



The LEELANAU COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER at the

Old Art Building

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LCCC plans campaign to 'restore magic'

A \$175,000 restoration and expansion plan is underway at the Old Art Building – a Leland centerpiece with a magical history.

The board has chosen the theme, “Restore the Magic,” in a nod to the building’s colorful past and to one of its founders, Mrs. Allie Best, whose husband was a widely known magician with the stage name “Maro.”

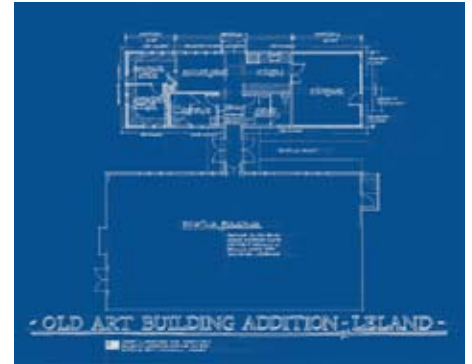
Susan Oliver, board member and chairman of the capital campaign committee, said that the project is ambitious but essential for the building to expand its potential for the community. “It will recreate the vision set out by founding members and at the same time relieve pressures on space for day-to-day use and new programming,” she said.

The art building was constructed

in 1922 as a community center for the Walter T. Best Women’s Club and became a focal point for events including the renowned Chatauqua series that featured traveling productions throughout the midwest.

Since its reincarnation in 1992 as a multipurpose social, cultural, and educational resource, the historic Main Street structure has evolved from seasonal use to full-time operations, so much so that adequate space is now a challenge.

The 613-square-foot expansion plan was introduced to the public at the board’s annual fund-raising benefit in July with a brochure explaining the growing list of activities at the building and the pressure that full-time use has put on limited space. The project was further delineated at the OAB’s



annual Heritage Day celebration with architectural drawings defining the proposed remodeling. (To make its case with humor, the campaign committee festooned the stage with ladders and equipment that normally hide behind the velvet curtains.)

Full use of the stage has been restricted because space problems unfortunately have turned much of the area into an overflow storage facility. Today, virtually every square inch of “backstage” is used to store 200 chairs, folding tables, and The Cube, which consists of a dozen large panels that are assembled for hanging exhibits.

A key campaign goal is to restore the stage to “performance-friendly” condition by adding a large storage area to the existing office annex and reconfiguring the current space to include an expanded kitchen, added office space, and a multi-purpose area for activities such as meetings, mailings, small projects, and catering.

Details of the he fund-raising campaign are still being worked out, but it should begin by year’s end. Construction expected to begin next fall. Groundbreaking will not occur until the \$175,000 target is guaranteed by contributions and long-term pledges, Oliver said.



Backstage clutter makes case for restoration.

Director's Report

by Judy Livingston

One of the pleasures of being program director here is working with all of the wonderful board members and volunteers. A long-time board member, Sada Omoto, has recently resigned. He has helped to define our mission and has contributed many ideas for programs and his knowledge of the arts; he has always been fair minded and inclusive of others. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with Sada for the past nine years.

The children's summer program had 142 enrollees, filling 15 art and theater classes. The Traverse City Children's Theater presented a two-week workshop with a production of the musical "School House Rock Live, Jr.!" directed by Mychelle Hopkins. Hats off to the Leland Public Schools for making its Performing Arts Center available to these young thespians. I also want to thank the Leelanau Artists @ the Old Art Building and the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs for supporting this program. Their grants allow us to hire certified art instructors and keep the tuition low.

In the near future, the children's performance will take place at the Old Art Building when the wings of the stage are not filled with storage items and the stage is truly restored to a venue for the performing arts. The stage will be the emphasis of the capital campaign to restore this unique theater to its original intent. The LCCC board will be adding lectures, performances, presentations and other kinds of performing arts. If you are interested in participating on an advisory board to bring in productions of fine arts and unique events please let me know!

I'd like to thank the Fiber Festival committee for ten successful years in helping us to sponsor this event. Commemorative orange tote bags celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Fiber Festival and were underwritten by generous donations from committee members. There are still some available if you'd like to have one.

A single idea that involved the collaboration of several organizations came to fruition this past summer. Saving Birds Thru Habitat sponsored a children's "Wonders of the Wild" day camp to explore the environment needed to support song birds. The week-long event culminated in planting a wildlife magnet garden at the Old Art Building. A woody area by the bridge was prepared by volunteers and native plant species were donated by the Wildflower Rescue group. A huge rock donated by Four Seasons Nursery marks the garden where the children planted native species of plants to attract song birds. Thanks to all who participated in this environmental project at the Old Art Building!



