

20 January 2013

**To: Members, VAC Member Groups, volunteers, donors, supporters, dancers, and friends of the Village Arts Coalition (VAC).**

Thank you for your participation in our community again this year. At the beginning of this new year, here's a glimpse of the Coalition and news of our activities.

The VAC was founded in Boulder in 1989 and currently consists of 42 member groups, and 143 individual members. We are governed by our articles of incorporation and by-laws, under the stewardship of 11 members on the board of directors, who serve staggered three-year terms. The VAC is one of two partners in the Avalon property, which is called Boulder Dance LLC. The VAC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit Colorado corporation. Donations to the VAC are tax deductible as allowed by law.

## **2012 Accomplishments**

In 2012 the Village Arts Coalition has made important strides in fulfilling our mission to promote dance, music and other folk arts.

VAC hosted another successful International Festival on the Pearl Street Mall. This series of annual festivals began in 1982. Jim Schwartzkopff has joined us as the new festival manager. The festival will be held on June 28 – 30, 2013. We welcome your participation and help in presenting this festival.

The *STOMP!* continues to be published bi-monthly with articles about important aspects of our community. In November we hosted a 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration party at the Avalon which brought diverse members of our community together for a full day of dance and celebration, plus the holiday decoration of the ballroom! Many thanks to Teri Rasmussen and Joseph Snowhawk for organizing this extravaganza, and Halina Palmer for another fantastic food experience.

At the Avalon, we host roughly 250 participatory dance events a year in the ballroom, plus other kinds of community events, and dance activities in the north lobby. Our operations are profitable. We have welcomed Rick Thompson as the new Manager of Operations at the Avalon. Illustrating the interest in the Ballroom, there are only 10 Saturdays in all of 2013 that are still available for rent. One aspect of our dedication to the local community is that it is our policy that community events are seldom bumped in favor of commercial rentals. Also, the fourth weekend of each typical month is purposely left unreserved for routine events so that special weekend-long events can be scheduled. If you have such aspirations, we have made provision for you.

The second large studio – Sodal Hall – is now under construction and well underway. We anticipate its inauguration sometime in 2013. You can look forward to announcements soon about work parties, including work to install the second cushioned oak dance floor. We heartily thank several people who have contributed many, many hours already in the work to build stud walls, install wiring, and move materials that have sped this work along. In particular: Scott Gregoire, Dave Sander, Ken Kelley, Peter Ridgeway, John Fleming, Ingvar Sodal, Steward Hartman, Shirah Hopson, Craig Kontny, Brian Lehmann, Loraine Burger, Maggie Butler, Yeager Bush, and Al Sadler.

Mention of Sodal Hall of course brings to mind the enormous contribution being made by Chuck Palmer in bringing the Avalon Building to fruition. He is the brain behind the project, much of the brawn, and the core of the drive to build Sodal Hall, finish the Ballroom, create the associated tango studio, manage the church tenant, deal with bookkeeping and taxes, and ....., and ....., and .....

Whenever you see him, you should thank our lucky stars we have such a champion in our local community.

Work is underway to create a studio dedicated to tango in the northeast corner of the building, which will be operated under a separate lease to Boulder Dance by Gustavo Naviera, who specializes in Argentine tango. The building permit has been submitted and preparations are being made for construction.

Importantly we have recently received a large gift and have increased the VAC ownership share in the Avalon to 14%. This goes a long way towards fulfilling one of our main goals as an organization, which is to fully own and manage the Avalon some time in the foreseeable future.

Towards all of these ends, the VAC board of directors conducted a planning retreat soon after the last annual meeting, at which three new board members were inducted. This led to work clarifying the VAC goals in support of our stated mission. We are making progress on many of those goals, largely by way of action through committees. We have refined several aspects of our by-laws and are working on others. We have clarified several aspects of the partnership agreement with Boulder Dance. We have changed the month of the annual meeting so that it is coherent with the issuance of the fiscal year-end financial statements.

## **The Future**

In the year ahead, we look forward to completing Sodal Hall, and the excitement and challenges of operating the new hall.

