

Leadership: Alan Petersen

-Personal web site: www.apetersenpaintings.com

-Alan has published numerous scholarly articles. A link to one on Gunnar Widforss through CCC's website:

<http://www.coconino.edu/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=13>

Alan is a gifted painter, an inspiring teacher, and a visionary community leader of exceptional skill and dedication. Through his time in Flagstaff, Alan has also maintained his own art practice and exhibited successfully in both public spaces and commercial galleries.

Alan started his pro-active approach to arts in Flagstaff almost as soon as he arrived here by co-founding the Art Trek Gallery and school in 1992. This was the only contemporary art gallery in Flagstaff at the time, and the adjoining art school offered real art opportunities not available elsewhere in the community. His role in Flagstaff arts expanded greatly through the 1990's when he dedicated himself to founding two of Flagstaff most successful arts organizations. His first effort was in 1996 when Alan and a group of fellow artists started the Artists' Coalition of Flagstaff.

Alan was the first president through 2001. He built the organizational structure, obtained the nonprofit status and put the organization on the path to its long term success. In 1998 Alan did it again on a much larger scale as a primary organizer and first president of the board of Flagstaff Cultural Partners from 1999-2001. Alan's dedication, abilities and energy successfully convinced the city and county's most important cultural organizations of the possibilities and importance of the new idea of an umbrella arts organization. He provided support and direction to FCP's first Executive Director, Cheryl Brock, and was highly instrumental in reopening Coconino Center for the Arts and defining its role in the community.

One of the lesser paid attention to cross-over endeavors a creative person may make is to become an educator in their artistic field. Mr. Alan Petersen is on of these types. I first met Alan back in 1980 at the Grand Canyon. He was a young painter like myself. Today, some 31 years later he is still a painter but more widely known as one of the premiere arts leaders and arts educators in Flagstaff. His stellar career at Coconino Community College as painting instructor and eventually director of the Arts Department at CCC is well documented. He has many shows and exhibits to his credit as a painter and he continues to explore paint on canvas in his own dynamic way. He was a founding member of the Flagstaff Cultural Partners. He has been the Curator of Fine Arts at The Museum of Northern Arizona for many years and the exhibits he has created there have been widely recognized as some of the best ever hung at the museum. He is

currently working on a long over due catalog of the works of the great 20th century painter Gunnar Widforss. He has been a very valuable member the Flagstaff Beautification and Public Arts Commission and shown wide ranging leadership on many other arts topics in the city of Flagstaff for many many years. Further more, at the moment he is in a state of potential transition. I am privy to personal information in this area and I can tell you with all certainty that we will be losing him with in six months or so as his wife has accepted a brilliant job elsewhere that he feels trumps his work here. He must be honored for his many long years of work in the arts for the city of Flagstaff.