

Making Connections



*Studio 84
Annual Report
2010*



MISSION VISION

*Studio 84 will provide fully accessible opportunities in the arts
to enrich peoples lives*

*by focusing on the strengths and abilities of the individual,
by encouraging the creative voice with self directed activities,
thus, inspiring self-worth, pride, confidence and acceptance.*

*A Creative Focus on the Abilities
through the Arts*

Studio 84

A Creative Focus on the Abilities through the Arts

From Founder and Director, Deborah Blackwell

A wise person once said: Don't chase the money; passionately pursue your mission.

For many years Katherine and I had been making plans towards our dream of having an art studio that specialized in working with people with disabilities. Over ten years, when we actually try to count! Over the years many things leaped in our way, reminding us it wasn't time yet. Growing families, school for both of us, loss of jobs, changes in life's circumstances all reminded us, it wasn't time yet.

In the meantime, a business plan developed. Research on how to start a non-profit grew and became part of our knowledge base. Incorporation and non-profit status was a yearlong process of applications and verifications. We learned much in a very short time during the last couple years of my schooling. Katherine had already graduated in 2003 and by May of 2008, after I graduated, things were in place and ***something was saying the world was ready for us.***

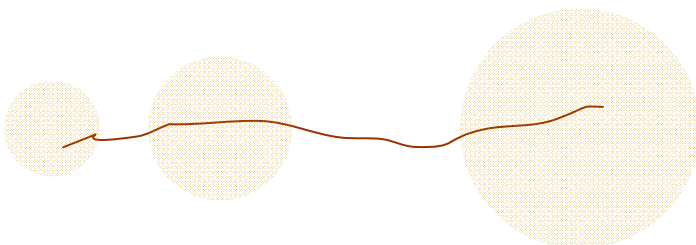
On July 1, 2009 we were in our building at 121 W. Center Street in downtown Whitewater, Wisconsin. Well at least in half of our building, with some art on the wall and borrowed tables, a found file cabinet, donated paper and paint from our left over years in art school. But we were open and hit the ground running.

Our first year and a half of operation was about making connections. Nobody knew of our mission and our passion for what we wanted to do. It is our passion that helped make the needed connections.

It is this passion that will continue to help us with our connections and succeed; we know that without a doubt.

