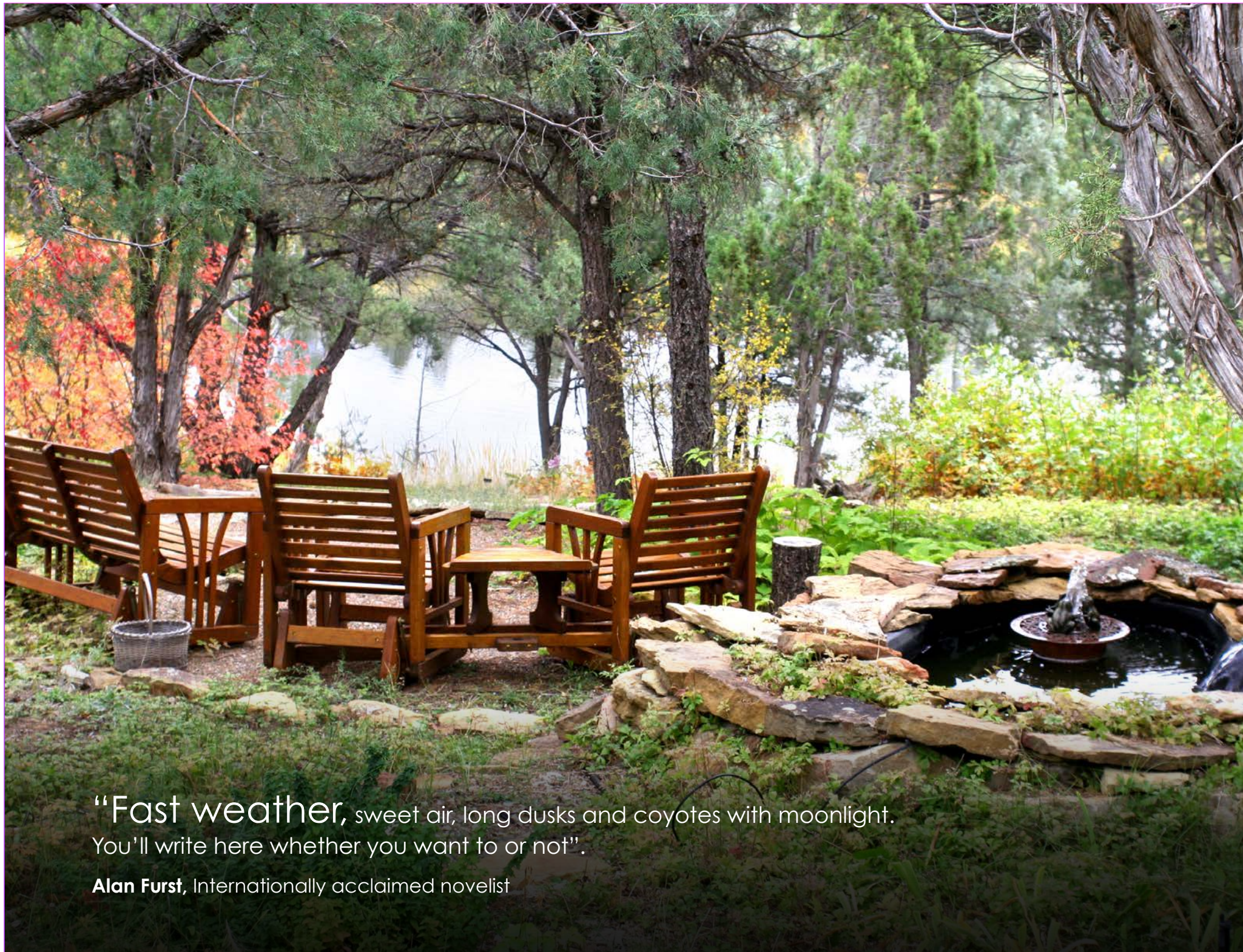


WILLOWTAIL SPRINGS

NATURE
PRESERVE
&
EDUCATION
CENTER

Residencies in the Arts and Ecology
MANCOS, COLORADO



“Fast weather, sweet air, long dusks and coyotes with moonlight.
You’ll write here whether you want to or not”.

Alan Furst, Internationally acclaimed novelist

MISSION



Enriching our community by building a creative network of practitioners in the arts and ecology through inspiration and place.

