



THE DEPOT FOUNDATION

# expressions

Spring 2011

## Upfront:

*Letter from Depot Foundation Board Chair, Bob Wahman*

In this first of our semi-annual editions of *Expressions*, we again sincerely thank each of our readers who have generously contributed to this foundation in the past year. Gifts amounted to over \$350,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.



Similarly, with an improving economy our endowment fund in 2010 grew by 16.2% and now has grown to an amount greater than ever before, allowing us to award grants totaling \$140,511 since July 1, 2010. We are hopeful to further improve on this record in 2011 and heartily encourage your continued support with donations to our endowment (undesignated) fund.

In this edition please note the announcement of two newly-elected Board members beginning their first term with us.

Please review the Page 2 article outlining further improvements at the Depot sponsored by the Foundation.

Also, note Jean Olson's article requesting nominations for our 2011 Arts and Culture Awards to be announced in conjunction with our Annual Meeting set for October 27, 2011 at the Circle of Friends Celebration.

Currently, the Board is actively engaged in a periodic update of our Strategic Plan which will result in a new organizational Vision, along with a work plan to ensure we achieve this Vision.

The Depot Foundation remains dedicated to achieving a thriving cultural, arts and heritage center at the Depot.

## New to the Board:

*The Depot Foundation is pleased to announce the election of two new board members to fill vacancies.*



**Steve Yorde** recently joined the Depot Foundation board. His career includes fundraising leadership positions with Marshfield Clinic, SMDC Health System, Augustana College. His spouse Adele is with the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. They have two grown children in Duluth and Chicago. They are interested in advancing support of the arts, history and culture through the Depot Foundation.



**Joe Konrad** joined the Depot Foundation board in February. Mr. Konrad, President and CEO of National Bank of Commerce, moved to Duluth in 2009. He is an active part of the community, serving on the Miller Dwan Foundation Board of Directors and as a member of Duluth Rotary 25. Joe and Linda have four children and five grandchildren. They look forward to sailing on Lake Superior this summer aboard their 35 foot Catalina.

---

## Depot Foundation Board of Directors

Robert Wahman, *Chair* • Richard Fischer, *Vice Chair*  
David Pollard, *Treasurer* • Dolly Schnell, *Secretary*  
Marilyn Bowes • Caroline Bye • Dean Casperson  
Joe Konrad • Dexter Larsen • Jean Olson  
Neale Roth • Kenneth Schoen • Jay Stoffel  
Thomas Whittaker • Steve Yorde



## *More Excitement at the Depot!*

The Depot Facilities Committee, formerly the Depot Signage Committee, is comprised of Depot Foundation members Dick Fischer (Chair), Jean Olson, Neale Roth, Dolly Schnell, Ken Schoen, Bob Wahman, and Tom Whittaker; Ken Buehler, Executive Director of the Historic Union Depot and the Lake Superior Railroad Museum; Samantha Gibb Roff, Executive Director of the Duluth Art Institute; and Christine Gradl Seitz, Executive Director of the Duluth Playhouse. It is responsible for the improvements to the Depot which are designed to enhance the appearance and functionality of the Depot, and thereby encourage people to visit the facility; and to enrich their experience once they do. We have previously reported on Committee projects including the colorful banners on the west side of the building, banners in the parking lot, and a stunning new graphic on the large hallway window. We have mentioned the new ticket booth and information counter that will greet visitors when they enter the Great Hall via the front entrance, when it is reopened. We are especially proud of the new sound system in the Great Hall, which has changed the sound quality from one of the worst in the city to one of the best. We are very pleased with the wonderful mural, pictured here, created by local artist Scott Murphy and hung in the rotunda. It depicts, in a whimsical way, the arts and culture of our area, with particular emphasis on activities that take place at the Depot. This striking piece, which was unveiled last fall, extends 48 feet around the rotunda's curved wall. Stop in, sit on the new benches in the rotunda, created by a local craftsman, and check out the mural.

Improvements under consideration this year are: Completing the job of decorating, lighting, and removing pigeons from the main entrance to the Great Hall so we can start using it as the primary entrance to the hall, and take advantage of the aforementioned ticket counter and info desk; appliques for the upper windows in the Great Hall which will make them appear as they did during the heyday of emigration to N.E. Minnesota via the Union Depot; banners for the inside of the Great Hall; improved exterior and interior directional signage; background sounds in the Great Hall which may include real or simulated train announcements; and-if we can find some extra money-production of a movie on the history of the area from the Depot's perspective.