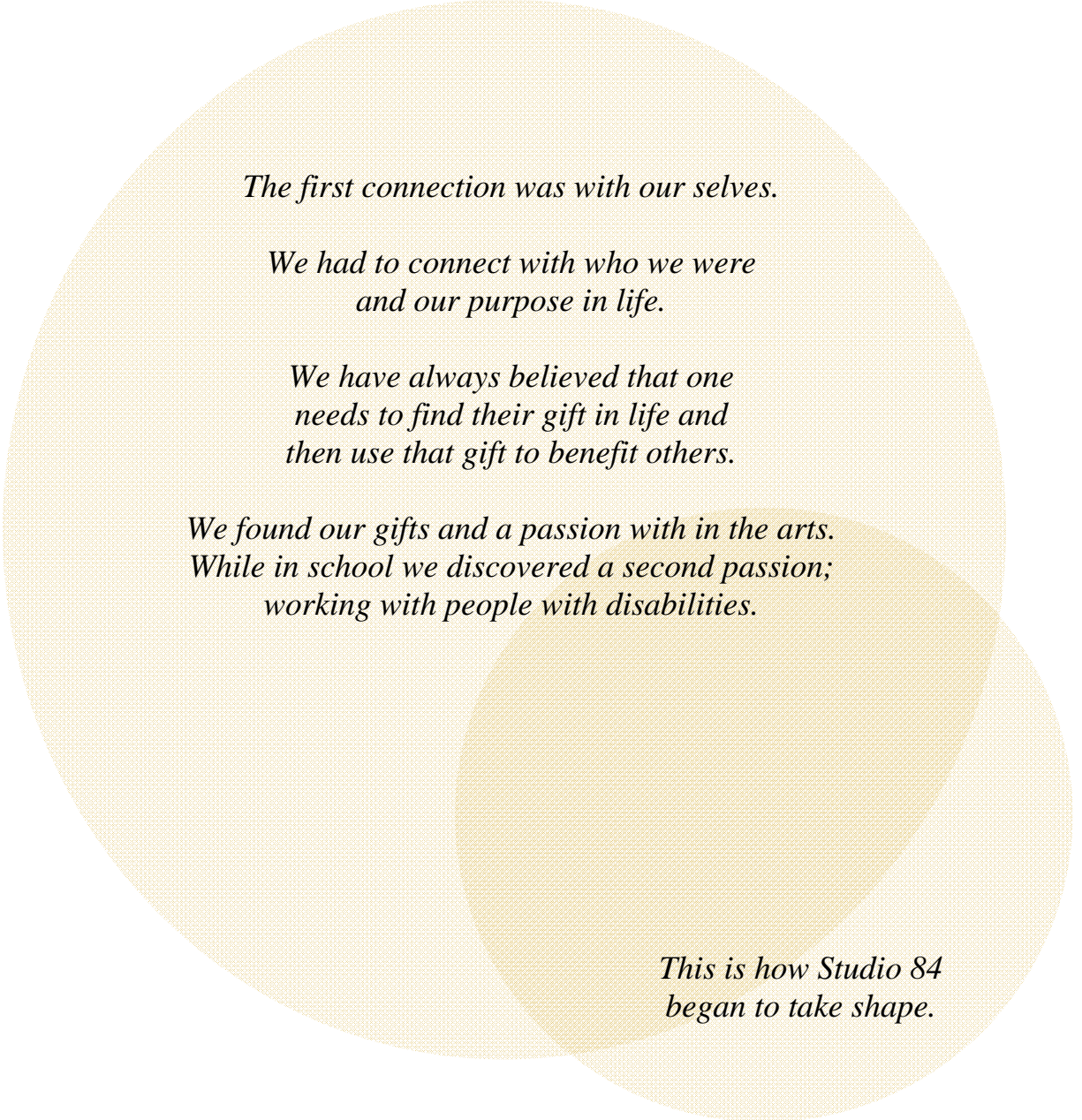
Creatively yours,

Deborah



The First Connections





The first connection was with our selves.

*We had to connect with who we were
and our purpose in life.*

*We have always believed that one
needs to find their gift in life and
then use that gift to benefit others.*

*We found our gifts and a passion with in the arts.
While in school we discovered a second passion;
working with people with disabilities.*

*This is how Studio 84
began to take shape.*



DEBORAH L BLACKWELL

Education

2008 Graduate of UW Whitewater, BFA (sculpture) with Arts Management Minor.
Graduated *Suma Cum Laude*

1973 Graduate of Blackhawk Technical School—Child Care Assistant

Experience

2006-2008 Gallery Assistant at Crossman Gallery, UW-Whitewater

2004-2007 UW-Whitewater Center For Students with Disabilities, van driver,
In-class aide and Homework aide.

2004-2005 Physical Therapist Aide--Balistreri & Associates

2001-2003 Physical Therapist Aide--Greenfield Rehab Agency

1998-2002 The Young Scholars Art Program for the Gifted and Talented,
taught ceramics and book making

1999-Aug Artist In Residence at Children's Theatre School, Inc. Gretta
Assaly, School Director

1998-Aug Computer Tutor through Walworth County Dept. of Human
Services and Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

1998-Jun-Aug Autism Behavioral Network, Line Therapist for Children with
Autism

1996-Aug-Dec Arts Assistant at B. Gardner Art Program, Lake Geneva

1996-Apr-Nov Community Center, after school activities coordinator
Chestnut Ridge, Delavan

1996-Jan-May Center Gallery, UW-Whitewater, Gallery Assistant

1992-1997 Director of Odyssey of the Mind Program for Delavan-Darien
School District

1995-96 Geneva Lake Manor Nursing Home, Activity Assistant

1983-85 Taught art to home schooled children

Professional Memberships

Wisconsin Regional Artist Association 1992-2007 (Regional Coordinator)

Friends of the West Bend Art Museum 1995

Lakeland Players Ltd. 1995-97 (Technical Director, Scene Artist)

Walkers Point Center of the Arts 1996 to present

Geneva Lake Art Association 1996, 97, 98 (Gallery Manager)