A man and a woman are shown in profile, smiling and embracing each other. The man is wearing a brown fedora and a colorful striped shirt. The woman is wearing a light blue wide-brimmed hat and a dark top. They are standing in front of a dense green background of foliage.

VISION AND CORE VALUES

Peggy and Lee Cloy created the nonprofit organization, Willowtail Springs Nature Preserve and Education Center as an expression of their bond with each other and the land, for the purpose of offering extended time and space residency scholarships to emerging and mid-career creatives.

- **ATTRACT** excitement, expression and innovation in the arts and care of the environment.
- **PROTECT**, conserve and steward nature with a light hand.
- **MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE** the 60 acres of Willowtail Springs, its buildings and its unique, diverse ecosystems.
- **NURTURE** curiosity, imagination and its manifestations.
- **SHARE** our joy, talents and commitment through our residents' participation within the community.
- **COMMIT** to preserve Willowtail and its programs in perpetuity as a creative resource in the local community and beyond.

THE BEGINNING

A scenic landscape photograph of a pond with reeds and trees in the background. The pond is in the foreground, reflecting the sky and the surrounding vegetation. The reeds are tall and thin, with some seed heads visible. The trees in the background are a mix of green and brown, suggesting an autumn setting. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

1992: Artist Peggy Conklin purchases 40 acres and several run-down buildings between the high, alpine desert and lush forests of Southwest Colorado, near Mesa Verde National Park and Durango.

2000: Peggy and Lee Cloy marry and another 20 acres is purchased. Improvements in systems and structures are made to the property and additional buildings added. Wildlife ponds and complex water systems are constructed through National Resources Conservation Service. Several thousand old growth trees are saved from bark beetle over 4-year period. Bird habitat is enhanced and extended.

2012: Willowtail Springs Nature Preserve and Education Center is officially designated a 501(c)(3) by the IRS. Collaborations begin with partners such as the Durango Arts Center, Open Shutter Gallery, Studio & and Mancos Library.


RESIDENCY PROGRAMS IN THE ARTS AND ECOLOGY

- Willowtail offers time and space to work for practitioners in the arts and ecology.
- Residents contemplate and develop their projects influenced by the preserve's sights, sounds, smells and touch.
- Deeper works are aided by the unexpected directions of thought and expansion of nascent ideas into more robust and surprising creations.
- These ideas and processes are shared for the benefit of our local community.

*"Only poetry can
best describe what
is felt in this place.*

*To some it may feel
sacred, to others it is a
connection that
has been lost. This con-
nection is reclaimed
when the quiet
and stillness are loudest."*

Margy Dudley,
Resident, Photographer

A bright, sunlit dining room with a round wooden table and four chairs. The table is set with a red cloth, a small vase of flowers, and two glasses. Large windows in the background offer a view of a lake and a forest. A potted plant with pink flowers sits on a small table next to the window.

"Willowtail is a space of great intention. The founder's care and vision are ever present—from the framing of the landscape through the windows, to the wending through the woods, to the picturesque accommodations. Even though the views were expansive, I was deeply focused and without distraction during my residency. I had set very ambitious goals, and I not only met them, but exceeded them and became deeply enchanted with the land and logic of Willowtail!"

