which to engage, or new charts and systems to employ, but rather to do less. Not drop out of society and take the kids off the grid, but simply simplify. Playdates, team sports, and extracurricular activities are not "bad," rather the downtime they usurp is actually quite important. Game rooms and toy boxes overflow with educational toys and the latest devices; but boredom, it turns out, is the gift children need.

Self-directed learning and creativity are not activities that need to be scheduled and taught; they are innate abilities that thrive when there is "nothing to do." So the next time the chorus of, "I'm BORED!" echoes around, be ready with the overjoyed response, "THAT'S GREAT!"...and follow it up with, "MAKE ART!"

CHANGES ARE A'COMIN

The DAC Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting on August 4, 2016, as an evaluation and transitional work session. DAC Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 year are:**Linda Brown, Margaret Dickerson, Jerline Jackson, Becky Lawson, Rocio Moss, Julie Morris, Carol Paga, Gloria Peters, Mark Poole & Wayne Roberts.** With their first organizational meeting in September, the DAC Board will elect a new slate of officers and turn their attention and energies toward the changes that they will be making in how the DAC functions and what projects they will be offering. As with any successful organization, evaluations reveal what is working, what needs to be discarded, what needs to be re-worked and what new things can be adopted. The work session resulted in the following decisions:

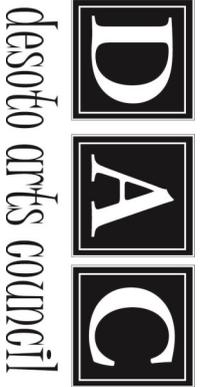
In the coming months, DAC will be working on a revamp of the very important outreach to young artists in DeSoto Parish with a new "ARTISTS OF TOMORROW" focus. It is hoped that all young artists (ages preschool – 18 yrs) will be invited to bring their art to the DAC Gallery for display.

Their individual exhibits will include a picture and short resume of the artist and short comments on their art. Any interested artist may call 318-663-3080 for more information.

The DAC Board will continue to spotlight Feature Artists during special events in the Grand Cane Historic District. Upcoming: October 15 (HGCA Car Show) – **Eugenia & Diana Manning & family!** December 3 (Village of Grand Cane Pioneer Parade) – **Gloria Peters.** Feature Artists Cindy Williams with a great photography show.

The ART ROCKS 2017! Art Fest, sponsored by the DeSoto Parish Tourist Bureau is still a vital opportunity to showcase ART and plans for this begin in early January, 2017.

The DAC Gallery Volunteer Program is the only way the business of running the Gallery can be accomplished. Currently, a dedicated group of volunteers continue to run the Gallery for 3 days a week (Thursday-Saturday, 10 am – 1:30 pm). New volunteers are always welcome and needed to make sure the business days are covered. Please call 318-663-3080 if you are interested in giving back to your community in a inspiring setting and to learn more about the work.



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