KATHERINE FINCUTTER

Education

1998-2003 University of Wisconsin Whitewater, Whitewater, WI
- BFA (sculpture), Art History Minor
- Graduated *cum laude*

Experience

2009-Present Whitewater Unified School District, Whitewater, WI
- Assistant Director of High School Plays

2009-Present Nelson's Bus Service, Whitewater, WI
- Special Needs Bus Driver

2006-2008 St. Coletta of Wisconsin, Jefferson, WI
- Transportation Manager

2006 St. Coletta of Wisconsin: Alverno, Jefferson, WI
- Recreational Aide

2002-2005 Center for Students with Disabilities, UW-Whitewater
- Transportation Coordinator

2001 YMCA Camp Edwards, East Troy, WI
- Art Director

1998-2006 UW-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI
- Tutor/Note Taker/Art Studio Aide

Professional Memberships

Council for Exceptional Children
Lakeland Players, Ltd
Walkers Point Center of the Arts
Wisconsin Regional Artist Association

The Next Connections



Board of Directors—*Important Connections*

We are excited to introduce you to our board members! They come with incredible knowledge, insight, and skills that will assist us in moving forward. Most importantly they believe in the mission and purpose of Studio 84.



Karen McCulloch, President

Karen has her degree in theater from UW-Whitewater. She's very active in the community. She currently is employed at a Whitewater business and is co owner of Royal Oaks Productions.

Stasia Wilson, Vice President

Stasia received her BA in Fine Arts and a minor in English from UW-Whitewater. She is a prolific painter and is often in the studio working on her own art or assisting others. Stasia has Cerebral Palsy and uses a head stick to paint with. She also assists with the Studio's administrative needs.



Laura Graham, Secretary/Treasurer

Laura is a computer program tester and mother of an adult child with a disability.



Jennifer Smith, Board Member

Jennifer joined the board in November of 2010 and is excited to see our growth since opening and plans for the coming year. She is a special education teacher in the Janesville school district and comes to us with a wealth of ideas and experience.

Steven Smith is an Assistant Professor of Business for Upper Iowa University. He enjoys writing, drawing, and working with his hands. He is also a big movie buff.



Advisory Board Members

Frank J. Ludicky is an electronics engineer and patron of the arts.

Gloria Vasquez is an RN and has her masters in art therapy. She is an alumnus of UW-Whitewater with a degree in art.

The Artists—Best Connections of All

They are the reasons why we do what we do!! It is their stories and successes that fuel our passion. These are just a few of our many students and stories.

Betsy Russ resident at Inspiration Ministries:

“Hi, I was there this morning. It was the highlight of my summer. I cried for joy all the way home. Meeting Stasia was awesome.” *Email from Betsy.*

Note: Betsy has put her art in the background for over 30 years. Doing computer ‘art’ to supplement her income instead. She has cried so many times when she comes here because of the joy she feels knowing she has a place that understands her needs and desires as a creative person. She is thrilled to be back to painting after all these years! She sees others who can do art and are even more physically challenged than she is and they are an inspiration to her.



Betty Mulloy, VP of Marketing and Development at Inspiration Ministries:

“Betsy stopped me in the hallway a couple of days ago to show me her new oil pastels. She was beaming and teary with joy. This has given her such light and life; I wish she could go every week!”



Jane Dewey:

We learned that Jane was on her way to becoming a doctor when an accident changed her life plans. A lack of confidence in her abilities in all areas of her life was evident as she talked casually with us while working. She has told us many times how much she enjoys coming here to paint and learn new things. She mentioned that she feels like there is hope now.

Austin, a young man with Traumatic Brain Injury

Austin is just beginning with us and while his memory isn't what it should be for a young man of only 23, he knows what days he's coming to paint and create at Studio 84. He's intelligent and creative; he just can't always remember things due to short-term memory problems. His mother is so thrilled to have found us. After years of trying several other options for Austin, such as technical school, and being turned away, she feels Studio 84 is finally a place where Austin fits in, is accepted for who he is and will be challenged to grow at his pace.





Cathy Colahan:

Cathy loves coming to Studio 84. She has told us it is so nice to get out of the house and do something different and learn new things. She loves exploring new colors she mixes herself.

