



November 26, 2007

The East End Arts Council is proudly celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Since 1972 we have been essential to the artistic vibrancy of the five East End towns. The East End Arts Council is located on Main Street in Riverhead. It is housed in two historic buildings owned by the Town of Riverhead. We are a member of the New York State Multi Arts Centers (NYMAC), a statewide coalition of arts centers that, like EEAC are a core component of their community. Across the State, towns that are flourishing and downtowns that are emerging have the arts at their core. We can count more than 75,000 visits to our site annually. Our visitors browse in our gallery, stroll our grounds, take music instruction and attend classes, lectures and workshops; not to mention visit other downtown destinations. We currently have 1,000 members, 100 volunteers, 500 students, a staff of 10 and a faculty of 35.

Government funding is vital to the success of our programs, often providing the necessary seed money for programs which is used as leverage to encourage individual and corporate support. Government funding is approximately 20% of our annual operating budget. Corporate and foundation support equal about 20%, and earned revenue is 60%.

A current major project is the renovation of our Carriage House. Upon completion it will be a downtown focal point, housing an art gym, art studio space, a recording studio and an artist in residence program. We are grateful for support of this project from Senator LaValle through Empire State Development and Assemblyman Thiele and former Assemblywoman Pat Acampora. We anticipate a grand opening near the end of summer 2007.

Year round we offer the East End affordable access to community arts education, serving a student population with an age range of under one year to over 90 years. We are able to provide scholarship based on financial need with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Town of Southampton, New York State Music Fund and our own fundraising initiatives. Additionally our educational offerings extend to the public and private schools through our arts-in-ed initiatives that integrate the arts into the school

curriculum and offer professional development to teaching artists, teachers and administrators. Again, this is partially funded through the New York State Council on the Arts.

Seasonally we present concerts, performances and festivals that support the economic integrity of the East End by attracting large audiences, both local and tourists from out of town. Our cultural tourism initiative “Winterfest” has been supported by the New York State Department of Agritourism, East End Supervisors, Arts & Business Council and Suffolk County Economic Development and Workforce Housing, in addition to corporate support.

As an arts council, we are also responsible for providing service to area artists and arts organizations to insure success in their endeavors. The East End Arts Council offers support through professional development, forums, promotional support and the development of collaborations within the arts and business communities. These services are supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

This is merely a glimpse of the arts activities on the East End of Long Island and a fraction of what you can expect in the future. It is clear that government monies are hard at work. Our colleagues in nearby arts venues, both large and small can easily highlight an abundant list of programs as well, all featuring the quality and diversity that you have come to expect. The constant is that non-profit arts organizations are an integral part of our vibrant communities, all of whom encourage your continued support to keep the arts alive on the east end.

Respectfully submitted,

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