

# The Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council, Inc.



## Annual Report 2006



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Photo credit: Ernest Meloche, 2006.

From *Flash Back: the 20th Annual Wearable Art Show*. Featuring *Flashin' Statement*, by artist/model Olivia Round.

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## A letter from the Chair of the Board

It's six-thirty in the morning on February 14th, and yes, once again I have managed to procrastinate completing the task of writing my letter for the annual report. It's Valentines Day and *love* is on my mind. I *love* living in Ketchikan; the picturesque natural environment, the sense of community, and of course the arts. How many times have you heard someone say; "One of the things I love most about Ketchikan is the arts"? There is so much love that goes into making art happen here. A tremendous staff, board, and countless volunteers work together and the results are absolutely magic!

According to author, Nora Roberts, "*Love and magic have a great deal in common; they enrich the soul, delight the heart, and they both take practice.*" That sounds like art to me. I've heard Lu, Lacey, Allyson, and Sara all say that sometimes they feel that their job is a bit like being Santa Claus (someone who works their magic to deliver great gifts). The Arts Council staff *love* their work and it shows. We have benefited from a tremendous staff that seems to have trouble "clocking out." Thank you for the important work you do for Ketchikan.

There have been so many people over the past year who have worked with great love in support of the magic we call art. I am most acutely aware of the energy that our board of directors puts into assuring that the organization serves its mission of fostering community art. Hours of planning, advocacy, and careful decision-making go into service on the board. I was particularly impressed this year by the efforts that our board put into the White Cliff Project. Thank you so much Gerry, Jean, Diane, Laurie B, Elaine, Jasmine, Kerri, and Vern. What a pleasure it's been to work with each of you.

The Arts Council is what Sara likes to call a "scrappy" little organization. I think she means that they operate on a very lean budget. Have you looked at their office furniture lately? The reason the arts are vibrant in Ketchikan is due to you, the membership of the Arts Council who generously give of your time, talent, and money. It's you, behind the scenes; set makers, booth staffers, wearable artists, and donors who insure that the Arts in Ketchikan continue to thrive.

Thank you.



Laurie Thomas, Chairperson



# A letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends and arts supporters,

If, as Alfred North Whitehead says, “Art flourishes where there is a sense of adventure”, we are living in a very adventurous place and time.

Hundreds of people are behind the success of the arts in Ketchikan, and they commit significant time, creative energy, resources, and expertise to make things happen. Here are just a few highlights from the year, which represent some of the tremendous strengths of Ketchikan’s arts community – incredible levels of hands-on participation in the arts, dedicated volunteers, talented and generous professional artists, and seemingly endless opportunities to get involved.

## **Some of Ketchikan’s accomplished artists receive recognition and bring honor to Ketchikan:**

- **Delores Churchill** was chosen as the 2006 Rasmuson Foundation Distinguished Artist in recognition of her lifelong achievements in the arts. She also received a 2006 NEA National Heritage Fellowship, the country’s highest honor in folk and traditional arts.
- **Ray Troll** received the Governor’s Award for Individual Artist, for his statewide impact on the arts. (And Ray is one of the enthusiastic forces behind the new public art efforts mentioned below...)
- **Evon Zerbetz’s** *Little Red Snapperhood* Exhibit visited the Seattle Aquarium. (And her *Raucous! Everything Raven* exhibit, which debuted at the Tongass Historical Museum to record crowds in 2005-2006, is now touring in New Mexico on its way to other museums around the nation.)
- **Hall Anderson** received a Fellowship Award from the Rasmuson Foundation, in recognition of his exceptionally creative work.

**One family’s involvement.** The Koch clan’s participation in Gigglesfeet Dance Festival (co-sponsored with FCP and KTB) captured the individual and collective joys of the creative process. Hilary and Adrienne were a powerful mother/daughter duo in Sherry Henrickson’s *Ancient Mothers*. The performance was fueled by live music provided by Craig Koch and others, under the musical direction of Kim Henrickson. Caity Koch, a gifted dancer and choreographer in her own right, performed in two other intriguing collaborative pieces. These and other Gigglesfeet artists presented the Ketchikan audience with a tremendous gift, and it was delightfully well received – 1600 people gave standing ovations to performances that included dancers of all ages, and a wide range of fun, exhilarating, and provocative art. A true celebration of dance, creative expression, and community.

**Half the town shows up for a party.** The Chamber of Commerce gave the “2006 Outstanding Community Event of the Year Award” to the Arts Council’s 32nd annual Blueberry Arts Festival. This beloved community event brings together art, craft, music, dance, food, politicians, runners, slugs, pie-eating, spelling bees, and so much more. With something for everyone, crowd estimates of 7000+, and hundreds of people involved to make it happen, this is truly a community event.

**The White Cliff project.** What can I say... we laughed, we cried, and although we did not succeed in that particular effort to answer the community’s need for space for arts and senior programming, we have much to celebrate and build upon, for future success. (See inside for additional musings...)



**KPAW - Ketchikan Public Art Works.** In a two week period this summer, Mayor Bob, Ray Troll, Mary Ida Hendrikson, Terry Pyles, Chuck Slagle, Bobbie McCreary, and others dropped by our office to talk about public art. Politicians, artists, business people and community-minded folks, talking about mosaic piling caps, community-based mural projects, the Cows of New York, banners, and more. The coincidence was too striking to ignore. We got a group together to talk about what public art might mean in Ketchikan. And each time we met, more people wanted to be a part of it. We started meeting with the City and other interested groups, and there's a fascinating amount of energy and interest in this effort. The City has already included \$75,000 for public art in their 2007 budget, so things are heating up, and these KPAW folks are going to make some great things happen!

**Building the Arts Council's organizational capacity.** In 2005, the Arts Council was honored to be one of three organizations statewide invited by the Rasmuson Foundation to participate in the pilot phase of their new Organizational Advancement Fund, in the "Sustainable Institutions" category (along with the Anchorage Symphony and Koahnic Broadcasting.) While this \$100,000 grant can't be used for operating expenses, we are using it over several years to strengthen our infrastructure by upgrading our financial systems, our membership database, and revising our fiscal sponsorship program. This may not sound like exciting stuff, but it's the foundation for all of the work that we do!

