



St. Croix ArtBarn would like to take this opportunity to thank again all the individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations that have assisted and financially supported our bi-state umbrella arts organization for the last fourteen years. In 2008, ArtBarn Music helped sponsor another summer of free community concerts through *Music in the Park*, as well as the annual *Bluegrass Festival*. ArtBarn Theatre produced six main stage productions—the popular bluegrass, gospel musical adventure, *Smoke on the Mountain*; a restaging of Sara DeLuca's award-winning Polk County Wisconsin's childhood memoir *Dancing the Cows Home*; the new Sedaris comedy, *The Book of Liz*; an interactive dinner theatre comedy phenomenon created by a regional theatre in Duluth, *Ole & Lena's Wedding*; and Jeff Daniel's classic hunting camp comedy, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*—all featuring local actors and technicians. The Guild also offered the first *ArtBarn ActCamp*, which culminated in an ArtBarn original production, *The Gillygaloo*, about Wisconsin Northwood's mythical creatures from 100 years ago. ArtBarn Visual Artists offered again the annual month long *ArtBarn ArtCamp* for children in June as well as the 14th annual *ArtExplosion! Day*. ArtBarn was featured as a "hidden gem" in the July 2008 issue of *Wisconsin Ideas & People*, the only publication in the state to focus on contemporary Wisconsin culture. In total over 1,000 children and adults participated in ArtBarn programming; in excess of 10,000 individuals from the greater five-state area attended ArtBarn-sponsored events.

In addition, the ArtBarn Board made \$5,000 in electrical improvements to the performance facility. As a result, ArtBarn was able to return nearly \$150,000 to the local economy. ArtBarn continues to collaborate with area arts organizations, schools, churches, nursing homes, and civic groups to cultivate community building and promote the arts.

ArtBarn's 2009 programming is being planned around the theme of *Cre-art-ivity* to bring citizens together from all over the St. Croix Valley with art and inspiration to positively impact lives. A 15th season of intergenerational events and projects involving regional artisans in many disciplines is about to begin. New this year will be *Rise Up Singing* community sing-alongs beginning April 22 with regional song leader Bret Hesla. Hesla, a musician committed to the simple idea of getting ordinary people together to sing, has been performing, leading, collecting and writing music on issues of peace, justice and sustainable living for group singing for over 25 years. Also, don't miss the Osceola MainStreet Chamber's *Movies in the Park* beginning June 6 and *Music in the Park*, July 9 in Mill Pond Park, downtown Osceola, which ArtBarn helps sponsor.

ArtBarn needs your help! Please consider becoming a 2009 ArtBarn member during this financially challenging time. Engraved pavers and seat plates are also available to recognize or remember an individual, family, business, or organization. A form and envelop is enclosed for your convenience. Remember, ArtBarn is a 501(c)3 non-profit—**any tax-deductible gift—large or small—is appreciated**. Your financial gifts are essential to help ArtBarn to continue to receive area foundation support. Included is a complete 2009 Schedule of Events; please post it or visit the ArtBarn website regularly at www.stcroixartbarn.com and attend as many events as possible in the coming year—at ArtBarn in Osceola or The SPACE in New Richmond. Make it a point in 2009 to join ArtBarn in celebrating the unique culture and history he have here in the St. Croix Valley!

With sincere thanks and gratitude.

Ellen Johnson, ArtBarn Program Director

St. Croix ArtBarn Board of Directors: Hazle Cain-Johnson, Lisa Dietrich, Scott Holloway, Linda Iwaszko, Al Johnson, Neil Johnson, Pam Kammerud, Jody Lenz, Cindy Lyon, Sue Mason, Peg Medcraft, and Cathy Oscarson