



March 9, 2021

**Dear Current and Prospective DIAA Members:**

Time to fill out your DIAA **2021 Membership** and **Exhibition sign-up forms**. The forms have changed a bit, so please read them carefully. **Please fill them out completely and print the information legibly**. Send the [Membership Form](#) to the post office box (full address is on the form) and the [Exhibition Form](#) to Cindy Bourque Simonds (information is on the form). While you can renew or join at any time, we urge you to submit **BY APRIL 9** to improve your chances of getting into the exhibitions you want. The Exhibition Committee will start to assign artists soon after that.

If you have questions about the Exhibitions Program, email Cindy Bourque Simonds, Exhibitions Chair, ([cbsimonds@gmail.com](mailto:cbsimonds@gmail.com)). Direct any questions about Membership to me ([sfinsen@gmail.com](mailto:sfinsen@gmail.com)).

Susan Finsen, Membership Chair

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**Letter from David McBeth, DIAA President:**

Well, 2020 was certainly a year to remember. Over time we will recollect a year filled with sadness, loss, frustration and yes even many joyous happy times. Through all of this, I am reminded of the words of the poet Marge Piercy, in her poem, **To be of use**, where she writes in part...

*The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.*

And that is what I believe each and every one of us in the DIAA does. We work to share that art is of value to the community, in fact builds community, whether we are in the gallery installing an exhibit, serving as a gallery attendant (remember those days?) or sheltered away in our own studios looking for new ways to give visual voice to our creativity.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. The DIAA came through a global pandemic strong, a vital part of the peninsula community. Our Through the Window exhibits were a shining contribution to the village. The annual 12x12 was a huge success, in no small part due to the opportunity for online sales. The Holiday Pop-Up expanded to a three-day event was tremendous as well. The gallery continues to present art in the windows through the winter, appropriately enriching the villagers through the gray of winter.

Be assured that the Board is working diligently to put together a strong 2021 season. Just how we conduct business is still at the mercy of the pandemic. There are a few endeavors I would like to see us work toward; expand outreach to the area k-12 art teachers/students, mini social media art/studio talks, and encouraging younger members to become a part of our organization.

This year, as you fill out your membership renewal and exhibitions sign-up forms, consider making an extra contribution to the DIAA. Your “above and beyond” financial support helps the DIAA not only sustain but excel as an arts organization in the region.

You should also know, we are looking for a new Vice President. After many years, Hub has decided to pass the baton – someone getting this letter will want to join our excellent board. Please let me know. We are also looking for more people to commit to help with other association activities (exhibition, membership, PR, outreach) on an ongoing basis. Please consider how you can help keep the DIAA the strong, vibrant organization it is and get in touch.

In the meanwhile, get back to your studios and make great art.

**David**