

AWDA meeting, Tuesday, March 8, 2005

The Artists With Disabilities Alliance met Tuesday, March 8, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Mill City Coffeehouse in the California Building, 2205 NE California St., Mpls. (612-789-8262, University Ave. to 22nd Ave. NE, then west 2 blocks over RR tracks to bldg.). Attending were Terry Mayer, Tara Innmon, Deb Costandine, Jon Skaalen; a number of people were ill and unable to attend.

Tara Innmon would like to postpone her Dream Sculpture workshop from April to June. This would allow more time to publicize the event, to attract up to 15 people and to find a source for modeling clay. She projects the cost at \$6 for regular AWDA attendees and \$10 for others to help cover workshop materials, some of her time and to help start an AWDA fund. She will check with Joy at Interact, or with other possible sites.

Deb Costandine will plan on coordinating a hat-making workshop and tea party potluck in May, perhaps from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Suzanne Byrne's community room in South Minneapolis. She will aim for 20 people, and encourages each participant to bring a hat to decorate and to bring a creative dish, sandwiches or hors d'oeuvres appropriate for a tea party. A cost will be determined to cover workshop expenses, Deb's time and AWDA.

The subject of raising money for AWDA was raised again because the group needs a fund from which to pay for occasional interpreters, publicity to members and the public. Donations may now be made by individuals or solicited from businesses, but they are not currently tax-deductible unless made through a fiscal agent (such as VSA arts of Minnesota or Springboard for the Arts) that is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Tara found out that Springboard for the Arts' participation in the April 22-23 St. Paul Art Crawl (www.stpaul-artcrawl.org) would be mainly selling T-shirts on a sidewalk booth by their building. Since this wouldn't work for the AWDA artists who have paintings or other artwork to sell, we decided not to participate. The Fall Art Crawl may offer a better indoors location.

Terry Mayer has arranged that AWDA can participate for free in Art-a-Whirl (sponsored by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, www.nemaa.org) on May 20-22 by simply volunteering to operate the elevator in the California Building for a few hours. She will meet with one or more visual artists from the group to reserve a good display space in the building. If you are interested in selling your art or performing, contact Terry at 612-220-4194 or terryearwings@hotmail.com.

Terry is seeking up to seven more artists to pay up to \$50 each to participate in the Powderhorn Art Fair on August 6-7 (www.powderhornartfair.com). She has found a sponsor for a tent that covers two 10'x10' spaces and is still looking for business sponsors to help cover some of the fee (\$380), but the participating artists would need to pay the portion of the fee not covered by donors. Powderhorn has high standards so we may also need a jury to examine the artwork we propose to show and sell. She is checking to see if musicians can

perform in or by our tent and sell their CDs or tapes. If interested, please contact her.

The next AWDA meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Interact Center for Visual & Performing Arts, 212 Third Ave. N., Minneapolis. Deb Costandine will make a presentation on how artists with disabilities can devise PASS Plans with their case managers to obtain necessary services, training or equipment to help in their career plans. To get on the agenda, contact Tara Innmon, facilitator, 612-376-7779 or tarainnmon@visi.com.

For AWDA updates, call VSA arts of Minnesota (612-332-3888, box 4) or go to the AWDA website, www.angelfire.com/mn3/awda/.