I am inspired and humbled by the dedication of arts supporters in this community and this state. Ketchikan has a wealth of artists, audiences, and those behind the scenes – people of all ages and backgrounds – who believe that art is for everyone, and that it is a crucial part of our lives.

With all of these fabulous things going on, it's with incredibly mixed emotions that I have announced my resignation as Executive Director. In a nutshell, my husband, Forrest Gibson, was recently offered an extraordinary opportunity that is a convergence of two of his great passions: music and technology. Although we weren't looking for a change, after careful deliberation, we accepted, and he will soon start as Director of Technology for the Experience Music Project in Seattle. My timeline will be longer, allowing me to wrap up my commitments and to work with the board and staff in the transition to a new director.

Although I am excited about the opportunities on the horizon, I will truly miss Ketchikan. During the past nine years, I have had the privilege of working with so many dedicated, fun, and talented individuals at the Arts Council. I look forward to crossing paths with many of you over the next couple of months. In the meantime, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunities that I have found and have been offered here. Thanks to all of you — staff, board, members, artists, donors, teachers, gallery patrons, volunteers, concert-goers, committee chairs, and arts supporters — for all that you do to contribute to the very rich arts community that makes Ketchikan such a special place to live.

With warm regards and sincere thanks,



Sara Lawson  
Executive Director

# Administration

The KAAHC corporation members convene annually to elect the nine-member board of directors. The KAAHC board meets monthly to plan and make policy. A full-time executive director implements the decisions of the board and executes the day-to-day business of the Council, with a full-time program director, a full-time office operations manager, and a part-time administrative assistant. As an umbrella agency, the KAAHC assists funding searches for programs and projects requested by member arts and humanities organizations, and has a fiscal sponsorship program under which several volunteer arts organizations operate. Member arts organizations of the KAAHC may send one representative to the monthly meetings, thus advising the direction of the Council and the arts and humanities in the Ketchikan area. KAAHC programs and services are supported by funding from Ketchikan Public Utilities and the City of Ketchikan, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises; the membership of the KAAHC; corporate, foundation, and individual contributions; tuition, ticket sales and other earned income; and fundraising activities.

## Board of Directors

Chair, Laurie Thomas

Vice Chair, Jean Bartos

Treasurer, Diane Palmer

Secretary, Elaine Patton

Current Members-at-Large: Laurie Booyse, Vern Keller, Gerry Knasiak, Jasmine Stewart, and Kerri Willoughby.

## Staff

Executive Director: Sara Lawson

Program Director: Lacey Gilbo

Operations Manager: Lu Anechiarico

Administrative Assistant (part-time): Allyson Sebcioglu

## KAAHC Committees

KAAHC Committees are open to community participation. KAAHC board members serve on various committees along with those who express interest in volunteering. Committee chairs are appointed by the Chair of the KAAHC Board.

### **Festivals, Torch Nights Performing Arts Series**

The KAAHC Board of Directors

### **Executive and Finance Committee**

Laurie Thomas, Diane Palmer, Elaine Patton, Jean Bartos

### **Fund Development Committee**

Lu Anechiarico (staff), Laurie Booyse (chair), Maria Crowl, Gerry Knasiak, Sara Lawson (staff), and Loulie Molloy.

### **Gallery Committee**

Marilyn Lee (Chair), Evon Zerbetz, Kerri Willoughby, Chris Hanson, Lacey Gilbo (staff), and Kate Vikstrom.

### **Ketchikan Public Art Works Task Force**

Julie Rowe (Chair), Ray Troll, Amos Hopkins, Chuck Slagle, Jim Van Altvorst, Terry Pyles, Mary Ida Henrikson, Dave Rubin, Bobbie McCreary, Sara Lawson (staff), Lacey Gilbo (staff), Erin Reeve, Chris Hanson, Nathan Jackson, and Evon Zerbetz.

### **Wearable Art Committee**

Karen Brand (Chair), Rebecca Valentine, Patti DeAngelis, Sara Lawson (staff), and Lacey Gilbo (staff).

**Other Committees in 2006** working under the Arts Council umbrella include Advisory Committees and the Steering Committee of the White Cliff Center. See Table of Contents for page numbers.



## Our mission

- (a) to encourage creative expression by providing residents of the greater Ketchikan area an opportunity and avenue for creative endeavors;
- (b) to foster education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts and humanities by promoting the development of cultural opportunities, performances, instruction and exhibits; and
- (c) to build community support for the arts & humanities.

(Revised and adopted by the Board in September, 2002.)

## Our vision

Art elevates the human spirit, and must be accessible to everyone. The KAAHC provides the gateway to the visual, performing, and literary arts in southern Southeast Alaska. Art opens the door and invites appreciation and participation by culturally diverse peoples of all ages, interests, and backgrounds. Art provides broad, far-reaching benefits and creates community involvement. (Revised and adopted by the Board in September, 2002).

## Our history

The Arts Council turned 50 in 2003.

**Programs and staffing:** The Ketchikan Arts Council began in 1953, and in 1970 the organization was incorporated as the Ketchikan Arts Council. In 1975, we had our first Blueberry Arts Festival. The name was changed to the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council in 1980. The KAAHC is recognized by the City of Ketchikan as the official agency responsible for the advancement of the arts in the community. For many years the KAAHC was operated from the home of volunteers. By 1980 a part-time executive director was hired and by 1981 the position became full-time. 1986 saw the origination of the first annual Wearable Art Fashion Runway Show. By 1987, growth in programs and services and an increase in KAAHC member group involvement required the addition of a full-time administrative assistant, which was upgraded to a full-time program director position in 1990.

In 1998, the annual Giggleeft Dance Festival was launched, in partnership with First City Players and Ketchikan Theatre Ballet. In recent years, the well-loved Wearable Art Show has expanded to three sell-out performances, and the Arts Council has taken on the publication of *Inside Passages*, Ketchikan's annual literary journal. Royal Caribbean has also underwritten the Blueberry Arts Festival, allowing a dramatic increase in summer programming. This and other expansions of KAAHC programming necessitated adding a halftime office manager which became fulltime in 2001, and was upgraded to operations manager in 2004. The KAAHC is currently staffed by three full-time professionals, with a part-time administrative assistant.

