

Texas Women Make Their Mark on Austin's Arts Scene

By Molly Kendrick

Texas Women for the Arts held their 12th Annual Arts Meeting on May 10. During the meeting they approved their annual budget, which will give \$235,000 to 22 arts organizations across the state.

This meeting came at the end of a two and-a-half day showcase of some of Texas's most successful local artists. In addition to visiting places like the People's Gallery, the women's group also met with key Austin figures, including Mayor Steve Adler and members

of the Texas legislature. Austin artist Daryl Howard attended the meeting, and had a book of her artwork on display in the East Austin event space. She makes colorful woodblock prints, using techniques she studied in Japan.

Jennifer Ransom Rice, the director of the Texas Cultural Trust, led the event. Rice hopes events like this counteract the notion that the arts are nice to have, but are not a necessary.

Why should we care about art programs in Texas? Rice points out that at-risk high school stu-

dents who complete an art class are half as likely to drop out. The arts contribute \$5.5 billion per year to the Texas economy. And perhaps most importantly, a lot of influential Texans care about making sure young people get the arts education they deserve.

That's where the Texas Cultural Trust and Texas Women for the Arts come in. "It's so important that the private sector steps up. This is a very powerful group of women." Their generosity, Rice says, is a "Call to legislature, to make sure that they know the arts should receive funding."

Wendie Cook, the executive director of Citadelle Art, spoke to the group about what the support of Texas Women for the Arts has meant for her, a champion of the arts in a tiny West Texas ranching town. For Matthew Hinsley of the nonprofit Austin Classical Guitars, this event represents "Almost every positive thing in the community-based arts: collaboration, vision, and goodwill all coming together."



Isha Rogers and Chris Kleberg



Carol Penn



Dawn Leatherwood, Peyton Pumphrey, Cynthia Pumphrey



Kathleen Loughlin and Alice Foltz



Lynne Averett, Daryl Howard, Natasha Valocchi



Jennifer Ransom Rice



Pam Fielding, Karen and Sara Oswalt



Linda LaMantia, Kelly Blanton, Mary Stanton Smith



Mary Lynn Painton



Marlyn Ashley and Lana Cop



Matthew Hinsley



Tarrytown 4th

Continued



Patricia Tamminga, Elizabeth Shands, Chelsea Holden, Lindsay Nahoum



Leigh Calandrucchio and Leslie Smith



Pack 20



Chambers Stephens



Wynne and Mary Caroline Stephens



Claudia Hernandez and Jael Tiero



Misty and Claire McCarthy



Miss America, Susan Parker



The Lowly Worm celebrates



Samantha and Charisse Sayers



Tricia and Adelaide Helstrom