Artistry Community,

A critical decision to support funding for Artistry’s future has been delayed until early January so the box office will need to remain closed until January 11, 2023. This is a disappointment as we had hoped to re-engage with you all this week before the holidays, but we remain hopeful and grateful for the opportunity to seek support in the new year.

The team at Artistry has been working diligently over these past few months to honor the work and impact of the people that have made this organization special over the past 60 plus years. Here is a snapshot of the work and the plans for a future Artistry.

Until October 2022, Artistry produced and curated arts experiences in Bloomington Center for Arts and the surrounding community through theatrical productions, visual arts galleries, educational classes in the center and outreach community programming with a FT staff of 15 plus contracted, seasonal and PT employees as well as many volunteers.

In October we paused all programming and reduced salaried staff to 4 to re-examine our mission, impact and viability. Over these 2 and a half months with the work of the board, current and former staff and the financial support of donors and this council, we have:
• successfully paid all artists for completed work,
• paid or negotiated down more than 50% of the liabilities created under past leadership,
• spoken with many funders and donors to ensure support should Artistry find a way to remain viable into the new year, including securing matching funds should we be successful in our fundraising efforts.

After reviewing our financial history and revamped budget and cash flow we were elated to find that the outside financial experts we consulted see a solid way forward and will walk with us through this turn around.

During this challenging time we have re-focused on our biggest opportunities for revenue and community impact. For Artistry to survive and thrive we must pare down programming to align with a clearer mission and our financial reality.

Should Artistry receive the funding we are seeking in 2023:
• We will operate at approximately 60% of the previous annual budget, programming and staffing levels.
• We will focus on presenting visual arts exhibits in the 3 Artistry curated galleries, producing our 4-show theatrical season and streamlining and reimagining educational opportunities for the community.
• We will engage a strategic planning firm to embark on a community-infused process in early 2023 as we build for the future.
• Our board will undergo financial leadership training, invite new directors and adopt more financial accountability to ensure a secure future.

**22-23 Season Impact**
- Presented a lighter schedule for our annual Gifts in the Gallery event
- Rescheduled theatrical season - ticket holders have been notified and can be accommodated in the following ways.
- Direct exchange to new performance date
- Patron credit for future Artistry programming
- Option to donate their ticket cost to Artistry
- Speak to audience services when box office reopens on January 11, 2023
- Galleries will continue to operate as scheduled pending artists availability
- Educational programming will be offered throughout the year in a limited capacity. If you have registered for a class that has been put on hold, please check your email for an update.

This has been a difficult time for many in our Artistry community, most directly former staff and artists that had counted on the work provided by this organization. There is still much to say and much to do to rebuild trust and put Artistry back on track to make a difference through the arts here in Bloomington. We thank you for your support, tough questions and patience. As one of our collaborators reminded us, it took several years to get to this unfortunate place. It will take time to dig back out. We wish it was faster, but we know that to do it well and to get it right, we must take the time.

We wish you and yours a Happy Holiday season. We look forward to reconnecting and rebuilding with you in the new year.

All my best,

Kelli Foster Warder
Acting Executive Director