LCCC Director
Judy Livingston



Office Assistant
Linda Broughton



4th of July celebration



Fiber Festival Tote



Art Leelanau flower volunteers



Gianna Droghera playing harp at Fiber Festival



Cartooning with Tobin Sprout



Nature Drawing with Tom Woodruff



Planting wildflower garden



Dan Lisuk (R) assists Bob Purvis in sculpture installation



Japanese Arts Class



School House Rock Live, Jr.!

Merry Marketplace

A Christmas Arts & Crafts Show featuring local artisans with holiday gifts, fresh & dried wreaths, jewelry, specialty foods, pottery, cards & hand knit items.

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2010

Time: 10 am to 4 pm

Christmas in the Village Sunday, December 5, 2010

Sing carols, meet Santa, and decorate cookies after the Village Christmas Tree lighting at 5 pm.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

- ❖ **NEW! Energetic Lunar Vinyasa Yoga / Kerry Satterwhite**
Sundays, 4:00-5:15 pm \$12 drop in or Yoga Fusion pass
- ❖ **Senior Exercise Program / Jeanette Egeler***
Mondays, Thursdays and (most) Saturdays 9:30-10:30 am. \$2
- ❖ **Dance Collective Ballet, Modern & Stretch / Elisa Brabeneč**
Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-8:00 pm. 271-6317
- ❖ **Open Studio / Join Others to Paint!**
Tuesdays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. By donation.
- ❖ **Partner Dance / Mykl Werth**
Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 pm. October 12 - November 16. \$48
- ❖ **Gentle Yoga for Seniors / Kerry Satterwhite***
Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 am. \$5 seniors/\$10 drop in
- ❖ **Tai Chi / Jane Hale***
Wednesdays 3:00-4:30 pm, \$10 per class
- ❖ **NEW!!! Open Studio @ Night / Join Others to Paint!**
Thursdays 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. By donation.

*Underwritten by Leelanau County Commission on Aging.

COMING IN JANUARY

- ❖ **Silversmithing / Annie McFarlane**
Monday Jan 17, Tuesday Jan 18, 12:30-3:30 pm. \$105
(Classes offered monthly Jan-May, sign up early!)
- ❖ **Figure Drawing - Dan Lisuk**
Mondays 7:00 to 9:00 pm. \$10 per class/Starts Jan 10, 2011



Phil Swy of MTS Seating helps unload new chairs.

Make yourself comfortable

Seating for events at the Old Art Building has gotten cushy. The molded plastic chairs that cradled audiences for so many years have been supplanted by soft, padded replacements thanks to the generosity of local patrons all attuned to theater comfort.

Founders of the Beyond the Bay film series in Suttons Bay – Jim Carpenter and Becky Reynolds and Bob and Trudy Underhill – dissolved their company late last year and donated a closing balance of \$10,000 to the Old Art Building for the purchase of new seating. Coincidentally, the owner of a Temperance, MI chair company who has a home in Northport became aware that the OAB board was in the market for new chairs.

The owner, Philip Swy, of MTS Seating, was contacted by the building and grounds committee to discuss purchase of new chairs and wound up contributing half the cost of the \$20,400 order. He personally supervised the unloading last spring. The new chairs are metal and stackable with maroon and gold threaded upholstery fabric.

They also are transportable in stacks of 12 which, says building director Judy Livingston, makes setup easier and quicker, particularly with the help of special hauling carts that were included in the Swy donation.

Fifty of the old chairs, which also were given to the OAB several years ago, are being kept for day-to-day use.

The Valentine Fund Drive Contributors for 2010

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I want to support the Leelanau Community Cultural Center and the Old Art Building by making a **tax-deductible contribution**:

- \$25 \$100 \$1,000
 \$50 \$500 \$_____

I would like my donation to go to the following:

- Endowment Fund Capital Campaign
 Operations Artist in Residence
 Scholarship Fund

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (daytime) _____

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Make checks to: LCCC or by Visa MasterCard

Card number _____

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Signature _____

Billing address if different from above

Please mail this form to: LCCC, Box 883, Leland, MI 49654

The LCCC is a 501(c)3 Organization

**Denotes cumulative donations over \$500*



We gratefully acknowledge all our donors whose contributions to the LCCC have been received since the publication of our last newsletter in November 2009.

Thanks to all of you for your participation and continued support in the LCCC programs and events!