Linda's Story:

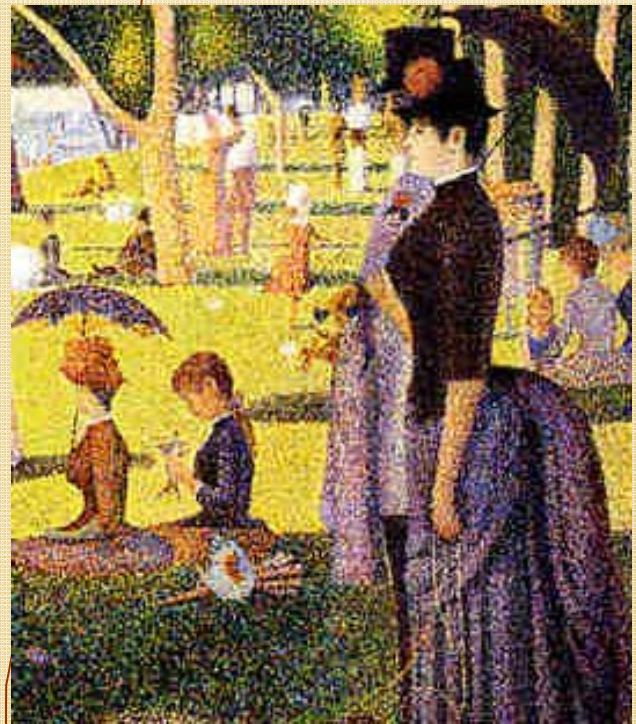
Linda is 70 yrs old and cognitively about the age of 3-5 yrs old. She has, in just 8 short weeks of one hour each week, become noticeably more independent and focused at her job; a sheltered workshop in Fort Atkinson. While she is at Studio 84 she has gone from needing complete assistance with getting set up to doing this herself. She makes all her own decisions as to what she wants to paint on, what colors she will use, what brushes to paint with. Linda's aide has worked with her for over 6 years. She is very familiar with her consistent and methodical behaviors.



For example, she told us of how she needs to sit in the same chair each time she visits the doctor, every time she visits. Yet while at Studio 84 she has become very flexible. She now chooses to sit in a variety of places, sometimes on one side of the room, others at an easel or at a table. She has even sat on the floor to paint! Linda continues to surprise her aide with the choices she is making and what she does. Linda's conversation with others and us is starting to improve, before she wouldn't converse at all. Now she will ask for help when she needs it. Her art is even starting to change with her choice of colors and in using more colors. It has been a fascinating journey to see Linda grow and develop in so many ways that are also flowing into her daily life at work and at home. All just because of the art experiences she receives at Studio 84.

You can view more of our artists' work at our website www.studio84inc.org

Our Future Connections



We've accomplished a tremendous amount since opening and have made many connections within the community.

Our goals for next year are to deepen those connections and make more.

Developing for 2011--building further connections with

- Volunteers
- Interns
- UW-Whitewater organizations
- City events
- Other art organizations

Programming growth will include our

- Theater Program
- Art & Disability Awareness Month events in October
- Art in Motion Bike Ride/Walk
- Gala Night with Friends of Studio 84
- Art @ Work Program
- Self-Enrichment Program
- Exhibits in gallery

*If we can make a small
difference in one person's life,
our life will have been worth living.*



**The Financial
Connection**

Big Friends of Studio 84—*Supporting Connections*

We want to say special thanks to our Friends of Studio 84 for their support the past two years of development. For without this connection we could not exist and grow.

Individual Friends

Frank Ludicky
Deborah Blackwell
Dawn Hunter
Max White
Christina and Deji Akinlosotu
Julia Ince
Walter and Carina Boyd
John Wickenberg
Wade Dazey
Katherine Fincutter
Sue Messer
Marshal Anderson
Robert McCullough
Ann Engleman
David Pawl
Sue Hughes
Shirley and Donald Wickersheimer
Saskia Lodder
Dennis & Debbie Lee
Mark Delaney
Kenneth Kohberger
Dan Sable
Sue Hughes
Mike Kluvia
Erin Amundson
Mark Delaney
Jen, Gwen and Steve Smith
Amy & Charlie Whitehead
Barb & Bob Grant
Tim Cullen
Erin Diercx
Kevin & Nancy Brunner
Cindy Glazman
Connie Wiersma
Rachel Scott
Graciela Colin-Delaca
Mike Blackwell
Ray Blackwell
Kevin Brunner
Robert Mertens
Gloria Vasquez

