

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It Took A Village

Logs delivered and donated on June 6, by Darrell Rogers and Son plus a village of volunteers to start the "Serge" project at Sonoma County Regional Parks, Gualala Point Regional Park. Work continues daily through the Days of Sakha Culture Festival, for more information visit GualalaArts.org. Pictured L-R: Chris Baxter, Gualala River Redwood Park; Mikhail Ershov, Director; NGO Elleyad; Sue Bechtel, Sonoma County Regional Park Ranger; Paul Weston, Gualala resident; Andrey Chikachev, Sakha Painter; Jerry C. Orth, Gualala Community Services District Manager; Stephen Morris, Gualala artist; Darrell Rogers, Rogers and Son Forest Product; Jerrold Baker, Gualala artist; Jay Baker True Value Hardware; Egor Stepanov, traditional Sakha craftsman and ice carver; David "Sus" Susalla, Executive Director, Gualala Arts; Luka Egorov, owner Uran Sakha Jewellery; Vilyam Yakovlev, Director, Ethnograph, Ceremonial Ihiakh Complex. (Not pictured: Yuriy Ksenofontov, traditional Sakha craftsman and ice carver, Bill Buechner, Tree Service) Photo Credit: Jeff Taylor

Well it *is* taking a village...as I write this we are in the middle of the Global Harmony Series "Days of Sakha Cultural Festival" preparations. Everyday has been a wonderful new opportunity to stay in the present and rise to the occasion of a wonderful Siberian Sakha treasure hunt haiku unfolding.

We are very grateful for the forty plus Sakha visitors who have come during summer solstice, their high holy days, to share their culture and arts with us. They have left their families and homes to bring us, not just a show or exhibit but to share the traditional ways embedded with culture and arts, which takes weeks/months in preparations.

I cannot thank our community enough for coming out in support of this rare opportunity to make history and get to know each other, one conversation and one task at a time. A short list of items to make the treasure hunt possible has been people, art, counties, parks, computers, i-phone, non-profit, for profit organizations, ambassadors, diplomats, foundations, patrons, trees, logs, boards, calf skin insert, volunteers, housing, staff, food, mares milk, vehicles, machinery, tribes, museums, black & white horses, trees, embassies, tools, back line instruments, sets, countries, governments, personalities and good attitudes. I have never been involved in a more diverse set of variables and felt such love and support.

I will not even attempt to list the individual names that it took everyday to manifest this wonderful festival, you know who you are...and we could not do this without each and everyone of you...**YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**

It is very inspiring to be involved in such an epic turning of events and witnessing such human spirit coming together. ~~I~~we are blessed to be able to play a small role in presenting this to our community.

As you read this...the festival is probably in full swing or is a memory in those who attended or were impacted in one way or another. We will all carry this experience with us each day forward.

Be careful with your conversations...you never know where they could end up....they do make a difference...every day is a new day to do your best... we will continue to do it...together...

With sincere love & gratitude...

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