**Facilities:** In 1984, the KAAHC moved its office to the Main Street Theatre. During 1985, the First City Players, management group of the theater, received a capital grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts to renovate the space. With this grant, community fundraising, and the work of dedicated volunteers, 338 Main Street became a black box theater, gallery, meeting, and creative use space.

In 2001, the KAAHC, First City Players and Ketchikan Theatre Ballet joined forces for the creation of a new Ketchikan Community Center for the Arts. A volunteer Steering Committee, along with project staff, has made significant strides in developing this project, with support from the City of Ketchikan, the Alaska State Legislature, the Celebration Foundation, the Fairweather Foundation, and the partner organizations. (See White Cliff Steering Committee sections in the Table of Contents.)

While pursuing the long-range goal of an Arts Center, the Arts Council and First City Players moved to a new location on the Ketchikan Creek in 2002. With funding from the Rasmuson Foundation and the assistance of dozens of volunteers, the new space was renovated to accommodate offices for both organizations and the new Mainstay Gallery.

# The White Cliff School Redevelopment project

## An update on the Arts Center and its partnership with seniors

### A brief history and project overview

The Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council, in partnership with First City Players and Ketchikan Theatre Ballet, have been working together for several years toward their shared goal of an Arts Center. In 2005, we identified White Cliff School as our preferred site. Recognizing the many benefits that would come from sharing a facility with senior organizations and programs, we entered into an agreement with Ketchikan Senior Citizens Services to collaborate on this exciting project.

Throughout 2005-2006, we developed a vision and conceptual plan for this project. We proposed to reclaim White Cliff School to create a vibrant multigenerational community center that would bring together senior activities, the arts, and other community programming. The plan included space for senior day activities and meal programs, a 200-seat theatre, dance studios, visual arts studios and classrooms, gallery space, support spaces, and offices for the partner arts organizations. We proposed that funding for this \$14.8 million project will come from a variety of sources including federal, state, city and borough, foundations, corporations, and individuals. Two ballot questions, important to funding this project, were on the October 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot:

- A half-cent sales tax increase, which would fund debt repayment on construction as well as long-term maintenance and a portion of other operating costs.
- Authorization for up to \$12,000,000 in bonds to pay for a portion of the project. These bonds would be repaid by revenue from the dedicated sales tax.

These ballot propositions would have accomplished three things crucial to the success of any capital project (particularly, a project's ability to attract outside funders):

- Site control,
- A plan for sustainability, and
- A significant local contribution.

As you probably know, the vote did not pass: with a 35% voter turnout, the final result was roughly 35% in favor, 65% against, for both of the propositions. Although clearly these were not the results we were working toward, there are a number of messages that we can take from this vote, and there are a number of lessons that we have learned from the experience. We are encouraged that 1155 people did vote 'yes.' That is some indication that this project represents an important community need. We have also been working to understand the objections of those who voted no. We have gotten a lot of feedback from people who support the project in principle, but were strongly concerned about other issues -- two things that came up frequently were the ongoing delays and cost overruns at another somewhat infamous school renovation project in town, as well as the uncertainty caused by the looming vote on consolidation. These ideas and other feedback will strengthen future efforts (see "Letter from the Chair of the White Cliff Steering Committee" for further details.)

Although the project will change shape in the future, these goals will likely remain the focus:

- provide much-needed space for senior programs and services, which will meet the needs of our growing senior population (Did you know that the Department of Labor projects that Ketchikan's senior population will grow from the current 1380 to about 3200 by 2018?)
- expand arts education programs for dance, theatre and visual arts
- support economic development by attracting visitors and new residents, and keeping retirees and employees in our community (Did you know that Ketchikan's largest private employer, the Ketchikan General Hospital, talks about the strength of the arts community every time they are recruiting physicians, nurses, and other hospital personnel to Ketchikan?)
- be a safe supervised haven for youth and family activities
- offer year-round cultural and social activities
- provide ADA access to all Ketchikan residents (ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act)

**Committed funding for project development:** \$969,000, including funding from the City of Ketchikan, the State of Alaska, the Celebration Foundation, the Fairweather Foundation, and individual donations.

## Letter from the Chair of the White Cliff Steering Committee

We did not necessarily see the results we were hoping for with the October ballot initiatives. However, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for as we move forward toward realizing our goal of a community center housing arts and senior activities. During the past year, we have made huge leaps and bounds toward this goal: progress towards a facility, regardless of that facility's location.

- We now have a conceptual plan for how our organizations and programs might “live” together that is enduring. This is a plan that we celebrate as a strong model, regardless of location.
- We have built awareness of the real community needs that this project addresses. These needs haven't gone away, and if anything, they have gotten more pressing with time.
- We have built relationships among organizations and dedicated individuals. These relationships will serve us well as we continue to move forward with the next iteration of this project. Additionally, we have already seen these relationships work to strengthen our organizations' current programming.
- We have stumbled upon a fairly revolutionary model with the multigenerational concept of housing senior and arts programming together - a model that allows individuals and organizations the opportunity to interact and undertake group activities while also pursuing solo ones.
- We have approached this effort at every step of the way with a positive attitude, a direct and forthright manner, and an underlying goal of making the community a better place. Through this positive approach, we have endeavored to be as inclusive of others and their ideas as possible. We have been building community and building support for the project along the way.
- We have learned much about conducting a political campaign. The amazing folks who stepped in to get involved with that effort – Carol Schafer, Penny Pedersen, Gretchen Klein, Marggie Sweetman, Olivia Round, Frances Klein, Mike Branco, Kathy Graham, Susan Doherty, Ramona Odell, Juanita Diamond, and all of the many other folks who've gotten involved -- it's been tremendously affirming for those of us who've been involved a bit longer, to see a new spark of energy and vision and commitment.
- We recognize that our goal is one that will be accomplished with time. Much like the Rec Center not being accomplished the first go-around, we'll rework the project and try again.

We are beginning this new year much like we began 2005 - with a site selection process. This time around though, we are launching from a much broader basis of completed groundwork. A site selection committee is conducting a thorough review of available properties throughout Ketchikan. They are looking to complete their work in early March. While this activity is occurring at the Steering Committee level, each partner organization is taking some time to attend to organizational needs, and reviewing their short- and long-term facility goals and needs.

