

## **A TEAM DEEP IN EXPERIENCE AND HIGH IN PASSION**

### The Board of Directors of Studios on the Park

When Studios on the Park founder Anne Laddon invited members of the community to sign on to the Board of Directors, she had firm criteria in mind. She was seeking experience and knowledge across a broad range of skills that would include business, finance, real estate development, construction, public relations, community involvement, fund-raising and city government expertise. Additionally, a love of the arts was seen as a requirement.

The immediate tasks at hand for the fledgling Board included the creation of a non-profit corporation and the development of a strategic and business plan. Frequent meetings with Paso Robles city officials led to a network of support. Additional meetings with Paso Robles city officials led to network of support. The most recent result of this collaboration is the Inaugural Festival of the Arts taking place on Memorial Day weekend. In addition, Board members had many planning sessions with the architect and city planners to finalize plans for the future two story building.

As Laddon reached out to individuals possessing these skill sets, she felt fortunate after receiving an unqualified "yes!" from those approached.

The current Board of Directors of Studios on the Park is made up of Newlin Hastings, Barbara Partridge, Deborah Baldwin, Phyllis Frank, Will Bateman, Elizabeth Hastings, Elisabeth Sarrow, Elaine Bateman, Jim Irving and Mark Sarrow. Assisting as Strategic Campaign Manager and Secretary is Sasha Irving.

Long time Paso Robles commercial real estate owner and developer Newlin Hastings comments,

**"I have been interested in the cultural development of the North County for years. The arts are the missing link needed to jumpstart the cultural resources available to both North County residents and visitors. This is such important work that anything I can do to assist becomes a top priority for me. I hope that my awareness of downtown commercial development will serve the project in the area of design and project management. I hope to assist in the coordination between the architect, the City of Paso Robles, and the general**

**contractor from the preliminary design phase through the project construction."**

Community activist Barbara Partridge was ready to hit the ground running.

**"It has been an exciting career helping first-hand to build parks, libraries, and programs like public concerts. As these amenities have been created, the City has become a charming world-class destination. The missing element is a viable showcase for fine arts. Welcome, Studios on the Park! Artists in action will inspire those of us lucky enough to live here, and will bring in visitors to a brand new and unique experience "**

Winery owner Deborah Baldwin accepted the invitation to the Studios on the Park Board of Directors with enthusiasm:

**"I was very honored to be invited to join the board of directors of Studios on the Park." My business and marketing experience promoting Justin Winery with my husband Justin Baldwin over the last 20 years has been instrumental in developing my love for this community and helping to promote it as a first class tourist destination. I believe the wine industry has been instrumental in this effort, but I also believe that in order for Paso Robles to become the destination we all know it can be, we need and want other reasons for people to visit."**

**"I think the Studios on the Park project is just what our business leaders need to promote that effort and as a winery owner I feel it could be so complimentary to the food and wine effort we have already gotten off the ground. The arts are historically a part of any wine region I have ever visited around the world and now it is so exciting to think that we are very close to having that actuality realized in our own downtown park. I look forward to helping promote this project in bringing awareness initially to make it happen and then continuing to create a positive view to our community and our visiting tourists."**

Since it's inception, the Studios on the Park Board of Directors have carried out a myriad of tasks on their way to seeing this dream of bringing the arts to the North County become a reality.

The one story existing building is currently being renovated and will result in what is being called Prelude: Studios On the Park. It will open in late Spring 2009 at 1130 Pine Street. In addition to

artists' workshops, it will contain classrooms and exhibits. Future plans include a complete rebuilding of the structure as a two story art center.

Studios on the Park, Inc. is a non profit organization dedicated to providing a creative, educational and transformational experience to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the visual arts. It has a commitment to make the creative process available to the public and offers its visitors a unique open studio environment. Studios features artists working in a variety of media. It offers educational programs for children and adults and quality exhibitions by regional, national and international artists.

For more information:

[www.studiosonthepark](http://www.studiosonthepark)

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