Corporate & Organization Friends

The Coburn Company, Inc.
Whitewater Arts Alliance
The Congregational Church
Theta Alpha Phi-UWW
Treadhead Cycling Club-Lake Geneva
GMA Printing-Whitewater
Quiet Hut Sports-Whitewater
LaGrange General Store
Sentry Foods-Whitewater

“Stuff” Friends

No they are not really “stuffy” they bring us stuff and there are too many to list. Many are anonymous; they drop in with stuff and leave us with stuff like:
Paint, papers, canvases, oatmeal boxes, plastic trays, books for our library and so much more.
To our Stuffy Friends, we send special thanks for thinking of us.

Grants Received

Wisconsin Arts Board Grant
Young Auditorium Grant

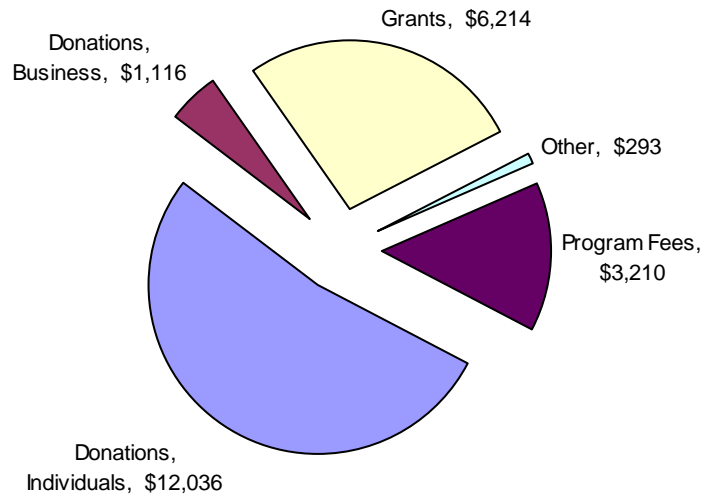
Revenue

A very large portion of our revenues comes from our individual donors.

While grants covered a portion of revenue in 2010, they are not a dependable source of income, as it really depends on finding a grant that fits our needs and then receiving the grant.

Goals for 2011

To continue researching for and applying for grants and obtain support from foundations and corporations that will provide regular year to year operational support.



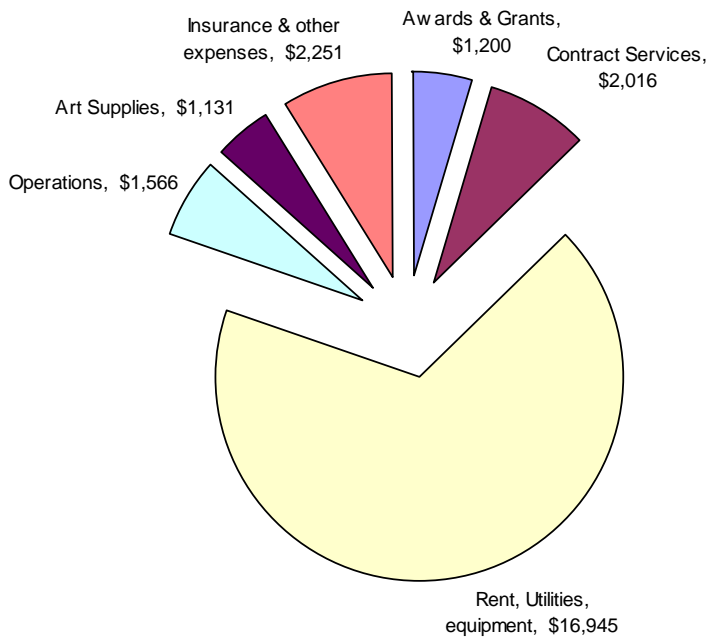
Expenses

Rent and utilities spends almost three fourths of our income.

Other expenses include printing, ink, paper, web hosting, postage, insurance, art supplies and payments to leaders of some special workshops.

