



Dominican Institute for the Arts

Searching for truth and beauty
Preaching through the transforming power of the arts

APRIL 2008

DIA BOARD INITIATES STRATEGIC PLAN

From November 30 through December 2, 2007, Carmelita Murphy, O.P. led DIA Board Members through an intensive strategic planning process which culminated in a twenty-page Operational Plan for 2008-2012. The following report is based on Carmelita's Summary of the weekend's work. She came to the meeting with respect and enthusiasm for the DIA whose ten-year history she had carefully studied. She welcomed the opportunity to facilitate the Board's desire to create an intentional future for DIA, proactively responsive to the many challenges within and without the organization. Participants Lucianne Siers, Jude Bloch, Ann Eigenbauer, Lorraine Ferguson, Carol O'Connor, Daniel Rolland, and Elizabeth Michael Boyle, combined a playful, energetic spirit with a vital sense of personal and collective investment in the arts as a way of life integral to Dominican Preaching.

The Board recognized that, as a young and growing organization, it is critical to give greater definition to the DIA's shared vision, mission, core values, and critical issue areas. The Board hopes that by addressing the organization's critical issues through the implementation of its Operational Plan, the DIA's mission will be achieved and celebrated. **At the outset of the process, Carmelita identified the need to extend the term of the present Board to launch this (or any other long-range) plan. Hence, the agenda**

for the 2008 Gathering will include a proposal to amend DIA by-laws to accommodate this need.

Critical Issues

As they revised Mission and Vision Statements, the Board concluded that "the DIA community is being called to search for truth and beauty, and preach through the transforming power of the arts." After thoroughly reviewing the DIA's internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as its external opportunities and threats, board members identified the following areas as critical issues:

- Membership
- Governance
- Communications/Public Relations
- The Annual Gathering
- Fund Development
- Fiscal Management

A four-year Strategic Operational Plan was developed to address each critical issue with Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Timelines directed toward measurable outcomes for a future.

Continuing the Movement Outward

All agreed that the DIA draws its principal energy from the Annual Gathering during which we celebrate our core values of creativity, shared experience, respect for the individual person, commitment to traditional

(Board strategic plan cont'd.)

Dominican study and preaching, and a special appreciation for the place of the artist and the artistic process in this tradition. Our growth as artists and as preachers will benefit from the quality of offerings at the Gatherings, from the cultivation of relationships with the arts community, an expanded membership, and new sources of financial support for DIA activities. We further agreed, however, that we need to take steps to strengthen internal communication of our Core Values between Gatherings and to reach outward to attract participation from the wider community.

Board members identified several external developments which should contribute to our goal of becoming "an active presence in the wider world." Among these movements are: international development of relations

within the OP Family; Gatherings of Dominican artists in Latin America; the readiness of the membership to embrace Dominican Associates and members outside the Dominican Family. Because it will impact all the goals, an increase in membership leads the list of objectives in the Operational Plan. The recruitment of individuals who value and celebrate the arts, especially those who consider their art to be a form of preaching, could significantly expand the membership roster and enrich new, present and former members.

When this year's keynote speaker, internationally acclaimed spiritual leader and artist, Jan Phillips launches the gathering with a full day's retreat, the 2008 Gathering will take the first giant step forward in the DIA's four-year strategic plan.

FACING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

From the Desk of Lucianne Siers

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As The Dominican Institute for the Arts begins its 12th year, we reflect on all that has transpired for us during our first decade, I would like to share with you the Board's desire to move concretely toward making your ideas and hopes for DIA a reality. Since the Racine Gathering, we as board members have spent time with your creative responses to the "a Muse-ment" consultation process which engaged everyone who attended that event. Among many diverse suggestions, we noticed one consistent theme: a need to move the organization into a better position from which to address the challenges that membership laid out for us. Therefore, in the fall, we decided as a board to initiate a full strategic plan which would map a concrete direction for all the membership. The process affirmed our shared vision, mission, core values and critical issues. With the help of Carmelita Murphy, OP, we have developed an Operational Plan for 2008-2012 that provides specific