



They say an essential test of the success of a start-up business is reaching the five year mark. The Bridge has passed the test with flying colors, not only intact, but on course. Now it looks like 2010 will be the most exciting year yet.

This September marked our fifth year of programming here at 209 Monticello Avenue. While it may appear that not much has changed, that couldn't be further from the truth.

This year The Bridge achieved several significant goals. Last April, we hosted our first annual fundraising event, The Revel. This effort was masterfully coordinated and organized by a fundraising committee who devoted a great deal of time and worked tirelessly to raise a quarter of our annual budget. The event was a bona fide success. Thank you, Revelers.

This fall, we applied for our 501(3)c Non- Profit IRS designation as an independent, tax-exempt entity. This is a big step that comes with many new challenges and opportunities. In addition, we have been diligently assembling our first board of directors for our inaugural meeting scheduled in mid-January, 2010. With our current advisors and newly formed board, The Bridge will have better governance and leadership, greater support for fundraising capabilities, and will be poised to carry out its mission with even greater effectiveness. We could not have gotten to this crossroads without the assistance and guidance of the Virginia Organizing Project, directed by our friend Joe Szakos. Thank you, VOP.

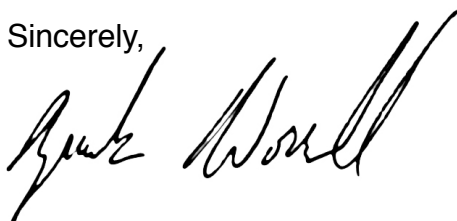
The Bridge has hosted exceptional programming in the past year. Outreach programs like the Westhaven Audio Project and the Southwood Photography Workshops brought together youth in our community with local artists. Internationally acclaimed David Ellis' and local visionary Riley Duncan's gallery exhibitions inspired us. Live performances showcased a wealth of local and national talent and the Film Series screened films that spanned the decades and the world. Special projects, such as the StoryLine Project, galvanized community collaboration with local children and mentor artists in partnership with Thomas Jefferson Center for Freedom of Expression.

These achievements have all been made possible by community partnerships, alliances and support from both local businesses and private donors. The coming year will provide even greater opportunity to build on our success, but we need your help! The Bridge cannot exist without it!

The Bridge is unique, not only as a dynamic venue for the arts, but also as a vital community resource. Each year our programming engages the community directly. We provide valuable support to artists while bringing diverse communities together through creative partnerships, collaborative projects and dynamic events.

The Bridge embodies the very best of our local community, creative spirit, innovation, generosity and desire to serve the needs of others. Please consider supporting our mission for 2010.

Sincerely,



Zack Worrell
Founding Director