

Niwot Cultural Arts Association 2020 Report to the Community

2020 was a challenging year, to say the least. But the Niwot Cultural Arts Association, thanks to continued community support, is poised to continue and expand its programs in 2021.

Let's Wine About Winter – February 22, 2020

This was the last event held in Niwot before the pandemic. In its 5th year, attendance was again strong, with 378 tickets sold. The weather cooperated, and net proceeds from the wine tasting and culinary sampling event totaled \$7,982.98, which was divided between Niwot Children's Park and Whistlestop Park. While the pandemic won't permit the event to be held in 2021, look for its return in 2022.

First Friday Art Walks – Summer

First Friday Art Walks, sponsored by the NCAA and Osmosis Art Gallery, and its newly-minted Family Art Walks with activities for children, was derailed by the pandemic. Look for a return in the summer of 2021.

Why Not Niwot? Juried Art Show – September 4, 2021

The juried art show featuring Niwot-related art work, now in its 9th year, had to be postponed from June to September. With COVID infection rates declining at the time, a socially distanced event was held in conjunction with the only First Friday Art Walk of the summer. The popular event had 30 entries, and generated net revenue of \$2,064.45, which was divided between Niwot Children's Park and Whistlestop Park. Local artist Karen Antoni won both first place in the judged contest as well as the People's Choice award for a smiling youth whose mirrored sunglasses reflected the view of the mountains in the front range as well as the Caboose at Whistlestop Park. Prints of the winning artwork along with wine labeled with the artwork are still available for purchase at Osmosis Art Gallery and Niwot Liquors, respectively.

Rock & Rails Summer Concert Series

The NCAA held out hope that the pandemic would recede in time for the popular summer concert series to continue in its 14th season, but alas, the events had to be cancelled. The event, held in conjunction with the Niwot Business Association, is the primary source of support for the cost of maintaining Niwot Children's Park, and also provides upwards of \$19,000 each year in tip jar revenue for other local non-profit organizations. The NCAA made good-faith payments to musicians and support staff who have long supported the event due to the impacts of the pandemic on their income. Look for a return of Rock & Rails in the summer of 2021.

Whistlestop Park

Although the pandemic cancelled all scheduled events at Whistlestop Park in 2020, construction of the new concessions and utility building, known as The Depot, was completed under budget at a cost of \$144,560.03 by Porchfront Homes and local subcontractors. We were also able to include repainting the Caboose in the construction project. The entire cost of construction was paid from community donations, 2019 Rock & Rails net revenues, business sponsors and in-kind donations from contractors and other individuals. Look for a dedication ceremony to properly recognize and thank donors in 2021.

Niwot Sculpture Park

The NCAA has worked with other local organizations to improve and maintain the Niwot Sculpture Park at 79th and Niwot Road. Two of the sculptures installed are permanent acquisitions by the NCAA, while the others are on loan from artists and are available for purchase. Artist Eddie Running Wolf tragically passed away from the effects of COVID, and the NCAA is working on a plan to scan images of the iconic tree sculptures, as well as a plan to preserve the deteriorating sculptures. A major community fundraising project is planned for the future.

Niwot Children's Park

The pandemic limited use of Niwot Children's Park to no more than 25 people at a time, and as a result, reservations for birthday parties and other gatherings were suspended. As a result, donations from park users declined in 2020. The cost of maintaining the park in 2020 was \$12,745.96, but adding wood chips and mulch was deferred until 2021. The maintenance costs were paid from funds generated by the 2019 Rock & Rails summer concert series. A new security system was installed to curtail vandalism.

Niwot Community Semi-Marching Free Grange Band

The community band's 2020 performances were curtailed by the pandemic. After performing as a pep band on February 11 for the Niwot High School Boys and Girls Basketball Teams, the band was silent until September's First Friday Art Walk. Twenty members of the band rehearsed in Whistlestop Park with their newest fans, Amy Vinson's turkeys, before performing at the Why Not Niwot? Juried Art Show on September 4, 2020, in a socially-distanced semi-circle with masked instruments, including COVID tunes "Keep Your Hands to Yourself" and "Stayin' Alive." The band also performed "walk-by" music for the NBA's Octoberfeast on October 3rd before performing a patriotic set at the Niwot Community Association's Veteran's Banners ceremony November 8 outside of Niwot Market. The band returned to perform holiday favorites at the NBA's modified Enchanted Evening November 27, and again at the Holiday Magic event on December 5th.

The Niwot Cultural Arts Association (the "other NCAA") is a 501 c3 charitable organization formed in 2009. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Thank you for your continued support!

Niwot Cultural Arts Association
P.O. Box 733
Niwot, CO 80544
www.niwotarts.org

Board of Directors: Alyson Bell, Holly Dapolito, Satir DeMarco, Michelle Henzel, Vicki Maurer, Anne Postle, Biff Warren