Thanks so much to all who have contributed - energy, enthusiasm, funding, votes, to name a few - your remarkable dedication, humor and goodwill, help to make this an exceptional community effort!

Sincerely,

Kim Judge, Chair  
Steering Committee

***Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.***

*– Margaret Mead*

The 2006 Steering Committee:

FCP delegates: Kim Judge (Chair), Eric Bjella, Deb Clark (Alternate). Advisory member: Elizabeth Nelson.

KAHHC delegates: Jean Bartos (Secretary), Laurie Thomas, Elaine Patton (Alternate).

KTB delegates: Bob McClory. Advisory member: Marguerite Auger.

At-large members: Alaire Stanton, Jim Van Altvorst, Terry Wanzer, Ed Zastrow.



# Torch Nights Performing Arts Series

Our performing arts series features an international roster of performers. It is the mission of the series to entertain and enlighten with a diverse array of world-class classical, folk, jazz, dance, dramatic and world beat performers. Funding for the series comes from season subscriptions and ticket sales with additional support from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Holland America / Westours, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises, Arts Alaska, WESTAF and the NEA Regional Touring Program, Wells Fargo Bank Alaska, Cape Fox Lodge, and numerous local businesses that support the series through program sponsorships.

*Torch Nights*, KAAHC's official performing arts series, was launched in the fall of 2001 as a subscription series, with renewable reserved seating at Kayhi events for full season subscribers. The series includes Giggiefeet Dance Festival (which is co-sponsored with Ketchikan Theatre Ballet and First City Players) and the Wearable Art Show, as well as performances by touring artists. Family and Friends ticket packages are available and a 10% membership discount is offered for all performances.

This fall, the sixth season of *Torch Nights* was well received by a growing audience: 284 season subscribers (up from 68 in its debut year, and 268 last year), and strong single-ticket sales for each event. The performances and residencies have been electrifying, and the performers have received a very warm and appreciative response from the audience and community.

## **Ketchikan-area audiences enjoyed the following concerts by touring performing artists in 2006:**

- Lucy Kaplansky
- Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir
- Cheryl Wheeler
- Adrienne Young and Little Sadie

## Performing Artists in the Schools and Community

The KAAHC is committed to providing youth with first hand experiences with world-class artists as an extension of the Art Alternative program. Residencies in 2006 include:

- Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir conducted an outreach performance for residents and their families as well as staff of the Pioneers' Home, where the group explained some of the origins of the traditional songs performed and also let audience members experiment with traditional African and Afro-Caribbean instruments.



Ketchikan Mayor Bob Weinstein, Kim Blunt, Rosalind Utterback, and Ernie Meloche join Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir onstage for some roots music and dancing.  
Photo by Hall Anderson, courtesy of the Ketchikan Daily News.



## 2006 festivals & extravaganzas

The Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council has traditionally sponsored three arts festivals annually. These festivals are a celebration of community and the arts, and provide professional opportunities for area artists.

The Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council coordinated the 2006 Festival of the North in

cooperation with Ketchikan-area artists and arts organizations, and local businesses. This annual event showcases Ketchikan area arts organizations, featuring an outstanding company of musicians, visual artists, dancers, and actors presenting a variety of performances designed to entertain the whole family. The midwinter festival takes place the month of February and opened with *Flashback the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Wearable Art Show*. It also included:

- Wearable Art Exhibit at the Mainstay Gallery
- Author Pam Houston at the Library
- Quilting in the Rain XV: Rainy Day Quilters' Annual Quilt Show & Quilt Raffle
- Tongass Historical Museum features BoomTown- Ketchikan in the 1950s
- Sweet Second Saturdays Valentine's special
- KRBD's Fundraising dinner
- UAS Evening of Wine and Chocolate
- Elizabeth Peratrovich Day
- The Monthly Grind
- An Evening of Dance by KTB
- Classes at the Totem Heritage Center, the Bead and Yarn Shoppe and Silver Thimble
- Rasmuson Foundation: Funding for Artists Information Meeting
- ACTOut: First City Players' after-school drama program for kids.

### Blueberry Arts Festival

The 32nd Annual Blueberry Arts Festival took place on the first weekend of August and was underwritten by Royal Caribbean International & Celebrity Cruises. 7,500 Ketchikan-area residents, cruiseship



passengers and independent travelers attended this festival that featured local and visiting artists, community organizations, gourmet food and blueberry delicacies, games, performing arts and visual arts demonstrations. Traditional Blueberry activities included a juried exhibit of work by area visual artists at the Mainstay Gallery, the Fun Run sponsored by the Ketchikan Runners Club, a Slug Race and a slug weigh-in sponsored by Fish and Game, a Trivia Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Library, a Spelling Bee sponsored by Community Connections, a Blueberry Pie Eating Contest sponsored by Bar Harbor, The Great Blueberry Race sponsored by Youth Court, and the Blueberry Battle of the Bands (a huge success in its 5th year), and the Best Blueberry Dish Contest.

2006 logo by Patricia and Chris Rose.

## Gigglefeet Dance Festival

Gigglefeet Dance Festival is a collaboration between First City Players, KAAHC and Ketchikan Theatre Ballet. Now a standard addition to the Blueberry celebration, it was held for two nights at the 800-seat Ketchikan High School Auditorium, with an extravaganza of diversity in movement presented by Ketchikan's dance talent. The two dynamic 2006 performances encompassed an array of styles: jazz, tap, modern, hip hop, Hula, Israeli, and Scottish, featuring dancers from Ketchikan, Prince of Wales and Metlakatla.



## The Winter Arts Faire

This popular eighteen-year-old holiday fine art and craft fair is held on Thanksgiving weekend at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. The 2006 Faire featured a variety of artists and craftspeople selling quality handmade crafts and artwork. Caroling by the students from the Tongass School of Arts and Sciences and visits from Father and Mother Christmas and Santa, with a bag full of crayons and chocolate coins, highlighted the event.