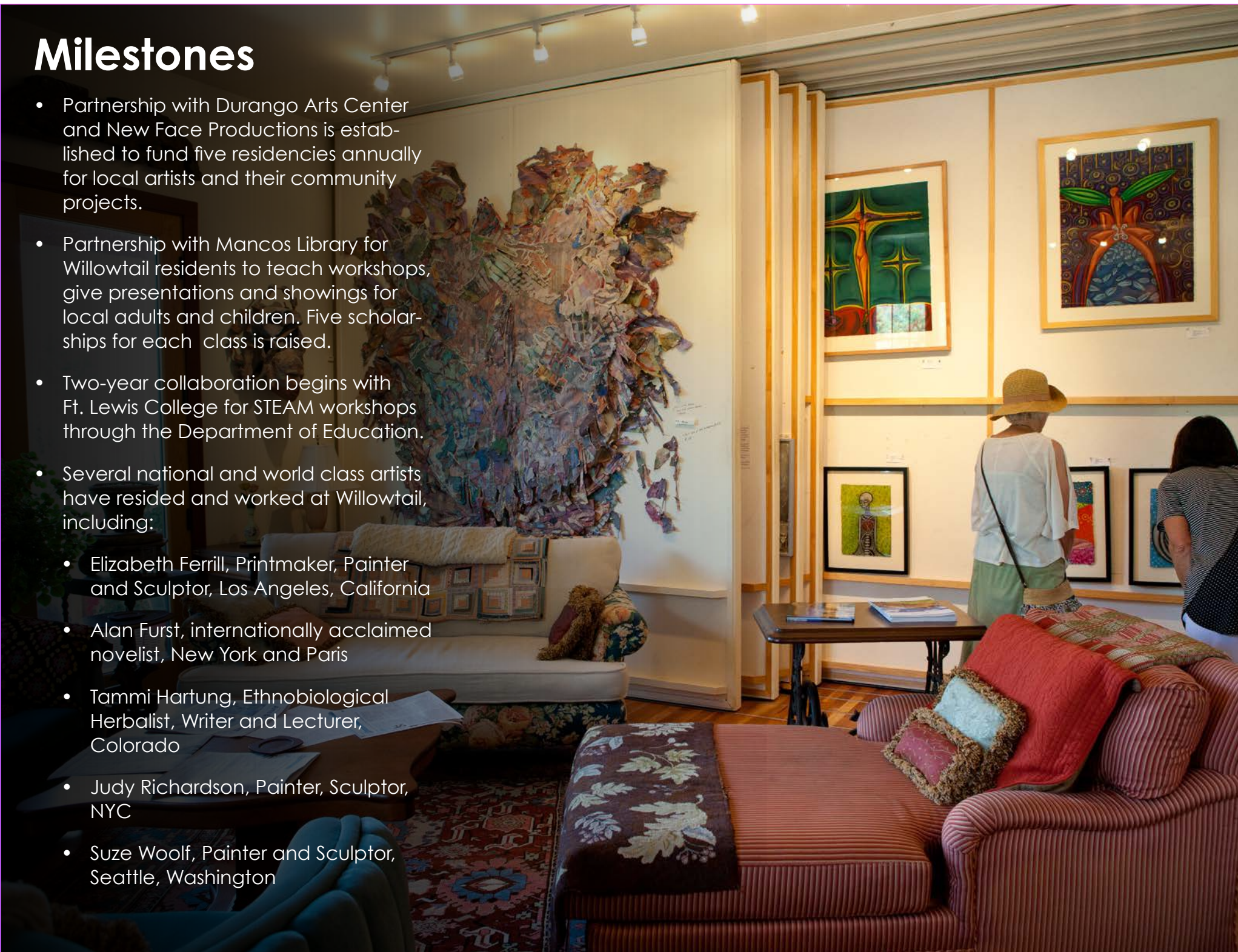
Nina Elder, Resident, former Director, Santa Fe Art Institute

"It was not simply the physical space of Willowtail, for all its beauty. I can write anywhere. It was Willowtail's energetic creative power, which showed me what I needed to write."

David Holub, Resident, Journalist, Playwright

Milestones

- Partnership with Durango Arts Center and New Face Productions is established to fund five residencies annually for local artists and their community projects.
- Partnership with Mancos Library for Willowtail residents to teach workshops, give presentations and showings for local adults and children. Five scholarships for each class is raised.
- Two-year collaboration begins with Ft. Lewis College for STEAM workshops through the Department of Education.
- Several national and world class artists have resided and worked at Willowtail, including:
 - Elizabeth Ferrill, Printmaker, Painter and Sculptor, Los Angeles, California
 - Alan Furst, internationally acclaimed novelist, New York and Paris
 - Tammi Hartung, Ethnobiological Herbalist, Writer and Lecturer, Colorado
 - Judy Richardson, Painter, Sculptor, NYC
 - Suze Woolf, Painter and Sculptor, Seattle, Washington




Milestones



- Fundraising and celebratory events at Willowtail with resident artist demonstrations, refreshments and facilities open to the public to enjoy, attracting attendees from La Plata, Montezuma counties and beyond.



- Performances and presentations by residents at Willowtail, Sunflower Theater, Durango Arts Center, Mancos Library, Buffalo Hangar
- "Two Artists Perspective on Wild-fire" - collaborative presentation with visual artist Suze Woolf and writer Lorena Williams at Mancos Library.

