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WOODSTOCK SCHOOL OF ART

November 27, 2025

Dear Friend,

As I came out of my class in Studio Two the other day, I cast my eye to the left, forward and around to my right. I thought, what a joyful place this Woodstock School of Art is! Studios filled with dedicated and talented students, brilliant artist instructors leading classes and workshops, wonderful historic buildings on this magical plot near bluestone quarries in the back of our property.

And remarkably, it keeps getting better. As I looked to the left, my eye caught our new parking lot lights, standing tall, black and handsome. I took a walk around to the back of the print studio, and there, also tall and handsome was the renovated lean-to outdoor sculpture studio shed, which makes room for more students, with a large cement floor which will also work seamlessly when the print studio has outdoor needs.

Walking back toward the offices, to the center of our campus, I looked at the stately cedar pavilion which became one of our buildings this summer. With its color and aspect, the pavilion blends beautifully with the surrounding trees, buildings, and grounds. Folks are enjoying eating lunch seated at the picnic tables, out of the sun. And the pavilion is large enough to accommodate a class of plein air painters. Looking beyond the pavilion, at the entrance to the school is new signage for the school, also very handsome.

For 2025, we are expecting a total of 1200 students by the end of 2025, many of them for the first time. In 2024 we had a total of 1100 students. This is a good moment to recognize the extraordinary work being done by our talented, dedicated and efficient staff. They are amazing. We also were so pleased to welcome five new instructors this year in the areas of oil painting, plein air painting, printmaking, and encaustic.

Also unmissable right now is the barn, the oldest building on our property. This building is designated as a historic structure, and so the exterior will be unchanged, and will stand tall and proud. Our ambitious renovation is well underway. As I write this letter, the foundation is being rebuilt, essential ceiling beams are being placed, and a new roof is about to be built.

continued

The finished barn will be an energy efficient building to be used for visiting instructor housing, artist residencies, as well as studio and meeting space. The interior will have two bedrooms, three bathrooms, a kitchen and a large central work and meeting area, with heating and air conditioning which will make this a year-round facility. We expect the barn to be finished in the summer of 2026.

And there's more. Tucked away, behind Studios One and Two, will be a ground-mounted solar array. Right now, as I write, we are also breaking ground out there. Phew! We are proud to have been awarded grants which will pay for practically the entire cost of this important installation. Once completed, this solar installation will provide more than a year's electricity needs for the school.

Our board and staff will be meeting in November for strategic planning for our next three years. We will be discussing how to best serve our students and our community, and being sure we keep focused on carrying out our mission:

> *The Woodstock School of Art offers excellence in fine art instruction, inspires creativity in a welcoming community, building on its rich artistic lineage and unique historic setting.*

Each year we come to you and ask for your support. We rely on generous contributions from friends and from believers in the power of the arts, and we hope you will consider giving us your trust and supporting our vital work. With your support we will continue to inspire artists and send beauty out in every direction to sustain us all.

Thank you so very much,

Scott Clugstone
Board President

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