## Flash Back: the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Wearable Art & Runway Fashion Show

The Wearable Art Show continues to grow as Ketchikan's signature arts event with one-of-a-kind once-in-a-lifetime extravagant to allegorical wearable creations, made from traditional to salvaged materials, from hand-woven wool fabric to hardware, plumbing parts, child swimming pool skirts and pure trash. In 2006, we presented three performances (including a performance on Sunday, which is open to all ages, subject to parental discretion). This year's performance featured standing room crowds, great art, great performances, and a wonderful evening out for 1200+ people in the community. It's the signature art event for Ketchikan as well as our biggest fundraising event – over 200 volunteers help make it happen. Improv fashion designers Erin Jakubek, Lindsey Bolling, Erin Trout, and Bri Graves warmed up the crowd during the cocktail hour. The performances opened with *Rain Flashbacks*, a dance piece

choreographed by Sherry Henrickson, and performed by 8 dancers. There were 39 entries worn by 80 models and 88 participating artists.

Part of the mission of the Wearable Art Show is to provide a creative and supportive environment which nurtures artists' development. To further that mission, we offered two forms of wearable art grants. Supply grants assist artists in acquiring the supplies and tools necessary to fulfill their vision. Travel/shipping grants are available to foster a creative exchange among Ketchikan-area artists and artists from other regions by assisting with travel or shipping costs. For the 2006 performance, two grants were awarded.

The teaching of wearable art in the summer fine arts camp has been producing a new generation of young wearable artists that have been a fresh addition to this growing event, and creative exchanges with artists in other communities are increasingly frequent. Our ongoing collaboration with the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council on their show in it's sixth year has contributed to the strength of the wearable arts community in the state.

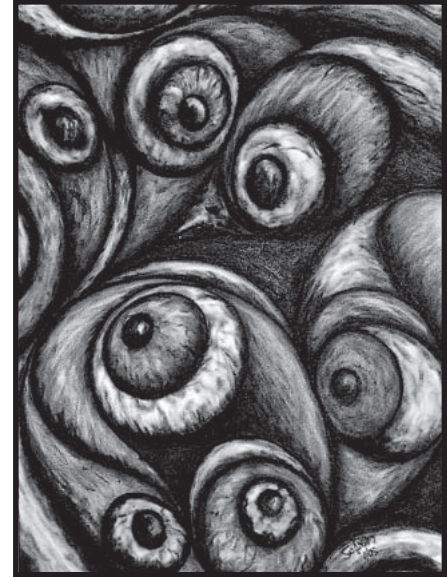


From *Flash Back*: the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Wearable Art Show.  
*Headphonist* created by Halli Kenoyer and Sullivan Barry.  
Model Marlee Wild. Photograph by Ernest Meloche.

# The Mainstay Gallery

The Gallery is a community art gallery committed to community artist development through

- a) hosting exhibits by emerging local artists
- b) hosting exhibits of work outside the commercial mainstream by established local artists
- c) hosting exhibits of visiting artists when the exhibit and/or workshops by the artist can make a valuable contribution to the local art culture
- d) providing open and invitational exhibits that inspire local amateur and professional artists to step forward and participate in a public dialogue through their art
- e) providing open and invitational exhibits that inspire local and amateur artists to expand the range of their media



*19 Circles* from *Something Interesting to Look At*, by Joe Piston, at the Mainstay Gallery.

The Gallery hosted twelve shows in 2006:

January	<i>How the Ink Feels</i> , letterpress broadsides on loan from the Collection of William Stafford
February	<i>Flash Back: the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Wearable Art Gallery Show</i> (curated show)
March	<i>On the Waters of Revillagigedo</i> , photography by local artist Michael Keye Schuler
April	<i>Musings: the Soul of Landscape</i> , acrylic landscapes by local artist James Mix
May	<i>Pedagogued</i> , works by University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan art students and instructors.
June	<i>No Artist is an Island</i> , new works by local artist Beth Antonsen and friends
July	<i>From the Tongass to the Arctic in Oil</i> , paintings by local artist Diane Burton
August	Blueberry Arts Festival Juried Art Show
September	<i>Re-Find: Found and Readymade Objects</i> , open call show
October	<i>Something Interesting to Look At</i> , acrylics by local artist Joe Piston
November	<i>American Masterpieces: Art for Alaskans</i> , 30 years of the Alaska State Council on the Art's Contemporary Art Bank traveling exhibit
December	<i>Art Feeds the Spirit of the Holidays: The Mainstay Gallery Food Drive</i> and selected readings by the contributors of the 2006 edition of <i>Inside Passages</i> , Ketchikan's original literary journal

## Portfolio/Proposal Consultations:

Part of the mission of the Mainstay Gallery is to assist artists in portfolio preparation and professional development. To fulfill this mission, the Gallery Committee offers artists and curators individual consultations with a member of the Committee, and maintains a library of sample proposals.

## Workshops

- School field trip visits and presentations about *How the Ink Feels* and *Re-Find*, two exhibits at the Mainstay Gallery
- Monthly intergenerational art projects with residents at the Pioneers' Home and Boys and Girls Club children led by local artists
- Theatrical and Dance lighting workshops taught by Lauren Miller, lighting professional from Anchorage
- Theatrical lighting workshop, taught by Ashley Byler



## Art education programs

Since its inception, the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council has sought to stimulate understanding and appreciation of the arts by creating an enriching environment for Ketchikan area residents. The KAAHC has provided educational programs including the presentation of performances, exhibitions, festivals, workshops, and interdisciplinary arts education projects. The objectives of the KAAHC arts education programs and services are:

1. To provide access to the performing, visual, and literary arts.
2. To increase awareness of the historical and cultural background out of which different art forms emerge.
3. To integrate art into the existing education curriculum and establish the significance of developing cross-curricula art activities for learning.
4. To expose area residents to emerging art forms, contemporary art as well as traditional art, and the work of area artists.

### Performing Artists in the Schools and Community

The KAAHC is committed to providing our youth with first hand experiences with world class-artists as an extension of the Art Alternative program. Residencies in 2006 included:

- Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir conducted an outreach performance for the residents and their families, as well as staff, of the Pioneers' Home for nearly 50 people.
- Lauren Miller, theatre lighting design professional, taught a 10-day dance lighting workshop in conjunction with the Giggglefeet Dance Festival for 25 people.
- Monthly intergenerational art projects were organized with the Boys and Girls Club Ketchikan with Club youth and seniors at the Pioneers' Home and led by local artists.