A photograph of two women in a dance pose outdoors. The woman in the foreground is wearing a blue tank top and sunglasses, looking upwards with her arms outstretched. The woman behind her is wearing a black top and has her arms raised in a graceful pose. They are surrounded by lush green trees and foliage, suggesting a park or garden setting. The lighting is bright, indicating it is daytime.

Directors, musicians and the entire troupe of **20 Moons Dance Theatre** were in residency to create a new piece, bringing further diversity to Willowtail's programming.

"There is something that inspires and unleashes creative thought. The big sky, the glory of the garden, the peacefulness of sitting on the porch as I write. This isn't the first time I've gone to Willowtail to work on a book and it won't be the last."

Susan Marquis, Dean & Distinguished Chair of Policy Analysis, Vice President Emerging Policy Research and Methods, Pardee Rand Graduate school. Her book "***I am Not a Tractor***", partly written at Willowtail, is a fascinating study of the migrant tomato and melon pickers in Florida.

REVERIES

THREE YEARS OF WILLOWTAIL

CURATED BY REGINA HOGAN

SEPT 29 – OCT 21

OPENING RECEPTION: SEPT 29, 5pm

Willowtail's first major retrospective, "Reveries" curated by Regina Hogan, showcased 23 past residents in a month-long exhibit at the Durango Arts Center. Special events included Artists Talks.





Over 100 Volunteers have spent countless hours supporting Willowtail.
We have become an expanding Family.

Artists, donors, board members, volunteers, writers, musicians and guests all enjoy sharing time together at Willowtail.



"The energetic make-up of the earth under and around Willowtail, the accumulation of passion and accomplishments of the founders and creatives who have been here, all form a container of freedom, protection and inspiration for artists to create in way they have not done before. One is filled with an unimaginable calm and the intensity to work."

Carol Meckling, Resident Artist

NEED

For Willowtail to continue to grow and enrich the community, it is essential that we transition from a founder/volunteer-run facility to one with a professional staff and appropriate marketing.

To achieve this requires corresponding funding levels that can ensure Willowtail's long-term sustainability.

Donations, grants, and endowments are critical to help us with this transition.



WHY DONATE?



Value: Willowtail's growth and power as a center for creativity must be supported through building a professional staff to manage the organization into the future.

Established Program: Willowtail has a proven 20-year track record as an organization offering time and space for creative individuals.

Place: Willowtail is an iconic artistic and environmental location, strongly committed to creative growth and ecological stewardship.

Spirit: Willowtail integrates arts, nature and environment in a poetic, powerful mix, manifesting bold new concepts and cutting-edge discoveries.

Education: Willowtail is a resource for both youth and adults in our community, as well as established or emerging practitioners in the arts.

Partnerships: Willowtail has joined with regional organizations, thus extending the funding of transformative programs for the arts and our community.

Possibilities: Willowtail's founders, board, donors, residents and guests are committed to protect the property and the programs into a thriving future.

Some of our Financial Supporters Include

- Ballantine Family Fund
- Erteszek Foundation
- Dolores State Bank
- John G. Duncan Foundation
- Onward Foundation
- Red Mountain Fund
- SW Community Foundation
- Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation
- Mercury Gives
- Plus Many Individual Donors

Hanging paintings of charred trees by resident, Suze Woolf, painter and sculptor from Seattle.



“Another beautiful, idyllic respite.

This is a glorious refuge where quiet seeps into my body and my mind becomes free from lists, demands and urban shrillness. It is a place for gathering, dreaming and essential peacefulness. A coot cuts a wake across the lake, its crying echoing into the blue bowl of the sky. That I were so free, to paddle in such a home....”

Linda Bowers, Former Director: Hedgebrook Women Writers' Retreat, Velocity Dance, Seattle Arts and Lectures, multiple stays at Willowtail.

CONTACT US

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Photography Credits: Barbara Grist | Margy Dudley | IlluminArts | Deborah Sussex | Peggy Cloy
Graphics and Layout: David Holub | Petra Hinke



THANK YOU!
YOUR GIFT HAS AN ENORMOUS IMPACT.

— THE WILLOWTAIL TEAM