



ACA provides a **unique opportunity** for **artistic growth**, enabled by great facilities and a staff dedicated to helping artists of all inclinations realize their visions.

— Performer / Composer David Plylar,  
Associate Artist-in-Residence 2009

## letter from the chair

doug mcginnis, chair, board of trustees



Atlantic Center for the Arts has been a part of my life for almost three decades, since I came out here as an associate for the second residency in 1982. My first impression was of the unique architecture and the way the buildings flowed seamlessly into the native landscape. As I write this during our 135th residency, the structures at ACA have expanded through the Leeper Studio Complex, Harris Theater, Associate Artists' Housing and the striking Pabst Visitor Center and Gallery, all tucked into nature. This setting provides serenity and introspection, stimulates creativity and aids our core mission of bringing the world's best master artists to guide, instruct and collaborate with associates from many artistic disciplines. Here in the peaceful woods, we are cultivating a new crop of great artists whose works will nourish and enrich our planet.

I've realized that the real foundation here at ACA is not the boards, nails, concrete and glass, but our staff and our community of artists, members and volunteers. This year, over 150 volunteers of the ACA Volunteer League, the volunteer corps for Atlantic Center for the Arts, have donated their time and resources to assist in our many programs and fund-raising efforts. Our partnerships with educational and artistic institutions continue to grow. Local, state and federal governments continue to recognize ACA's value and benefit to the public.

Now it is easier than ever to keep up with our residency programs and opportunities, artist outreaches, classes for all ages, gallery events and the multitude of experiences we offer, through our updated website. We are also pleased to announce our newly renovated classroom spaces: the Elizabeth Yurick McCorkle Community Studios in downtown New Smyrna Beach

I know your life will benefit from being a part of Atlantic Center for the Arts, just as mine has for nearly 30 years. Please consider making ACA a part of your life and your legacy. As you will benefit, you will also be helping us to build an even stronger foundation for future generations.

## letter from the director

ann brady, executive director



*For three weeks, I lived the artist's life I should be living all year.*

Providing artists with unrestrained time and inspiring space is a necessity; nurturing artists with mentorship and a fusion of artistic disciplines is vital. That is what ACA does. We've been doing it for 28 years, and it continues to work. Because, as the new National Endowment for the Arts motto proclaims, Art Works.

Art works as a business. Over 6 million people nationally are employed as artists. Set designers, composers, writers, dancers, artists of all disciplines, all contributing to our economy in art or art-related jobs.

While not all artists make a living solely on their art – far from it – one of Atlantic Center's goals has always been to help increase those odds. This is done from a very practical standpoint: networking, mentoring, learning, practicing, presenting. It is also accomplished in less obvious ways: experimenting, researching, testing, reinforcing – providing a life-changing experience whose results may not be immediate but have very tangible possibilities for the future.

*I could not have asked for more from my experience. I left with a finished video project, two paintings, a sketchbook of ideas, dozens of new friends and connections, arrangements for two future collaborations, and best of all, a refreshed mind.*

Art works on a humane level, not only in the making of art, but in what artists do to raise our consciousness, deploy our humanity, help us shine a light on all facets of the human condition.

Our mission, extending beyond the artists in residence to encompass the broader community, includes the budding artists who participate in our children's programs, the adults who join our salon program, the volunteers who tirelessly devote time and talent, and the members and donors who support this alternative trail for artists embracing our eclectic and often avant-garde programs.

As master artist Heather Woodbury noted to an ACA audience this past year: *You are the co-imaginors, the co-witnesses. Thank you for being the mangrove trees that support this rookery of newly-winged imaginative effort that keeps the roots of our culture growing, so that we are all fed, so that collectively we are not only able to survive but sustain and thrive.*

That's another great thing about artists, they say it better than I ever could.

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