We are currently considering a change of name. The name "Village Arts Coalition" – developed in 1989 at the outset of this organization – has its strengths, but it has also been confusing to many people over the years. We are working to find if there is a more optimal name. Not a simple matter to find the perfect name for all that we do! We welcome your comments and/or suggestions.

As required by our by-laws, we will host our annual meeting on Sunday, April 28, at the Avalon. At this meeting there will be a short business meeting that will include an overview of our operations, followed by election of directors. We are keen to find new board members who can bring leadership and business acumen to our group. Your recommendations are welcome.

We are also eager to find additional people to help us with important tasks such as graphic advertising, outreach to groups, and special projects. We will be soliciting your specific help for the International festival in the near future.

This letter will conclude with a list of all current member groups that comprise the Village Arts Coalition, and other relevant information.

Most importantly, we thank you and every person who has helped sustain what is certainly one of the most vibrant and successful community dance and folk art coalitions in the nation. Thank you, and best wishes for a great New Year!

Larry Utter, President  
The Village Arts Coalition

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### **Individual VAC Membership**

Individual membership to the VAC is free. See the sign-up form on our web site. We welcome and encourage your support. Your membership will result in you receiving periodic emails about our organizational activities, and notice of the annual meeting.

### **VAC Group Membership**

Group membership is available to qualifying groups, and annual membership dues vary depending upon the size of the group. Each Member Group can cast one vote for Directors at the annual meeting.

### **Board Meetings**

The VAC board of directors typically meets monthly, on the first Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9 PM. We welcome representative from our Member Groups to attend. Meetings are open for observation by community members. Official minutes of these meetings are posted on the public page of our web site.

### **Calendar of Activities**

See our web site for the dance activities calendar, and information about member groups. There is a link to our public site that includes documents such as our mission statement. All Member Groups are encouraged to use this web site to keep the community informed of events at Avalon and the Pearl Street Studio and especially about special events.

### **VAC Web Site**

[www.villageartscoalition.org](http://www.villageartscoalition.org)

### **Avalon Manager**

Rick Thompson  
Telephone: 303-440-8303  
Email: [avalon@villageartscoalition.org](mailto:avalon@villageartscoalition.org)

### **VAC Board Members 2012**

Larry Utter, President  
Willard Crary, Vice President and Parliamentarian  
Deborah Howard, Treasurer  
Susan Reisser, Secretary  
Melba Shepard  
Caroline Stepanek  
Steward Hartman  
Chuck Palmer  
Susan Smith  
Rick Thompson  
Jim X. Borzym

**VAC Member Groups 2012** (alphabetical order)

American Vernacular Dance (AVD)  
Arkansas Valley Music & Dance (AVMAD)  
Art and Becky Bragg  
Barbara Roach Waltz Classes  
Boulder Hungarian Workshop  
Boulder International Folk Dancers (BIFD)  
Boulder Israeli Dancers  
Boulder Scandinavian Dancers (BSD)  
Boulder Swing Dance  
Boulder Zumba  
Boulder Zydeco  
Calico & Boots Square Dancers  
Central Rockies Old-Time Music Association (CROMA)  
CM Dance (Community Minded Dance)  
Colorado Friends of Cajun/Zydeco Music & Dance (CFCZ)  
Colorado Friends of Old Time Music & Dance (CFOOTMAD)  
Colorado Morris Dancers (Maroon Bells)  
Colorado Round Dance Association  
Colorado Sacred Harp  
Dancing Divas  
Family Dance Planet  
Folk Dancers Investor Group (FDIG)  
Fort Collins Folk Dancers  
Golden Bridge / Wild Life Productions  
Hora Romaneasca Romanian Dancers  
Keaka O Kalani  
Little London Assembly  
LocoTango para Todos  
Moon Festival  
Pikes Peak Traditional Dance  
Planina: Songs of Eastern Europe  
Planterhouse  
Postoley Dance Ensemble  
Salon Avalon Tango  
Scootbacks Square Dance Club  
Scottish Country Dancers of Colorado  
Snowhawk Productions (Boulder Salsa Social)  
Storm Mountain Folk Dancers  
StorySmith  
Sun Dance  
Tom Masterson/Danceophile Studio  
Winter Solabration Society