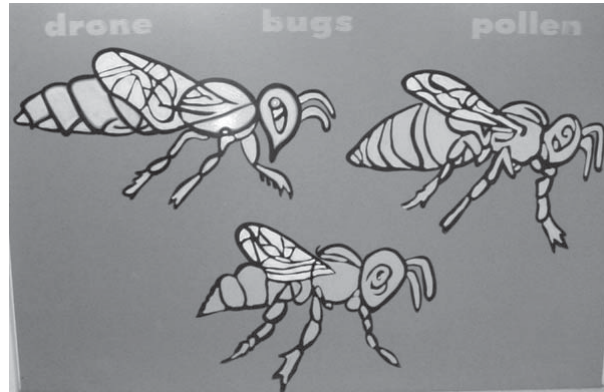
Artist Dave Rubin taught an intergenerational portraiture project to seniors, like Doris Daly pictured here, and Boys and Girls Club youth.

## MiniCamp: Visual Arts Camp

Developed as a program of the ARTSCool Visual and Performing Arts Camp, MiniCamp took place in 2006 as a camp dedicated to the visual arts education for students ages 6-7. This year's camp was taught by elementary school teacher Penny Marksheffel at Holy Name Elementary throughout July. Budding artists experimented with papier-mache mask-making, sculpting, book-making, fabric arts, basic drawing and painting, and more. The camp's enrollment was 10 campers, and culminated with an exhibit of the students' summer work.

## Percent for Art

Under the guidance of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, KAAHC organized and led the Percent for Art Project at the newly built Fawn Mountain Elementary School in Ketchikan. Instituted as a program requiring the expenditure of one percent of the capital construction costs of public buildings for the acquisition and permanent installation of artwork, the States Percent for Art Program relies upon the support of local arts agencies like KAAHC to facilitate the acquisition process. The selection process was very competitive as the Fawn Mountain committee received and reviewed more than two dozen proposals from fifteen different artists from across the state and nation. With a project budget of \$95,300, the project was highly successful. The selection committee chose 5 diverse works including a mural, a metal sculpture, Northwest Coast style carved cedar panels, a quilt, and a collaborative mural with school students. All works are scheduled to be completed and installed by the beginning of the 2007/2008 school year.



One of 9 bench backs at Fawn Mountain Elementary designed by San Diego artist Roberto Salas with school students.

## Ketchikan Public Art Works

Founded in September 2006 as a task force of the Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council, KPAW is a diverse group of local artists, business owners, and other like-minded individuals advocating for public art as a vehicle for enhancing Ketchikan's visitor experience while increasing the quality of life for local



residents, thus contributing to the town's economic viability. By including art in functional elements, which represent Ketchikan and tell our story, KPAW seeks to enhance the visitor experience in Ketchikan making our community a worthy and unique destination. KPAW also believes local residents should benefit from this experience as well, with a healthy swelling of community identity and civic pride, as well as enjoying these spaces during the off-season. KPAW is just getting off the ground, but the group has a lot of energy. It is actively engaged in a dialogue with the City regarding opportunities for art in the current port expansion, as well as with other community groups sharing similar goals. KPAW is quickly developing into a group that can achieve its goals of increasing public art in our community and for our community.

Terry Pyles' piling cap sculptures (featured on Ketchikan's port promenade) as well as other local public art projects, inspired the formation of Ketchikan Public Art Works.



# The Ketchikan Writers Forum

The Writers Forum, a program committee of the Arts Council which was created in 2001 to adopt *Inside Passages*, has begun to look at what other ways it could foster the literary arts in Ketchikan. They will continue with *Inside Passages* and the annual Richard Brautigan Trout Fishing in America Poetry Reading and Contest (co-sponsored by Parnassus Bookstore and Soho Coho Gallery), and are planning additional workshops, readings, and other literary events in the coming year. 2006 featured a reading of selected works at the Mainstay Gallery during the Winter Art Walk.

The mission statement of the Ketchikan Writers Forum is as follows:

- to encourage written expression by providing residents of the greater Ketchikan area an opportunity and an avenue for creative endeavors;
- to foster education, understanding and appreciation for writing and literature by promoting the development of cultural opportunities, instruction and events;
- to build communication among local writers in order to establish a nurturing and productive venue for creative writing;
- to build community support for the literary arts.

## Inside Passages: Ketchikan's Literary Journal

After a year hiatus, Ketchikan's Literary Journal was adopted by the KAAHC and its Ketchikan Writers Forum in 2001. *Inside Passages* is a venue for poetry and prose by regional writers, or poetry and prose of regional interest by national writers. The 2006-2007 *Inside Passages* featured the following contributors: Bonnie Douglas, Steven Alvarez, Peggy Kennedy, Amy Lloyd, Molly Mix, Mary Lynne Dahl, Kelsey Foote, Faith L. Duncan, David Fletcher, James Guenther, Amos Hopkins, John Sullivan, Bill Hupe, Susan Batho, Bianca Nacionales, Don Chenhall, George R. Pasley, Jackie Williams, Evon Zerbetz, Cheryl Stadig, Michael S. Queen, Rudy Saccomanno, MJ Turek, Eddie Snodderly and Dave Kiffer.

*Cover Art was contributed by Mary Ida Henrikson.*



*Inside Passages* is a project of the KAAHC's Ketchikan Writers Forum. This year's editorial board was Dave Kiffer, Sharon Pleus and Keith Smith. Michael Queen generously donated his time and skills for layout. Cover illustration by Mary Ida Henrikson. Copies can be purchased at the Arts Council office: \$7/copy.



# Cooperative projects

## Selected 2006 collaborations:

- Art Tree for the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce's Enchanted Forest Gala Fundraiser
- Multi-generational art project planning and funding with the Revilla Island Prevention Coalition, Boys and Girls Clubs of America Ketchikan, and Ketchikan Big Brothers Big Sisters Clubs of America Ketchikan, with funding from RIPC
- Percent for Art call for art proposal planning with Shoenbar Middle School and Fawn Mountain Elementary School
- "Sweet Second Saturdays" dance series
- Project Ketchikan Community Mural
- Gallery/Museum school field trip collaboration for 10 classrooms

## 2006 technical support:

- First City Players' Jazz and Cabaret workshops and performances
- Annual Robert Burns Night (sponsored by the Old Bar Harbor Caledonia Society)
- Friends of the Library Book Sale / Fundraiser
- Technical assistance with the publication of Historic Ketchikan's *Our Town*
- Technical assistance with the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau's publication of *Experience Alaska*
- Grant-writing and fundraising support for the Ketchikan Community Concert Band

## Celebration of the Sea

In 2006, KAAHC continued to participate in the Celebration of the Sea through the Celebration of the Sea Artwalk. A staff member serves on the Celebration Advisory Panel.