*Stay tuned; it's going to be a fun year at the Depot.*



### **PARTICIPATING MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

**Arrowhead Chorale**  
*Jodi Ondich, Chorale  
Director*

**Duluth Art Institute**  
*Samantha Gibb Roff,  
Executive Director*

**Duluth Children's Museum**  
*Michael Garcia, President*

**Duluth Playhouse**  
*Christine Gradl Seitz,  
Executive Director*

**Duluth Superior Symphony  
Orchestra**  
*Andrew Berryhill,  
Executive Director*

**Historic Union Depot**  
*Ken Buehler,  
Executive Director*

**Lake Superior Railroad  
Museum**  
*Ken Buehler,  
Executive Director*

**Matinee Musicale**  
*Kevin Peterson,  
Board President*

**Minnesota Ballet**  
*Robert Gardner,  
Artistic Director*

**St. Louis County  
Historical Society**  
*JoAnne Coombe,  
Executive Director*

## Thank You, Sponsors!

We are most grateful to the following businesses and individuals for their generous in-kind and financial support which makes Depot Foundation events possible, including the Circle of Friends Celebration and the Arts and Culture Awards:

API Electric  
Dryer, Storaasli, Knutson & Pommerville, Ltd.  
Engwall Florist & Greenhouse  
Lakewalk Surgery Center  
Dennis Lamkin  
National Bank of Commerce  
Orthopaedic Associates of Duluth, P.A.  
Republic Bank  
Bill and Dolly Schnell  
Security Jewelers  
U. S. Bank Corporation

## HELP US HONOR OUR ARTS AND CULTURE LEADERS

Who do YOU think has made a significant contribution to the arts and culture of our region? An artist? A volunteer? A philanthropist? An administrator? An organization? Here's an opportunity to recognize and thank those who have made our region a vibrant cultural hub.

*Established in 1999, the Depot Foundation Arts and Culture Awards celebrate the efforts of outstanding individuals and organizations. Please help by nominating an individual or organization for each or any of the following awards:*

***Lifetime Achievement Award*** - which recognizes an individual or organization for lifetime contribution to the arts and culture of our region.

***Community Enrichment Award*** - which recognizes bold steps taken to strengthen the arts and culture of our region.

***Initiative Award*** - which recognizes those individuals or organizations demonstrating exemplary initiative in creating opportunities in, or expanding access to, the arts and culture of our region.

***Historical Preservation Award*** - which recognizes an individual, organization or project that has made a substantial impact on historic preservation and/or interpretation in the region.

***Artist Award*** - which recognizes an artist whose distinguished career has made significant contributions to the development of both artists and the arts.

***Lifetime Artist Award*** - which recognizes an Arrowhead Region artist whose lifetime artistic excellence, dedication and vision have made a positive impact on our community.

Call the Depot Foundation office at (218) 279-9913 for information and nomination forms or submit your nominations online at [www.DepotFoundation.org](http://www.DepotFoundation.org). Nomination deadline is May 30, 2011. Then help us celebrate at our twelfth annual Circle of Friends Celebration honoring Depot Foundation members and the Arts and Culture Awards recipients on Thursday, October 27, 2011.



### 2010 Arts and Culture Award Recipients

(front row, L to R): Patricia Clure, *Community Enrichment Award*, John and Elaine Killen, *Lifetime Achievement Award*; Karin Kraemer, *Artist Award*.

(back row, L to R): Patricia Maus, *Historic Preservation and Interpretation Award*;

John Salminen, *Lifetime Artist Award*;

Kat Eldred, representing A. H. Zeppa Family Foundation, *Initiative Award*.

### Arts and Culture Awards Committee:

Jean Olson, *Chair* • Ken Bloom

Marilyn Bowes • Dolly Schnell

Neale Roth • Bob Wahman, *Ex-officio*



**THE DEPOT FOUNDATION**

*in support of arts and culture*

ENJOY THE MAGIC. SUPPORT THE SPIRIT.

130 W. Superior Street  
Suite 302  
Duluth, MN 55802-1805

**Recent Grants** *The Depot Foundation has awarded a total of \$140,511 since July 1, 2010.*

***Muriel Whiteside Designated Fund***

The fund recognizes the arts and cultural organizations that Muriel Whiteside supported during her lifetime:

Duluth Playhouse.....\$31,363

***Prindle/Wood Family Memorial Endowment Fund***

Endows the scientific, literary, artistic, cultural and educational purposes of the Depot Foundation.

Minnesota Ballet.....\$1,022

Minnesota Ballet.....\$1,072

***Undesignated Fund***

Provides resources for the Foundation’s Board of Directors to respond to the changing needs of the arts and cultural community of the region.

Arrowhead Chorale.....\$3,500

St. Louis County Historical Society .....\$ 3,511

Duluth Art Institute.....\$35,500

Duluth Children’s Museum.....\$12,500

Duluth Playhouse.....\$29,137

St. Louis County Historical Society .....\$5,000

Great Hall Public Address & Music System

.....\$12,155

***Designated Fund***

***Viola Hart Fund***

Duluth Art Institute.....\$288

***Julia Newell Marshall Fund***

Duluth Art Institute.....\$2,452

***Board Designated Fund***

Arrowhead Chorale.....\$22

Duluth Children’s Museum.....\$652

Duluth Playhouse.....\$435

Matinee Musicale .....\$61

Minnesota Ballet.....\$1,841



*White Christmas*



*Spelling Bee*

*“Recent Duluth Playhouse productions supported by Depot Foundation Grants”*