

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



About this time, a half a century ago in 1961 a seed was planted. That seed was a vision of our community getting together, throwing a party and sharing their art with friends, family and neighbors. In August of 1961 the seed sprouted and a team of volunteers organized an art and garden show at the Gualala Community Center and brought the redwood forest indoors and hung the first "Art in the Redwoods." Community members shared art from their hearts, flower bouquets from their gardens, and nourishing food from their family recipes.

After five years of caring for this plant it was decided that it needed to become incorporated into a different kind of environment and Gualala Arts, Inc. was formed. A full fledged 501(c)3 non-profit with the simple mission, "to promote public interest and participation in the arts." After many years of growing, cross pollinating, transplanting and adapting to the changing landscapes of our community this plant has flourished and thrived for decades.

With a tremendous effort by the community, the Gualala Arts Center was built and opened in 1998. The roots are digging deep and wide calling on the vast history of knowledge and experience to create a sturdy foundation. Nourishing compost in the form of financial contributions, creative artists and positive

volunteer spirit have kept the plant growing and flourishing through its first decade in the garden.

What will the vision be for the next half a century for this garden? In October of 2010 the board of directors and a group of stakeholders got together for a dynamic facilitated two-day workshop exploring the past and the visions of the future of Gualala Arts. An update and summary of the exciting retreat will be given at the annual members meeting on February 16, 2011 at the Gualala Arts Center.

One thing is for certain; YOUR garden needs you now more than ever to get involved to help nurture and shape the future. It will take each and every one of us to keep the plant successfully adapting to our ever-changing environment as we transition to the next season.

We look forward to tending the garden with you!

Sus

David 'Sus' Susalla
Executive Director
Gualala Arts, Inc.