

The Ragdale Foundation
2007 Financial Report



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January 1 –
December 31, 2007

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Mission

Ragdale Foundation's mission is to support writers and artists in a retreat setting and to make the arts more accessible to the public through three core programs: artists' residency program, community programs and preservation of the historic site.

A Message from the Board Co-Chairs and the Executive Director

2007 was a very busy and productive year for the Board and Staff of the Ragdale Foundation. We once again ended the year with a surplus, thanks in large part to a highly successful benefit and the first year of our Novel Affair. This allowed us to strengthen our overall financial position, adding to both endowment and reserves.

We completed the second year of the Strategic Plan. The plan reaffirmed Ragdale's mission: *To support writers and artists in a retreat setting and to make the arts more accessible to the public. This is accomplished through three program areas:*

- *The artists' residency program*
- *Preservation of the historic site*
- *Community programs*

The Artists-in-Residence Program

A key goal of the Strategic Plan has been to increase the number and diversity of applications for the residency program, which we are pleased to report is ahead of schedule. This transformation has been fueled by establishing a series of special fellowships, including six endowed and several annual funded fellowships. Fellowship initiatives funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Joyce Foundation employ a system of nominators to identify outstanding candidates in Chicago and the Midwest and to encourage them to apply. The William and Solange Brown, the Hannah Judy Gretz, and the Strnad Endowed Fellowships allow us to invite outstanding talent in musical composition and writing to come to Ragdale to work and enrich our resident community. The Sylvia Clare Brown, the Frances Shaw, the Anne Vogt Fuller & Marion Titus Searle and the Prairie Fellowships recognize and reward outstanding residents from the applicant pool.

2007 opened with a wonderful event at the Chicago Cultural Center in which alumni authors Audrey Niffenegger and Alex Kotlowitz read from their work and spoke about Ragdale's role in their artistic development. This was also the year that we held our first national alumni event in New York City, at the George Billis Gallery where visual artist and Trustee Roland Kulla's work was on exhibit.

Preservation of the Historic Site

2007 was the year that the Board Property Committee commissioned a Historic Structures Report for the Ragdale House. This several hundred-page document, researched and written by architectural historian Anne Sullivan at the firm of Johnson Lasky, is the most complete history of Shaw's summer home ever compiled. The HSR details all of the changes made to the property over its 110-year history, lists the current conditions, and makes recommendations for \$3 million of improvements to the systems and finishes. While the price tag is higher than we might have hoped, it is clear that this is work that must be done to preserve this important building for the next 100 years, which is our charge as stewards of this remarkable property.

In the summer of 2007, architect and Board Member David Woodhouse proposed an unusual and creative partnership to rebuild the Meadow Studio, which had to be closed due to structural damage in 2003. Associate Professor Frank Flury's 4th year design/build class at the Illinois Institute of Technology took on the project during their year-long course. In the fall they began by documenting Sylvia Shaw Judson's crumbling 1943 sculpture studio, according to the standards established by the Historic American Building Survey. They dismantled

the building systematically over one weekend, learning a great deal about its original construction. The class of twelve cooperated to design a new building using the same footprint and materials, but creating something entirely new. The result was a beautiful open box of wood, glass and stone. In 2008 the class will actually construct the building on the edge of the Shaw prairie.

Community Programs

The big news in community programs was the overwhelming success of the first year of Ragdale's Novel Affair. Board members Jane Hamilton and Gail Tsukiyama rallied their best-selling author friends, including Ann Patchett, Gregory Maguire and Eric Larsen, to stay at Ragdale and speak at dinner parties around the community, allowing us to extend the dinner table conversation, raise \$70,000, and give a giant boost to Ragdale's public profile.

2007 was also the year that the new website, funded by the Mericos Foundation, was developed and launched. www.Ragdale.org brings the many lively faces of Ragdale into view, allows residents to apply on-line, keeps the alumni in touch and allows our larger community to follow progress on our building projects, such as the Meadow Studio. This was also a big year for trying new formats, such as a weekend writing workshop with Anne LeClaire for non-residents, a teaching weekend for artist/teachers from Chicago's Marwen Foundation and inviting guests for monthly dinners with residents.