## Art Walks

The KAAHC, in cooperation with Ketchikan downtown galleries and businesses, coordinates two Art Walks annually; one in December and the other as an event of the Ketchikan Celebration of the Sea. These walks draw special attention to the visual arts and visual artists living in the Ketchikan area as well as introduce the community to visiting artists and different visual art forms. They also demonstrate how integral arts are to the town's economic identity.

## Continuing programs and services

### Creative Currents

*Creative Currents* is the newsletter of the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council, Inc. *Currents* prints local arts news and features the activities of KAAHC member organizations, area artists, state and nationwide announcements of opportunities of interest to local artists, and includes a calendar of local arts and humanities related events. There are 11 issues/year.

### Artist Information Board and Resource Center

The KAAHC receives numerous announcements of events, opportunities - local, state-wide, national, and international. The staff posts all relevant information, publicizes opportunities through the *Creative Currents* Newsletter and weekly public radio reports and PSAs and also offer weekly art updates by e-mail to interested members. The KAAHC staff assists artists with portfolio development, grant writing and career development. The staff serves as a technical resource for accessing important arts information over the internet.

### [www.ketchikanarts.org](http://www.ketchikanarts.org)

The Arts Council launched a revamped website in 2005, featuring a searchable calendar of upcoming events, as well as information on the Arts Council, its programs & services, and local arts organizations and opportunities to get involved. We will continue to add features to the site over the coming year -- please let us know what you think!

### Office Equipment

Through the generous support of the Rasmuson, Nolan, and Celebration Foundations we have a variety of equipment. The list includes desktops, a laser printer, scanner, and graphic arts programs, and graphic-arts equipment. Member groups who use equipment are responsible for damage or loss. In 2003, we received a \$14,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation for a new copier capable of collating and folding concert programs. In 2004, we received funding from the Rasmuson Foundation for a new phone system and computer equipment, as well as a grant from the Celebration Foundation for sophisticated new software to manage our marketing, membership, and fundraising efforts. In 2006, again with support from the Rasmuson Foundation, we have acquired a server, software, and other office equipment.

### Sound Equipment

The KAAHC continues to develop the arts community sound stage which is available to member organizations for arts events and fundraisers. Recent support by Royal Caribbean and the Rasmuson Foundation is allowing us to solve sound issues with Kayhi Auditorium and is providing us with a strong sound system for outdoor performances. Support from the Nolan foundation has provided a community piano as well.

## KAAHC Advisory Committees

KAAHC Advisory Committees are volunteer arts organizations which have established a formal working relationship with the Arts Council, and operate under the non-profit and liability umbrella of the Arts Council. The goal is to pool our resources and expertise so that it's as easy as possible for arts groups to sponsor events, programs and scholarships that enrich the arts community, without having to duplicate the administrative efforts of the Arts Council. Other groups are inquiring about becoming Advisory Committees and working with the Arts Council to offer workshops, dances, and other arts events. This will be an important way that the Arts Council can foster the arts in Ketchikan in the coming years. In 2006, with support from the Rasmuson Foundation's Sustainable Institutions program, we revamped our fiscal sponsorship program to better meet the needs of Ketchikan's arts community.

### The Ketchikan Community Concert Band

The KCCB started in 2002 to provide an on-going opportunity for adults to rehearse and perform together in a concert band setting, and to develop an active pool of adult instrumental musicians to draw from for special community needs, such as musicals, community choral events and civic occasions. In 2003 and 2005, the Rasmuson Foundation funded the acquisition of a tuba, baritone saxophone and other equipment for the ensemble. The Band has augmented their instrumentation with a full set of orchestral chimes they made from stainless steel tubes and scrap metal, and a gong from an old fuel tank.

The KCCB has maintained a membership of about fifty-five members throughout 2006. They rehearsed weekly and presented two major concerts. Many of the musicians performed in First City Players' fall musical. In 2006, under the fiscal sponsorship of the KAAHC, the KCCB received a \$25,000 appropriation from the Alaska State Legislature for musical instruments and other band equipment. In the fall of 2006, the band became an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

### The Ketchikan Watercolor Society

The Ketchikan Watercolor Society took a hiatus from its activities in 2006. The Arts Council is maintaining their funds in a dedicated account.

### The Monthly Grind

The Monthly Grind is organized by dedicated and energetic volunteers. By showcasing local talent, providing family entertainment and fabulous desserts for a reasonable price, the Grind attracts area residents to fill the Saxman Tribal House the third weekend of each fall, winter and spring month for the past sixteen years. They also made significant contributions to the Katrina Relief, and to the ARTScool Scholarship Fund. The Grind's cookbook, a collection of recipes from some of the great desserts served at the Grind over the years, which debuted in 2002, was reprinted in 2003 and 2004 by popular demand.

### The Old Bar Harbor Caledonia Society

This relatively "old" group has been readily embraced by Ketchikan for its celebration of the Scottish bard Robbie Burns (the 7<sup>th</sup> annual celebration in 2006)—a festive dinner featuring highland dancing poetry, song, piping and... the fine cultural institution of haggis. The organizing committee has a strong commitment to fostering the Scottish dance and music community of Ketchikan with the proceeds from their events.

### The Sam Pitcher Memorial Fund

Seming "Sam" Pitcher was a gifted young man who was active in the various music programs available in Ketchikan. Sam loved all kinds of music and played the trumpet, flugelhorn and electric guitar. His family and friends have set up a memorial scholarship fund in his name to award the Sam Pitcher Music Scholarship. The purpose of the fund is to provide money to deserving local youth to help them attend summer music camps or programs such as the ones Sam was able to attend. The Fund was started in 2003 with donations in excess of \$10,000, with the goal of establishing a permanent scholarship fund. Two scholarships were awarded in 2006, to Lindy Parsons and Kim Stone. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Sam Pitcher Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o the Arts Council.

