



Sangres Art Guild  
P.O. Box 205  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

*The Sangres Art Guild is a Colorado Non-profit and Federal 501(c)(3) Corporation*

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## 2015 Year in Review

During 2015, the Board of Directors met regularly to conduct the business of the art Guild. Officers were chosen by the newly elected Board of Directors. The 2015 budget was proposed, discussed, and modifications were made. Income taxes for 2014 were filed, resulting in no taxes paid. Donations from the 2014 Spirit Campaign were \$2,140. We wrapped up 2014 with income of \$18,463 versus expenses of \$17,376. Our biggest expense is the gallery, especially utilities; and we remain grateful to the Sterners for their rent-free donation of the gallery.

The status of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Gallery was reviewed with regard to its expense and effort to maintain. Since the gallery is the main attraction to membership – to have a place to exhibit and as a community art center – it was decided to keep it open beyond 2015 (already-committed), but that many of the duties to keep it running had to be distributed to membership. Later in the year, a division of duties were agreed to and we are grateful to the new Coordinators. The list of duties and coordinators can be found on the SAG web site ([www.sangresartGuild.org](http://www.sangresartGuild.org)).

The gallery show schedule was set, and our annual rack card listing of our art shows and events, was designed, published, and distributed. There was a discussion about how to improve sales at the gallery – special appearances by artists/craftsman/authors at openings being the most viable. A painting party was organized to repaint the gallery walls. Internet and phone services were changed at the gallery to cheaper, more reliable services (DD-wireless and Ooma, respectively). We had the carpet professionally cleaned. Later in the year, the gallery computer died, but we were able to recover necessary files. A gracious member benefactor donated a new computer and software.

Our gallery year kicked off with the annual spring Calendar Show during May and June. This year, the exhibiting artists chose the 13 winners, a successful method! The calendar was designed and published before the opening of the show. Calendar sales this year were good. This year also saw the Summer Show, a watermedia show coordinated with Southern Colorado Watercolor Society, the Fall Show, the Alla Prima Westcliffe show, and the Holiday Show, currently ongoing.

For the Ride the Rockies state-wide event in June, which ended in Westcliffe, the Guild turned out to exhibit artwork at the finish line, as well as a special tent outside of the gallery. We also provided gift certificates for the Westcliffe gift baskets. Unfortunately, the riders and support were mostly tired and not in a shopping mood. But those who did stop by the galleries said they'd be back to Westcliffe as part of their Colorado tourism.

The Board considered becoming part of an official Colorado Creative District, which would mean working within a set framework to get the benefits. Because we'd need support from a government agency and the additional time involved to set it up and run it, we decided to table the matter.

In August, we lost a dear friend and artist Jim Jones.

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In other art Guild business, we learned and began to use Mailchimp as an email marketing tool. Karen LeBlond took over the Art in Public Places management. We sent high school kids on a Guild-funded field trip to the Denver Art Museum. We entered into discussions with Dark Skies about a t-shirt design contest that will be addressed next year. And we were pleased to host the very talented violinists Heidi Itashiki and Chloe Trevor, who performed a delightful benefit recital for the Guild.

We also started up a new program: Art Exposure for Kids. We wrote for a grant from the Ride the Rockies organization to fund it, but were denied. We were able to get donated supplies from Chartpak, Blick Art Materials and others, making our Guild purchases as nominal as possible. We started the program by exposing home-schooled kids to 5 different art mediums, from which some kids have taken individual classes in one medium so far. We will continue the program in 2016.

Finally, we had successful Alla Prima Westcliffe & Arts Hullabaloo events in October, events for which several people participated in planning throughout the year.

Thanks again to all our sponsors and donors, without whom we cannot continue. Thanks also to all of our volunteers who sit the gallery to keep it open. And a continuing BIG THANK YOU to the volunteers who do so much behind-the-scenes work toward the general management of the Guild and the specific events or programs we do in the community. Your efforts make this a special group, fulfilling our charter to "...develop, promote, educate, and support the arts in the Wet Mountain Valley."

I hope you and yours will have a healthy, happy, productive 2016.

Curt Gillespie  
SAG Prez  
November 15, 2015

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