Goals for 2011

While we are good at what we call scrounging for materials (aka dumpster diving) and sale hunting to keep costs down, our goal is reach out to our friends who do the same and can collect items such as paint, canvases, other supplies to keep these costs as low as possible.



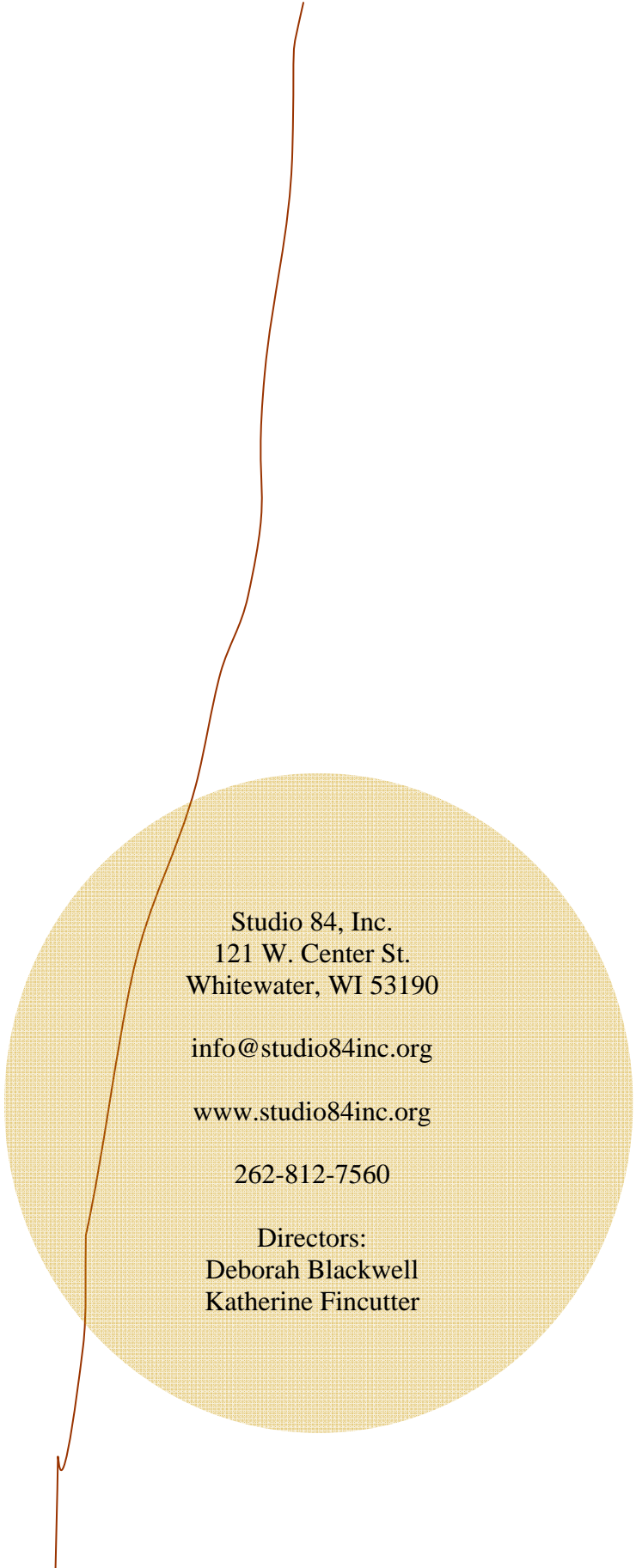
STUDIO 84 PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is to provide open exploration of any medium chosen by the student with individualized guidance.

By looking closely at each student's abilities and skill level, individual instruction is provided. Whatever challenges they may bring with them a creative solution will be sought to nurture their inner creative needs and provide every opportunity for success. Students are challenged and encouraged to grow at their own pace.

BENEFITS OF ART

Enhances self-image and self-esteem
Change identity from “disabled person” to “creative artist”
Encourages decision-making and independence
Establishes or preserves sense of identity
Counteracts social isolation
Improves communication skills
Improves motor coordination and manual dexterity
Provides alternative for unacceptable behavior



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Directors:
Deborah Blackwell
Katherine Fincutter