



**Gold Coast
Arts Center**
goldcoastarts.org



Dear Friends,

As we move closer to our 25th anniversary in 2020, I reflect on the extraordinary journey we have shared as we sought to bring a cultural center to the fabled “gold coast” of Long Island. In 1989, I received our first grant from Albany, thanks to then Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli. With this seed money, I embarked on a mission to form an organization that would promote and support the arts through education, exhibition, performance and outreach. To do that would require a lot of persuasion and a great deal of persistence. So, that meant pounding the pavement, researching other arts centers in NY and throughout the country; soliciting

government officials, service groups like the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lion’s Club, Chambers of Commerce and Business Improvement Districts, businesses, residents, and members of the arts community living or working in the region; I worked hard to draw the interest of the Great Neck community and I learned a lot.

Gathering support over the months and years, the project gained traction and in 1995, the Great Neck Arts Center was created and incorporated as a not for profit 501 (c) (3) organization. With the help of then Mayor Robert Rosegarten, a location was found for our opening. Friends and interested residents with expertise in law, accounting, banking, education, public policy and the arts, gathered and formed the first board of directors. And soon, thanks to the local press and media, people in the community became aware of our mission and volunteers arrived to offer their help and services. It was a real grass roots effort. Every day in the basement of St. Paul’s Church in Great Neck, where we set up our office and studios, there was music, art, dance, acting, and even film. We had found a niche and 250 students showed up for our first semester. Before we knew it, we had outgrown our space. In 1997, thanks to the generosity and philanthropy of committed individuals and corporations, as well as the investment in our project by New York State, Nassau County and the Town of North Hempstead, we moved into the space we currently occupy at 113 Middle Neck Road, which happened to house the only movie theatre in town. And there we found the home for what would become the Gold Coast Film Series, a regular program of new, independent, great films followed by conversations with industry insiders. Throughout the year, we have continued to offer preview screenings of independent films and studio releases to sold out houses, for audiences hungry for intelligent film.

We continued to grow and made the decision to change our name to reflect our regional presence. We rebranded as the Gold Coast Arts Center. As the Gold Coast Arts Center, we developed the Gold Coast International Film Festival in 2011 that was embraced by residents throughout the region and has taken on a huge life of its own, becoming a highly anticipated event each Fall.

Our School for the Arts, affiliated with the Kennedy Center in DC since 1996, continues to serve as the place where thousands of students are educated and nurtured in Music (both vocal and instrumental), Art (Paintings, ceramics, cartooning, fashion, animation, graphics, sculpture, etc.), Theater (acting, Broadway singing and dancing, screenwriting, playwriting, set design, etc.), Dance (ballet, tap, hip hop, jazz, etc.), Chess, Fencing and other art forms. With our talented and professional faculty dedicated to setting high standards and sharing their craft, our students receive top notch enrichment and education in the arts.

The Art Gallery is free and open to the public, carefully curated, and offers new and exciting exhibits rotating throughout the year. Visitors are encouraged to visit the gallery, to ask questions, to acquire the art, and to enjoy the work of professional artists who can be local or with international reputations. Group and individual tours are available as well, with advanced notice. Fulfilling our educational mission, we host schoolchildren from schools throughout the region and offer them customized tours led by our Arts Center curator or docents, and often attended by the exhibiting artists.

None of this could have happened without the support and dedication of a serious Board of Directors, an organized and talented administrative staff, selfless volunteers, generous sponsors, and loving donations and support from the community.

It is my core belief that the Arts are for everyone and that they inspire, refine, enrich, and comfort us at any age and throughout our lives. It is my hope that future generations will continue to realize the importance of the arts and help us and others like us make them available to everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.