# KAAHC member organizations

The Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council provides support services for Ketchikan area arts and humanities organizations. The KAAHC office offers administrative services, technical assistance, grant writing, office equipment, a ticket outlet, a communication center, and publishes a monthly newsletter to promote the activities of local artists and arts organizations. These organizations offer a variety of year-round participatory programs and entertainment. It is through these groups that everyone in the Ketchikan area has an opportunity to enjoy the arts as an audience member, participant, or professional artist.

## First City Players

First City Players is Ketchikan's community theatre organization. It has entertained area audiences with musicals, comedies, and fine drama over the past 41 years. FCP's 2006 productions included:

*An Evening of Jazz and Cabaret* with Anne Phillips, Bob Kindred, Paul Meyers & Matt Perri  
*Jazz at That One Place*, with Bob Kindred, Paul Meyers, Matt Perri, Kim Kleinschmidt, Bob Bloom, Lynn Caldwell and Dale Curtis  
Jazz & Cabaret Festival Vocal Instrumental workshops with Anne Phillips, Bob Kindred, Paul Meyers & Matt Perri  
*Chaps*, by Jahna Beecham and Malcom Hillgartner  
*Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring  
ActOut Classes for Youth  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, by Roald Dahl, performed by the Actout Performance Company  
*Much Ado About Nothing*, by William Shakespeare,  
*The Fish Pirate's Daughter* (and Crab Feed) by Bob Kinerk and Jim Alguire  
*Gigglefeet Dance Festival* (co-sponsored with KTB and KAAHC)  
Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* (an ArtsCool Production)  
*Oliver!*, book by Charles Dickens, adapted to the stage by Lionel Bart



The FCP is a non-profit organization. Since leaving the Main Street Theatre in 2002, FCP has been attracting record crowds to their events at Ketchikan High School Auditorium. FCP has also been using alternate venues such as George Inlet Lodge, WestCoast Cape Fox Lodge & the Ted Ferry Civic Center with great success. First City Players receives funding from a Season Support Grant through the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the City of Ketchikan, First Bank, Wells Fargo Bank Alaska, the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council, the Young President's Organization, the Ketchikan CHARR, the Pioneers of Alaska Auxiliary #7, Arts Alaska, British Petroleum (BP), First City Rotary, the Monthly Grind, American Legion #3, Holland America Cruise Lines, the Celebration Foundation, private and business donations, business members, and the members of First City Players.

## Friends of the Ketchikan Public Library

The Friends of the Ketchikan Public Library is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the promotion of excellent library service in the greater Ketchikan area. As a group, they raise funds, provide volunteer services, and endeavor to raise community consciousness of the library's importance. The Friends' main fund-raiser is an annual book sale every fall. Money earned from this event goes directly to the local library to purchase needed equipment, extraordinary books, prizes for the summer reading program, and much more! The Friends also sponsor the Blueberry Arts Festival "Trivia Contest."

## Ketchikan Community Chorus

The year 2006 was a busy one for Ketchikan's singers, with one highlight being their May presentation of *Of Words and Music*, which featured Robert Frost's works set to music and choral work by Mozart. A delight for the audience, this production drew many new singers into action. Their December performance, *Sing Out*, was a Christmas Invitational featuring a collaboration with the Lutheran Church Choir

As always, the door is open to new vocalists and musicians, so come and join us. The chorus rehearses on Tuesdays at 7pm at the Methodist Church.

## Ketchikan Museum Department

The Ketchikan Museum Department continues to work with the KAAHC in promoting art and cultural activities in the Ketchikan area. The Tongass Historical Museum assisted KAAHC in designing outreach materials and programs for the *How the Ink Feels* exhibit at the Mainstay Gallery. 2006 exhibits at the Tongass Historical Museum included: *Raucous: Everything Raven*, *Boom Town: Ketchikan in the 1950s*, *Our Town, Metlakatla: Vintage Photographs*, and *Shaping Desire: works by Cala Potter*.

The Totem Heritage Center continues to offer a model Native Arts Studies Program dedicated to the continuation, promotion, and protection of Northwest Coast Native Arts. This program offers a Certificate of Merit program in Northwest Coast Carving, Northwest Coast Weaving, and Northwest Coast Regalia.

## Ketchikan Theatre Ballet

The Ketchikan Theatre Ballet had another great year in 2006, continuing their formulas of three major performances a year: An Evening of Dance during the Festival of the North, the Spring Gala, and the Nutcracker. KTB also collaborated with KAAHC and First City Players in sponsoring Giggglefeet. KTB is one of the four partner organizations in the Ketchikan Community Center for the Arts.



## KRBD-FM Radio

The KAAHC works with KRBD-FM to promote the arts in Ketchikan and the outlying communities. KRBD broadcasts stories on various educational, performing and visual arts activities. KRBD aired art announcements in cooperation with the KAAHC publicizing competitions, resources, and opportunities for visual performing, and literary artists. The KAAHC staff gives a weekly art update Thursday mornings on the KRBD *Morning Edition* news program. For many years, the station has lent support to Phoebe Newman's "A Poem a Day Won't Kill You" project that has aired in the month of April and has received statewide and national attention.



## Rainy Day Quilters

The Rainy Day Quilters goals are twofold: in order to foster the thriving quilting community, they meet monthly, and sponsor local workshops and classes with nationally known instructors. These are open to the public. They also do a great deal of community service projects. Since 1992, the quilters have coordinated a show for the community of over 200 beautiful quilts, from contemporary to antique, during February's Festival of the North. A quilt is raffled at this event, as well as another during August's Blueberry Arts Festival. They also participate in the Winter Arts Faire.

## University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan Campus

The KAAHC works with the University of Alaska Southeast, Ketchikan Campus to offer educational opportunities to area artists. The University has made space available for art workshops, lectures, rehearsals, and meetings. UAS has provided exemplary support to the arts through giving credit for art workshops, and actively promoting their own arts curriculum. UAS has sponsored VideoVersity, a free community film series in past semesters.





KAAHC Balance Sheet, 2006



KAAHC Profit & Loss, 2006