



Seldovia Gazette

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Thanks to the Artists and the Community

Hi Everyone,

As you may or may not have noticed, I have been away from Seldovia this year, dealing with some issues surrounding my father's death and for good or for bad, did not get a chance to attend either of the Seldovia Arts Council events for which I wrote WESTAF and ALASKA STATE COUNCIL on the ARTS grants: The Refugees and Les Yeux Noirs. I have had reports back from the council members who did attend, that the shows were wonderful and that they brought a great deal to the community.

The Refugees were three significant women from Los Angeles , Wendy Waldman, Cindy Bullens and Deborah Holland who have been working in the music business for many years and have written numerous award winning songs. Thier songwriting classes were inspiring. Les Yeux Noirs was a great Gypsy Jazz group from France which has been touring internationally. These lively entertainers brought 50% of Seldovia out to music and that is a statistic to be proud of. This is so encouraging to the Seldovia Arts Council. It lets us know that our work has been appreciated. Attendance at events is the biggest gift of support our community can offer. Thanks to the community for showing this kind of support again and again. For a town our size... this is one heck of a lot of support!!

These events are just the last two of over 100 events that have been produced by the Seldovia Arts Council. The Seldovia Arts Council has enjoyed the talents over the years of a great and wonderful group of VOLUNTEERS who have written grants, put up stages, worked lights and sound, put together workshops, hosted events and garnered talent from all over the world, putting Seldovia on the map in the eyes of many entertainers and artists who once they see it and experience the charm of its residents, want to come back again and again. These volunteers, include, many of the businesses who sponsor events, like the Seldovia Summer Solstice Music Festival. It is hard to believe that The Seldovia Summer Solstice Music Festival is now in its 10th YEAR!

It takes a community to build the arts. The Seldovia Arts Council as we know it began in 1982 when Darlene Crawford who was then mayor of the City of Seldovia had the foresight to create the public forum in which it presently stands. Since then, it has blossomed. I, too, have been involved since 1982 and there have been so many community members like me. Before 1976, an arts group calling itself SCRO produced events. There was once a Community Schools that covered many workshops and events as well. Many arts events have been produced by SVT and SNA and the Boys and Girls Club over time and the arts at Susan B. English school have also flourished through the teaching staff, through ALASKA STATE COUNCIL on the ARTS Artists in the Schools Program and other programs. There was even an arts co-op named Synergy that helped artists find a market, a spring-board for some, a place of relaxation for others. And much much more. Seldovia has wonderful artists and a creative spirit.

It has been my absolute pleasure to be involved in the arts programming for Seldovia for all these years in one way or another, first as a teacher at the school and later as the Director of the Seldovia Arts Council and as an artist personally. I want to personally thank everyone who has worked beside me and with me and around me. I would like to thank the audiences and the artists. I have loved you all, even if at times....well, you know...I don't say it enough.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Susan Mumma

Chairman of the Seldovia Arts Council

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