



May 19, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Ellen A. "Nan" Plummer served the Arkansas Arts Center as executive director from November 1, 2002 to April 12, 2010. While she was our executive director, AAC accomplishments include the creation of the first strategic plan in more than a decade and the fulfillment of its key objectives for the collection, exhibitions, programs, and financial resources.

Through the work of able curators whom she hired, many fine drawings and contemporary craft objects came by purchase and gift into these signature collections of the Arkansas Arts Center. She expanded the exhibition program to include high-quality offerings with broad popular appeal, bringing many "firsts" to the museum and to the state. Always a strong advocate for education, she increased dramatically the Arts Center's service to children and underserved audiences throughout Arkansas. In 2009-10, 30,000 students will visit the Arts Center-up from 5,000 in 2003-04. Dr. Plummer also engineered the solidification of the development effort, resulting in an increase to annual operating gifts by 95% during her tenure.

Nan has been the face of the Arkansas Arts Center to the community, drawing new donors, volunteers, students, and visitors of all kinds to a friendlier and more accessible museum. A local columnist wrote recently, "Thanks to Nan Plummer's work, ambitious plans and always obliging manner, the arts center has stayed more than a museum. It's been a gathering-place, educational institution and people-friendly hub in general." Her contributions to the Arkansas Arts Center, and to the life of the arts in Arkansas, are deeply appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belinda Shults".

Belinda Shults, President
Arkansas Arts Center Board of Trustees

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