



2007 Annual Report

Frances Leach

HIGH PRAIRIE

Arts & Science Complex

A Bismarck Parks and Recreation District facility.

Vision

To become a destination point for events involving science and the arts by serving as an innovative and dynamic resource for lifelong learning.

This vision statement for the Frances Leach High Prairie Arts & Science Complex (FLHPASC) puts to paper what the partners in the facility create every day for their members, customers, clients, students and the community of Bismarck.

The fundraising for the facility was completed in 2006, so the calendar year of 2007 made way for new projects, new adventures and new events.

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) owns and manages FLHPASC, and the complex is rented out to community partners, who create and manage their own programming and events.

One only needs to get past the white exterior of FLHPASC to enter into a world of science, music, color, inspiration and creativity. The current partners in the facility are: Central Dakota Children's Choir, Gateway to Science, Shade Tree Players, Suzuki School of Music and Theo Art School. Hear their individual stories of 2007 inside:



Central Dakota Children's Choir - Karen Traeholt, Executive Director



What is it? Central Dakota Children's Choir consists of five choirs with 300 youth from 37 public, private, and home schools participating this year. The choirs rehearse at three sites which include FLHPASC (two choirs), BSC (one choir), and BHS (two choirs).

- The choirs perform at 30 – 40 events annually. In 2007, they sang for a collective audience of 12,000. Volunteer hours for CDCC came to a total of more than 1000. Annual events for CDCC are: the Christmas Concerts, Singing in Style, Cantus Unabridged, the Spring Concerts, and CDCC On Stage.

➤ Coming in 2008: CDCC will celebrate 10 years of making music in the community. They have several special events planned for the season including a commissioned song by the nationally recognized composer, Rollo Dilworth. Dr. Dilworth will come to Bismarck to rehearse the choirs and conduct the premiere performance of his piece. We celebrate evolving from a grade school choral program to a grade school to high school inclusive program that promotes singing for a lifetime.

Gateway to Science - Beth Demke, Executive Director



What is it? North Dakota's only hands on science center had a year filled with events, special projects, new exhibits and outreach. Some examples are Environmental Festival, Lego Camp, Brain Matters, A Day for the Birds, Family Rocket Day, Bubble Bliss and Spooktacular 2007.

- Additional Programming: Young Scientists Club met weekly on Tuesday evenings January through March. Fall semester introduced Science Discovery Club for third and fourth graders and Young Scientists Club for fifth and sixth graders. Gateway to Science again presented hands-on science demonstrations during Urban Harvest.

- Attendance at Gateway to Science in 2007 was over 9,000.

Theo Art School - Eileen Walsh, Executive Director



What is it? Theo Art School offers year round classes for children and adults in drawing, painting, mixed media, clay, ceramics and specialty arts.

- In 2007, Theo held 82 classes at FLHPASC, 25 classes at local schools, and 40 free classes at numerous locations. Total enrollment for the year was 1,053 students, 231 of which were scholarships. Scholarships average \$40 per student.

- Theo continues to offer free classes at Pride Manchester House, Pride, Inc., Charles Hall Youth Services, and many other locations servicing at-risk or challenged youth and adults.

Shade Tree Players - Jennifer Tosner, Program Manager



What is it? Shade Tree Players children's theatre offers any child the opportunity for a quality arts experience using theatre as an educational tool to develop a personal sense of perseverance, confidence, and accomplishment.

- In 2007, Shade Tree put on eight full-length productions involving 328 children, including one production in the Mandan community.
- Throughout the school year, Shade Tree offers classes and

workshops to help children develop their skills, totaling five classes and two workshops.

- In the Spring of 2007, STP took part in two Artist in Resident programs with Roosevelt and Riverside elementary schools. We also produced a play, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, performed by adults for children. All the second grade classes of Bismarck Public Schools were in attendance.
- Total program participants: 500. Total attendance at complex productions: 1,700.

➤ Coming in 2008: A rural outreach program in partnership with Missouri River Educational Cooperative to bring theatre arts to the children of rural North Dakota.

Suzuki School of Music - Vanessa Lorentzen, Director and Instructor



What is it? Suzuki School of Music teaches music to children of all ages following the tradition of Shinichi Suzuki of Japan, who learned and taught his style of music in the mid-20th century.

- SSOM has been at the complex for two years. We have caught the spirit of collaboration and are committed to the building and the partners within it.
- This past year, SSOM provided instruction for 35 families in violin, viola, cello, piano and voice. This also includes the

Thursday morning and Tuesday evening Early Childhood Education Music classes for children 0 to 3 years.

- All SSOM performances held at FLHPASC were free and open to the public. SSOM also hosted five play-in parties and all SSOM families were invited to attend.
- Spring of 2007 had SSOM in full bloom with a NEW signature event! In May, the first annual "Butterfly Ball" was held for girls ages 4 to 12 and their dads. Ninety one tickets were sold and with excellent sponsorship from the community. It was a viable fundraiser for teacher training and a scholarship fund.

➤ Coming in 2008: A Dakota West Arts Council grant allowed SSOM to purchase a new Suzuki Prenatal Listening Class for expectant parents. The new program is scheduled to begin in January of 2008 and run every three months through the year.

Special Events involving all partners:

- Participating in the Autumn Fest parade as one unit
- Participating in Bismarck Parks and Recreation District's Flurry Fest, with an evening of free Winter Wonderland activities throughout the complex.

Community Users:

FLHPASC welcomed many other users into the complex in 2007, including:

- a college class four days a week from Dickinson State University
- worship services each Sunday, from the Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church
- a Water Carnival for all third graders, and a performance for all second graders from Bismarck's public and private schools
- Safety Village, a summer safety program for kids, from Bismarck Parks and Recreation District
- Parent meetings, Official's Training, Coaching Clinics and staff meetings for Bismarck Parks and Recreation District

Matching Grants:

BPRD provided \$5,162 in Matching Grant projects at FLHPASC in 2007.

The projects were: assistance with the "Brain Matters" exhibit and new water based exhibits at Gateway to Science, improved technology for Central Dakota Children's Choir, improved sound system for Shade Tree Players, installation of classroom wall at Theo Art School and the installation of interior signs for the entire complex.

Total attendance in 2007:

- Attendance for all 2007 events, programs and productions: 16,000

Financials

- Total revenue for 2007:\$27,288.34
Includes all rental revenue from partners and other users.
- Total building expenses for 2006:\$76,712.70
- Part-time janitor:\$9690.74
- Contractual services:\$12,638.57
- Janitorial and misc supplies, repairs: . \$13,906.54
- Utilities:\$37,904.65
- Insurance:\$2,572.20