Governance

While all of this was going on, the Board made great strides improving the internal governance of Ragdale. A grant from the Chicago Community Trust funded succession-planning studies by the Executive Service Corps for the Executive Director position as well as the Board of Trustees. In the case of the Executive Director, all job descriptions were updated and critical documents gathered into a central place to minimize interruptions of Ragdale operations when the chief executive officer leaves. Susan assures us that she plans to be at Ragdale for the foreseeable future, but all agree that the time to do this work is when no change is in the offing. The Board was thoroughly surveyed and plans were made for identifying and training strong, dedicated new leaders and keeping retiring board members engaged. Finally, an upgrade of the finances was accomplished by hiring Ballen and Co. to review our financial procedures and chart of accounts, to reflect the more complex operations of the Foundation with ongoing capital and grant projects, as well as day-to-day operations.

Passages

2007 was our first full year since the passing of our founder Alice Hayes. We have all been humbled by the generosity of her children in giving their last remaining piece of property, a parcel south of the log cabin known as "the donut hole," to the Ragdale Foundation and their grace in honoring Alice's artistic legacy by reading from her memoirs at a gathering in the Ragdale house last fall.

It is the nature of a healthy organization to continually have to say good bye to people who have given their all and gone on to other things. In 2007 we waved farewell to Susan Hoagland, Ragdale's first Director of Development, after seven good years and said good-bye with gratitude to loyal board members who have worked hard for Ragdale—Henry Kleeman, Jane Hamilton, Jane Regan and Meg Hausberg.

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January 1 – December 31, 2007

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The 2007 Friends of Ragdale benefit, Heart and Soul, raised \$120,000 in support of Ragdale’s mission and artists’ scholarships. Again, thanks to our Friends of Ragdale,

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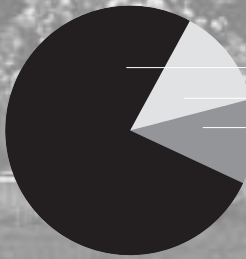
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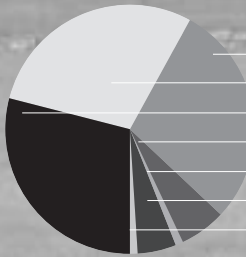
Ragdale Foundation

Statement of Activities

Unrestricted Net Assets:	2007	2006
Revenue from Operations		
Application fees	\$ 10,125	\$ 10,142
Residence fees	79,651	79,316
Workshop fees	7,250	6,890
Royalty and sales income	20,314	23,725
Special Event Income	96,257	25,631
Interest	31,713	48,057
Realized gains (losses)	3,999	(3,552)
Unrealized gains	59,999	101,511
Misc.	5,589	3,300
Total Revenue from operations	\$ 314,897	\$ 295,020
Revenue from Contributions		
Grants	\$ 60,200	
General Public	313,982	83,470
Trust	58,654	310,131
Capital Campaign	10,921	55,900
In Kind	11,139	27,278
Total Support	\$ 454,896	\$ 547,166
Net Assets released from restrictions	\$ 310,893	\$ 206,142
Total revenue	\$ 1,080,686	\$ 1,048,328
Expense		
Program services	\$ 601,421	\$ 606,469
Management and general	99,075	65,937
Fundraising	86,377	47,598
Total expense	\$ 786,873	\$ 720,004
Increase in unrestricted net assets from operations	\$ 293,813	\$ 328,324



2007 Total Expenses
 76% Programs Services
 13% Management and General
 11% Fund Raising



2007 Total Revenues
 29% Contributions - General Public
 29% Earned Income
 29% Net Assets released from restrictions
 6% Grants
 1% In Kind Donations
 5% Trust
 1% Capital Campaign

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2007

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We regret any errors or omissions; please contact Ragdale Foundation so that we may make the corrections.

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