ENDOWMENT FUND
Edson & June Sheppard

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Amy Chatfield*
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In Honor Of:

Sada Omoto's Birthday
Neal & Katherine Fortin
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*Denotes cumulative donations over \$500



Dan Lisuk

Notes from the President

This fall brought news of an ambitious undertaking for the LCCC - the upgrading and expansion of the Old Art Building. This project will increase the usability of the facility for performers and their audiences, while adding space that will help the LCCC administer the programming that serves an ever-expanding community. You will be reading more about it in this issue. We are

confident that you, the community, will support these improvements to this grand old building as you have so generously in the past.

We are sorry to note the retirement from the board of Sada Omoto. In the nine years he served, Sada was a concrete link to our MSU heritage. More important, he was significant in keeping us focused on our mission while being creatively expansive within that vision. He held the board to a high bar with his parliamentary and academic expertise. We will miss you, Sada.

Yours in the community spirit,
Dan Lisuk

DATEBOOK ITEMS 2011

Exposures Student Exhibition
April 29 & 30

Leelanau Artist Group Annual
Exhibition
June 3-5

Artist in Residence Exhibition
June 24-26

Artists Market
July 9

Art Leelanau Benefit
July 22

Art Leelanau Exhibition
July 23-27

Leland Heritage Celebration
September 16-18

Fiber Festival
October 7 & 8

Murphy's workshops a sellout in artist series

Charles Murphy "packed 'em in" for his summer stint as the Old Art Building's fifth Artist in Residence. Murphy, whose high standing

in the northern Michigan area arts community is undisputed, filled two workshops in June and again in August and brought in a big crowd

for his July lecture. The summer series began in June with a three-day exhibition displaying the range of Murphy's work in oils and watercolor. Unlike most Murphy presentations, this one featured many of his smaller, less typical paintings.

Director Judy Livingston said that the workshops were

well thought out, well-presented, and well-organized. "He was also extremely generous in his willingness to share so many of his techniques," she noted.

The nominal \$25 fee for attendees at the day-long workshops generated income to fund the program again in 2011.

Murphy was named the 2003 Art Educator of the Year by the Traverse Area Arts Council to acknowledge his broad influence on the hundreds of students who studied with him.

He is a member of the International Society of Experimental Artists and illustrated two children's books, *Reach for the Moon*, in 1994, and *Smokey the Raccoon*, in 1999.

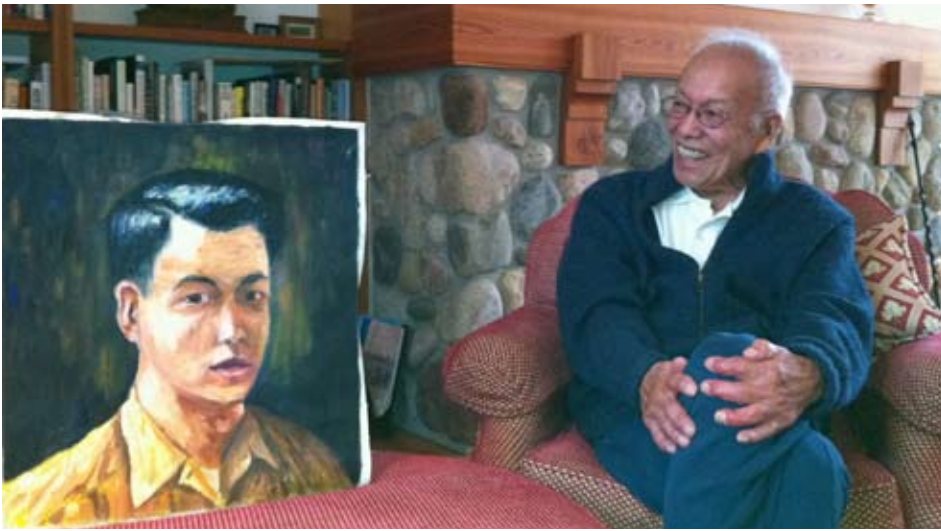


Wine & Vine was fine experience

"Another Wine & Vine Experience" was held in late January offering a tasting of Leelanau Peninsula wines of note. Amanda Danielson, proprietor and sommelier of Trattoria Stella in Traverse City, guided the guests through a tasting of excellent local wines and talked about the basics of food and wine harmony.

Tables were artfully decorated by a group of creative volunteers to make a delightful atmosphere, and fine art was exhibited by several local artists.





Sada Omoto with his early self-portrait.

OAB history is personal to board member

Energy and dedication have been bywords for the many board members guiding the future of the Old Art Building since 1991 and none would deserve that description more than artist and educator Sadayoshi Omoto, known by all as just “Sada.”

