Cultivating Creative Wildness

With another year behind us, Abbey Arts is looking forward with gratitude. In retrospect of the recent harvest, we see abundance.

Every season contains a few fake starts, planted seeds that end up water-logged, carried to another plot, or otherwise unable to reach for the sun. But for every seed that stays dark in the earth, there is another spark of life that grows deep, tall, and strong. Planting enough seeds to ensure that growth outweighs stunted sprouts is simply a matter of good planning, but we’ve seen more than that.

Not only is our harvest bountiful with the fruits of our intentions, but new experiences & participants have come forward—unanticipated greenery, and new species are abloom.

New Blossoms: SUPERFOODS

Beginning in Fall 2012 the Abbey expanded our culinary arts horizons with the introduction of the SuperFoods Program, bringing a new kind of nourishment into our repertoire. Made possible in part by a City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund grant, we began this grow your brain on a City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund grant, we began this grow your brain on

In Our Ecosystem

Abbey Arts is proud to be a part of the $447.6 million industry of nonprofit arts and culture in the City of Seattle. According to The Arts & Economic Prosperity IV study put on by Americans for the Arts, Seattle arts nonprofits support 10,870 full-time equivalent jobs and generates $38.2 million in local and state government revenue! www.seattle.gov/arts/

In 2011, Abbey Arts’ Nathan Marion was featured on City Arts Magazine’s “Take 60” List: He was nominated for the creation of Abbey Arts and because he “sparked the historic land mark to life when he launched the Round.”

In 2010, The Abbey’s Birthday Fundraiser was sponsored by the Seattle Mosaic Mural Group, the celebration, Music & More out of the Abbey’s constituent neighborhood, bringing Fremont and a sense of community.

A Bountiful Harvest

Our flagship collaborative multi-arts event hit #90 in November 2012, occurring consecutively over the 90 months prior. This event is an extremely vital part of the Abbey as a monthly performance that connects creative to a unique collaborative performance including young musicians, songwriters and artists created directly in front of the audience in an intimate setting. Plus we added a new event, The Youth Round, curated and launched by youth including all performances under 21.

Notes From the Field

Creativity is a feeling unlike any other. My brain absolutely lights up when I experience it. Whether I’m a few feet away from a profound new performance, sitting on the floor in an epic concert space, or even attempting to make something new myself, I find inspiration often comes from being a part of a creative momentum, up close and in real life.

The effect of these experiences are magnified when shared with our community as our eyes widen and our minds are riveted to see the world around us with more depth.

Another thing that really wakes up my mind is going on adventures with my nephews. Sometimes I think even reverb and the tone of a beautiful voice can be a bit like viewing an epic expanse from the top of a mountain. A profound and intriguing painting can be calming like sitting next to an alpine lake. Hearing spoken word that opens the soul can be like turning soil in a garden. Seeing a modern dance can be like climbing a tree. The effect is palpable.

At Abbey Arts we believe everyone needs a chance to experience “close up” concerts, be MOVE by gorgeous spaces, new dancers, interact with visual arts, hear an amazing poem or story, or even create healthy creative food together with new friends and neighbors. With your support we are growing and changing to meet even more creative needs in Seattle and beyond. We are also working hard to support our local developing artists. With the Abbey’s recent expansion around Seattle we can now help artists all the way from The Youth Round up to an open mic, to releasing their album here, or even headlining a Cathedrals show with 800+ people attending.

Thanks to you, we can continue providing these life changing arts experiences for people of all ages and incomes. This is an exciting new season and I’m looking forward to all the fantastic eye-opening creativity in 2013!

~ Nathan Marion, Director

Abbey Arts focuses on music, dance, visual, literary and culinary arts in formats including multi-arts performances, group classes and workshops, individual lessons, new exhibits, community gatherings, and artistic life celebrations.

At the Root of it All

Our mission is to curate community arts experiences in welcoming spaces where people of all ages and incomes can grow in their artistic and social development.

“The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.”

Masanobu Fukuoka, The One-Straw Revolution

Nationally renowned storytelling event now in Seattle and only at Fremont Abbey! 1st Thursdays, The Moth’s Seattle StorySLAM! “The Moth is an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. It is a celebration of both the cocreator who breathes fire into true tales of ordinary life, and the storytelling novice, who has lived through something extraordinary and yearns to share it.” We are honored to be the venue for the Seattle chapter of this nationwide phenomenon. Find out more at themoth.org

Fremont Abbey ARTS CENTER
Sprouting Community: Arts Connect

Providing access for people of all ages and incomes to experience inspiring arts events & concerts.

We are proud to offer 100% of arts event tickets each month to numerous nonprofits around the county, providing FREE entrance for both clients and employees of organizations including Solid Ground, Aurora Commons, Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Transitional Resources, Forst Firm, and many more. We offer these tickets because we feel that when nonprofit workers are inspired and encouraged, they can better inspire and help those they work with everyday.

One of the highlights for me has been watching The Cellar Door, a young Seattle band, grow and become a fast part of the Seattle music scene over the last year. After their debut at the Round Room, I first saw them perform here at the Abbey to a sold out crowd. As they played their first song, you could feel in the air that we were all witnessing something spectacular. It’s moments like that one that epitomize my experiences at the Abbey—a place to discover and experience something beautiful and inspiring. It’s about local artists discovering their voices, finding a place of support, and growing into something new and energizing to the Seattle community. It’s about the community redefining their own creativity and imagination, and having a place to participate and dream.

It all comes back to community, to experiences that enrich and refresh the mind, the heart and the soul. I’d like to thank you for your support in helping us achieve this thus far, and invite you to look forward with us to the opportunities ahead.

Thank You for Cultivating the Arts!

Scotiabank-Department of Neighbourhoods, 4Culture, Seattle Office of Art and Culture, Fremont Chamber of Commerce, Peko-Peko, Noël & Jennifer Olsen, The Uplift Urn Catering, Portable Bay Catering, Mader Kitchen Catering, The Triple Door, Church of the Apostles, Vegan Fusion, Boldhat, Late Tuesday, Art Institute

Dig In!

Everything we do here can benefit from your added spirit and elbow grease. Volunteering is a rewarding stay to learn more about what we do and to share in the creation and enjoyment of incredible art experiences. Join us anytime by signing up online.

www.fremontabbey.org/Volunteer