The Anderson Center barn recently hosted its grand opening – the capstone event marking the completion of the renovation, restoration, and renewal of the Anderson Center at Tower View.

Step by step, piece by piece, from brush stroke to saw cut to tuck point, the Anderson Center and the community were ready. This historic place on the west end of Red Wing emerged gradually out of the twentieth century as an important place to spark invention, nurture the young, house the stuff of the imagination, launch creatives into our midst, change us, lift us and take us into the future.

The Anderson Center will continue to be such a place for artistic creation, intellectual exploration, and essential learning. But now that the building and shaping is done, the Center will also serve as an example of just how a region’s investment of time, labor, and money can pay dividends in jobs and economic development. Most important, though, the barn, which once housed livestock and grain that sustained a family, has joined the rest of the Anderson Center as a source of food to sustain the soul of a community.

Sean Dowse
Chairman
Board of Directors

“Artists are often asked to define their work by a single discipline. But more and more in our work, we encounter artists who refuse to be limited by discipline. They easily cross, meld, and blur the traditional lines of artistic discipline. The Anderson Center not only understands the value of this blending but in fact has been a pioneer in encouraging it. I have long believed the Anderson Center is one of the unique treasures of this state.”

– Sue Gens
Executive Director, Minnesota State Arts Board
This past fiscal year was one of the busiest, most exciting years in recent memory. In December, we welcomed Rocco Landesman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, for a visit and tour of the Center. Former Poet Laureate of the United States and Pulitzer Prize winner Ted Kooser and actress Debra Winger presented memorable readings to a standing-room crowd in March. In May, Fancy Dancer and founder of Native American Pride Dancers, Larry Yazzie, was presented with the 2012 A. P. Anderson Award for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the cultural life of Minnesota.

Add in the International Residency Program that drew artists, writers, and scholars from eleven states and six foreign countries, the summer and winter art celebrations that highlighted the work of more than 150 artists and musicians, the children’s book fair attended by over 1000 people from the five-state area, an exhibition season that showcased a broad spectrum of artwork from rug hooking to textiles to the art of bookmaking, a full slate of lectures, performances, and retreats, and the result was nothing short of an eventful, thoroughly exhilarating year.

By far the biggest news was the long-awaited restoration of the historic 1915 barn and silo, a project praised by Richard Moe, President Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, as “one of the most heartening and imaginative projects” he has seen in years. The restored barn now doubles the Center’s current gallery space and serves as a perfect venue for concerts, lectures, meetings, educational opportunities as well as a place for local and regional artists to showcase their imaginative landscapes. 93% of the total cost of this final phase of the restoration of Tower View was contributed by the local community, a testament to Red Wing’s long-time commitment to preserve its history.

This past year the Center also had the opportunity to purchase eleven acres on the eastern boundary of Tower View, bringing the total amount of acreage owned by the Center to 350. Acquired from Lydia and Steve Anderson, the site contains six buildings—a two-story farmhouse, garage, horse barn, and three artist studios—as well as a spacious, oak-shaded lawn overlooking the Cannon River valley. Originally part of the Tower View estate, the site was for many years the private residence of John and Eugenie Anderson. The purchase allows the Center to expand in all its rightful directions. At the same time, it allows the histories of these two remarkable properties, divided for nearly a half century, to come together to become one history again.
As grandson of A. P. and Lydia Anderson, as well as the co-founder and current director of the Anderson Center, it has been one of the great joys of my life to see Tower View restored to its original grace and beauty and to see the Center itself grow into one of the most respected arts facilities of its kind in the United States—a place that has played a critical role in so many people's lives as well as in the cultural vitalization of Red Wing and its surrounding rural communities. None of this, of course, could be possible were it not for the work of a dedicated staff, a Board of Directors committed to fulfilling the mission of the place, and for the long-term support of you, our many generous members. Thank you.

Financials: The Anderson Center gratefully acknowledges the following for providing funds for special projects: Alliance of Artists Communities/Joyce Foundation to support Midwestern Voices and Visions Project ($1,000), General Mills Foundation to support Residency Program ($2,000), Insty-Prints for promotion of sculpture garden and nature walk ($500), Jerome Foundation to support emerging artists and writers ($14,400), John O. & Barbara N. Hanson Family Foundation to support barn and silo restoration ($10,000), Jones Family Foundation to support Residency and Outreach Programs ($7,500), Lenfestey Family Foundation to support barn and silo restoration ($10,000), McKnight Foundation to support barn and silo restoration ($70,000), McKnight Foundation to support general operations ($20,000), Minnesota Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to support general operations ($18,396), Minnesota State Arts Board to support Residency and Outreach Programs and general operations ($12,396), National Endowment for the Arts to support Residency Program ($10,000), Prairie Island Tribal Council to support barn and silo restoration ($1,000), Red Wing Area Fund to support barn and silo restoration ($100,000), Red Wing Shoe Foundation to support barn and silo restoration ($150,000), Red Wing Shoe Foundation to support Residency Program ($2,000), Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council to support reading by former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser ($3,725), Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council to provide sign-language interpreters for Summer Celebration of the Arts ($300), Sweasy Family Fund to support barn and silo restoration ($100,000), Target Foundation to support Outreach Program ($2,000), and Xcel Energy Foundation to support Outreach Program ($5,000).

Robert Hedin
Executive Director
The Anderson Center wishes to thank the following organizations, schools, and institutions for hosting programs for the public by Anderson Center Residents. The total number of people, from primary school children to senior citizens, who benefited this past year from Resident-fellow presentations was approximately 2,500. Hosts include:

- Fairview Ebenezer
- Fairview Seminary Plaza
- Goodhue County Adult Detention Center
- Goodhue County History Center
- Lake City High School
- Minnesota Correctional Facility
- Northfield High School
- Pepin Art & Design Center
- PFLAG
- Red Wing Arts Association
- Red Wing High School
- Red Wing Photography Club
- Sheldon Theatre
- Sheldon Theatre Performing Arts School
- Southeast Technical College
- Tower View Alternative High School
- Women’s Network of Red Wing

Former United States Poet Laureate Ted Kooser and actress Debra Winger at their reading in April.

Balloon artist David Olson at 13th Annual Celebration of Minnesota Children’s Authors and Illustrators event in September.
FY 2012

Program Services Expense 403,072 (81%)
Supporting Services Expense 95,770 (19%)
Total Expenses 498,842

After due consideration it was decided to take the stenciling off the silo and let nature play Her part in painting it with ever shifting shadows and light. William Federbusch captured this autumn day’s design.

There is a generous spirit that occupies the Anderson Center—a gift I have had the good fortune to experience. Why me? Who knows! The gods are kind as well as capricious. And there is something that makes a stay at the Center extraordinarily productive and peaceful. Perhaps it has to do with the number of residents (not too many and not too few—just the right number), or perhaps it has to do with the way everything (the rooms, the library, the food, the lawns—everything!) is carefully put together and lovingly maintained.

I must confess that I am one reason why so many people know about the Center. For years I have been telling everyone I know about how much I love the place. My first residency was in 2000 and it was wonderful, but by the time I returned in 2009, I had been to some of the most well-known and famous residency programs in the country, and none of them suited me more than the Anderson Center. Long may its doors be open!

– Joyce Sutphen
Poet Laureate of Minnesota

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COVER PHOTO
Tower View Barn & Silo
Chap Achen
2012
Barn/Silo Contributors

The Anderson Center wishes to thank the following foundations, family funds, businesses, and individuals who have contributed generously to the restoration of the Center’s historic barn and silo:

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Interior of barn, south view, under restoration.