Sada was chairman of the Michigan State University art department when he retired in 1997 and moved up to Leland with his wife Kathryn. The move put a period to his 30-year teaching career at MSU but reopened an early chapter of his life that began in 1950, when he was a summer art student in Leland. Michigan State ran a summer art program in the Old Art Building from 1939 through 1989, and Sada was one of the early participants who enjoyed the experience of a summer art colony in Leelanau while continuing his education in art history. He made an immediate connection with the Leland area that would call him back time and again.

No wonder that he was drawn again to the Old Art Building and no wonder he eagerly accepted a position on the Leelanau Community Cultural Center board in 2002, completing a circle that began in his youth. Now, after nine years he has decided to give up his board seat.

Born in Bainbridge Island, WA, Sada began college life at the University of Washington, but his

plans were quickly interrupted by the controversial removal of Japanese Americans to internment camps in California and some Midwest states as the United States entered World War II in 1942. He was permitted to leave in 1943 because of an invitation from Oberlin College in Ohio to continue his education. “I still don’t know how my name got into the hopper there,” he said.

Ironically he was drafted while finishing up at Oberlin, again deferring his education; but he went on to get a graduate degree from MSU and then a PhD in art history from the Ohio State University in Columbus before beginning his career as an MSU faculty member.

Director Judy Livingston credits Sada as the prime mover in establishing the popular Tuesday Open Studio group, officially known as “Leelanau Artists @ the Old Art Building.” It began as a loose collection of people who wanted to paint though most had little or no experience. And the Old Art Building was the logical site.

“We talked to each other but our purpose was not to instruct,” Sada recalled. Today the group has some 25 participants whose talents have grown exponentially, apparently due in no small part to the creative energy of

the weekly sessions. With confidence growing, the group went along with Sada’s idea to put up a year-end exhibit and offer their work for sale.

Today, Sada says, “We see ourselves as dedicated artists but not in competition with others in the professional art community. By having all artistic voices heard, we’ve done our part.”

Thanks to Sada’s persistence, the OAB pulled off one of its most impressive exhibitions in fall, 2007, celebrating the 50-year relationship between Leland and MSU with a display of past and present works of former summer students. The MSU department of art and art history joined in the ambitious presentation which was memorialized in a stunning catalog of works by 42 former summer students.

It’s not only art. Sada was the first to promote a senior exercise program, now funded annually by the county. He promoted a Veterans’ Day program that featured recollections and stories of World War I and World War II participants.

Looking ahead, Sada would like to see the day when the Old Art Building has its own permanent collection, and he believes programming at the OAB should offer greater variety such as musical presentations and children’s activities. He also believes that the OAB should undertake an inventory of all art holdings in the county, either publicly or privately held collections. He did that very thing on a larger scale when the Smithsonian recruited him to help on its Bicentennial Inventory of American Paintings before 1914.



2011 Artist-in-Residence announced

'Dewey does what he does'

Dewey Blocksma, whose sculptures are hard to describe but are instantly recognizable, will be the Old Art Building's sixth annual Ann Hall Artist in Residence for summer, 2011.

He has been called a folk artist and a creator of "outsider" art but, however it is defined, Blocksma's art is always provocative in sum, and amusing in its parts. His materials are household objects, builder's tools, children's toys and pieces of Americana. Sally Viskochil, owner of Omena's Tamarack Craftsmen Gallery, which is home to many of Blocksma's creations, put it succinctly in a 2004 *Traverse Magazine* article: "Dewey does what he does... and the world either gets it or doesn't get it."

Blocksma spent several childhood years in Lahore, Pakistan, which set him on

a nontraditional learning path before his family moved back to the United States and Grand Rapids, MI. Following in his father's footsteps, he became a doctor and traveled through Africa and Europe before returning to the U.S. He began working as an emergency room physician in small towns across lower Michigan.

To relieve the pressures of emergency room trauma, he began crafting toy-like figures from everyday objects until his part-time obsession overtook his



(L-R) Dewey, Father and Son, Calculation.

professional life. He left the medical world in 1979 at age 36 to pursue life as a full-time artist and moved from Grand Rapids to northern Michigan.

Blocksma's work drew considerable attention when he was commissioned by Traverse City to create a public sculpture. The result was the controversial "River Guardian" on the Cass Street bridge, which brought equal amounts of praise and complaining.

The artist's work will be exhibited at the Old Art Building June 24, 25, and 26, with an interactive presentation during the exhibit at a time to be announced later. He will conduct two

workshops in August to design and create an art piece.

The Ann Hall Artist-in-Residence program is funded by the Leelanau Community Cultural Center. It was established by Charles, Michael, and Peter Hall in honor of their sister.

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