

PROMOTING ARTS--THE SOUL OF THE COMMUNITY

Laural Ronk is Executive Director of the Bluffs Arts Council (BAC) which was organized in 1982. Laural's work is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors and is funded by membership dues, gifts, and grants. As a former school principal and teacher she has a serious interest in promoting arts. Laural explained that she is assisted by many volunteers who help her schedule and promote BAC activities. The mission of BAC is to act as a catalyst for broadening knowledge, participation, appreciation, and enjoyment of all arts by all people. An important goal for Laural is to reach out to local communities around Council Bluffs and assist in promoting the arts in those communities. Laural suggested she could help with grant writing for arts projects and help with scheduling programs such as music concerts. BAC has initiated several programs and experienced growth in furthering the arts through a wide variety of projects and programs during its existence. Examples of some projects are: Youth Art Month in March, IWCC Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, Renaissance Faire of the Midlands, Annual Summer Arts Series in Bayliss Park, Annual Holiday Concert, Ruth Anne Dodge Memorial Restoration, Lincoln Memorial Restoration, and Autumn in the Bluffs. Laural explained BAC also publishes a quarterly Community Arts Calendar of BAC and other area arts programs. While there is some coordination with the Omaha Arts Council, Laural noted, more cooperation might lead to better promotion of events scheduled by each arts council.