



**District of Columbia  
Arts Center**

2438 18th Street, NW  
Washington DC, 20009  
202-462-7833 | [info@dcartscenter.org](mailto:info@dcartscenter.org)  
[www.dcartscenter.com](http://www.dcartscenter.com)

## **DCAC Archive : Director's Letters May : June 2012**

If you read these pages, especially the part that I write, you are no doubt familiar with my not-so-subtle requests for memberships and donations. I make all kinds of pitches and try to present my case as best I can, because I really believe in the mission of DCAC and I think it is an important component in the Washington art scene. One of my angles is telling people that every individual donation and membership counts because it is a vote of support for the organization that directly translates to potential funders. I am here today to present evidence of this theory.

You may have noticed that the past three newsletters, and now this one, have had large thank you's to different funding agencies. The fact is that because of the increased membership over the past year, we have been able to get the attention of, and eventually the funding from four organizations that were not previously annual supporters. Last year we received a \$20,000 grant from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, a \$10,000 grant from the Bernstein Family Foundation, and a \$5,000 grant from Clark Construction Group, LLC. And with that support we were able to secure funding for the first time in ten years from the DC Commission on the Arts in Humanities in the amount of \$15,000. These grants are directly attributable to your continuing support, both financially and by your attendance. Funders want to know how many people benefit from our organization. They also want to know how much those people value the organization and they measure that by how much we raise in memberships and personal donations.

So that is great news, and we will do our best to maintain great relationships with these funders and keep them interested in DCAC, but to do that we need to keep growing our membership base and retain the current members. That's you. I hope that we can count on you to continue to support DCAC. And I hope that you will believe me when I tell you that your contributions have a resonance beyond whatever it is you can afford to give.

I also hope that you will have the opportunity to join us for Cuisine des Artistes this year. It's a great event that features lots of great artists and chefs. As a part of that event we present the Herb White Award as a way of honoring our founder and patron by recognizing an individual who has contributed mightily to the DC arts community. This year the recipient is Bill Warrell, founder of d.c. space and District Curators. Anyone who was an artist of any sort between 1979 and 1983 found d.c. space to be the meeting place for ideas, people and performances. It also had really cheap beer. I know that I spent an awful lot of time there and am thankful that it

existed. But d.c. space is just one part of Bill's contribution to DC. His organization brought jazz and performance greats to Washington that no other venue would dream of: Sun Ra, Ornette Coleman, The World Saxophone Quartet, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, and many more. He served two mayors on the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Today he is a prolific film maker and painter.

DC is full of folks like Bill who give of their time and energy to create the environment that lets art flourish in this town. And flourish it has in the last 30 year s. His dedication is an inspiration to all of us that keep up the good fight for art in DC, and I look forward to presenting him with the award. I hope you will join us in honoring him at Cuisine des Artistes and will keep supporting DCAC as we try to ensure a vibrant arts environment for the next 30 years.

**B Stanley,**  
Executive Director