



Depot Partners Annual Report 2010

It's official. There is no "down time" at The Depot Coffee House. The activity level of 2010 reflects the pace and energy of the Student Board and community-wide embrace of Depot programs and projects.

	Jan. - March	April - June	July- Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	Totals!
Friday Live Music	597	882	1054	1262	3795
Open Mic Tuesdays	385		455	575	1845
Special Events	789	340	169	160	1458
Total attendance	1771	1652	1678	1997	7098

An emerging trend this year is having concerts/events for the benefit of a community group or a specific cause. Each event has had the approval of the entire Student Board. They have also been the volunteer staff for these events. In each case the Depot has either "comped" rental fees or donated the entire proceeds of the evening. Benefit organizations have included: Teens Alone Battle of the

Bands (\$800+), Haiti earthquake benefit for American Red Cross (\$1,200), Darfur Benefit Concert (\$400), Empty Bowls (\$ 350), Crea Theatre Project, and Northstar Irish Dancers and the Twin Cities Sierra Club. Everyone associated with The Depot is very pleased to be able to "give back" in this way.

All of this adds up to many volunteer hours. The Board members and additional students who are part of Depot Event Corps (DEC) volunteered **over 1000** hours on-site to staff all of this activity. The DEC was a new idea last year to help more youth be able to participate in running the operations at the Depot. Currently there are 15 trained DEC volunteers.

MLK Weekend Board Retreat- This year we all traveled to a Wisconsin YMCA camp for a weekend of team building activities and Depot business. One of the sessions was dedicated to understanding personality styles. We all took an Enneagram test and discovered what was helpful and challenging about each

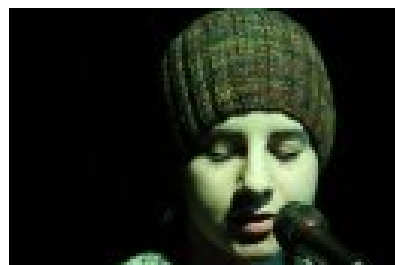


of our types. We learned that



The Depot Board has an over- abundance of Type 7 - *The Enthusiast* - and is completely missing several other important types. This led to some thoughtful discussion about how to conduct a Board search process to engage a wider diversity of personalities in our programs and projects.

Winter Music Series Residency- We were fortunate to have *No Bird Sing* as the resident Hip Hop artist this winter. Over a series of 4 evenings in January and February, these musicians and their guests played selections from their works and then talked about their creative process with interested students. On several of these evenings, an Open Mic segment gave attendees an opportunity to perform and discuss their work with the professionals. HCC One Voice selected the Depot for a mini-grant to support these events. The



Depot Hip Hop series supports the growing number of local artists who avoid the sometimes typical hip hop celebration and encouragement of drug and alcohol use as well as other negative stereotypes. It is very exciting to see artists and their student admirers choose "better ways" to get their messages across. A special turn of events one evening found former Depot Board Member and Main Street School graduate **Aimee Renaud** sharing the spotlight as a guest artist!



Caring Youth Award 2010

-In March **all** 12 of the youth Depot Board Members were honored with the Hopkins/Minnetonka/Golden Valley Caring Youth Award. The success of the Depot so far this year is due to the planning, creative spirit and hard work of this Board.



Generation Solar - Through the Depot partnership with Three Rivers Park District, funding has been secured from the MN Department

of Natural Resources to install solar panels on the roof of the Depot building AND provide educational resources and opportunities for trail users, students of all ages, and other

Depot customers. This is the next step

after many activities of the past several years in "greening" the Depot. The solar panels will offset some of the utility cost at the Depot as well as provide a high profile place to educate the public about renewable energy. Panels will be installed this summer with hopes that everything will be in place to welcome field trip students in September.

*Depot Board Vice Chair **Peter Boisclair** speaks at Generation Solar Press Event.*





Board Transition - In June our new Board recruits became part of The Depot while we said good-bye and thank you to graduating Seniors **Elisabeth Spry, Tyler Gustafson, Peter Boisclair, Robert Wallant, and Nia Sotto.**

Open Mic Nights - The Depot Open Mic Tuesdays have become a steady draw with all the spots full just minutes after opening. There is no other **weekly** Open Mic venue in the Twin Cities. Music, stand up, spoken word...anything goes! The supportive atmosphere is great for anyone trying out their talent. There is often an array of adults from the local areas who come in addition to the students. This sometimes leads to some very fine intergenerational jamming! We have noted a steady rise in the popularity of this event. At least once a month Depot Coordinator Ted Duepner will extend the hours to include more participants.

Project Greenfleet - In June, the Depot hosted a press event for Project Greenfleet to show off a new diesel engine that idles at a much reduced level of noise, fuel consumption and emissions. The engine pulled right up the Depot (just like old times!) and was open for visitors to climb aboard and see for themselves. This is especially important for Hopkins residents as the trains spend more time idling in the Hopkins switchyard than at other places along the route.

Greenfleet Principals and Mayor Gene Maxwell



Puppets! - The Depot received a special grant from the Minnesota Regional Arts Council to sponsor a series of workshops to make Parade Puppets for the 2010 Raspberry Parade in downtown Hopkins. In typical Depot fashion, there were a number of partners involved in this project. The Hopkins School District offered the use of Ubah Academy for the puppet workshops to be held, Hopkins and Minnetonka Parks and Rec allowed the project to incorporate students in their Rectivity program, ICA donated snacks, Driskoll's lent us some shopping carts and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre was contracted to provide their teaching expertise. The parade entry was designed by students to lift up creativity and the Depot's symbolism of being a place where all can "get on board". In a nod to our growing green profile there was a giant sun puppet leading the group and bicycles decorated with sun streamers lending the alternative energy to the group!





The Raspberry Parade was deemed a great success for our Board members who participated and all of the students who helped with designing and creating the Depot entry.

Also during July's Raspberry Festival the Depot hosted a 24 hr. music event called "Raspberry Jam" in which (mostly) live music was played at the Depot from 1 p.m. on a Friday for the next 24 hours.



Hopkins High School student Sarah Washko designed this billboard displayed on Highway 169 in August/September. This is the 3rd year that the Depot has selected a student design for the billboard space donated for this purpose by the City of Hopkins. Thanks to Sarah, Hopkins High Art Dept. and City of Hopkins!

Funding Crunch - This year, like many other non-profits, the Depot felt the squeeze of a flat economy. Some regular sources for grant funding have designated their funds to go to emergency needs like food shelves and housing programs and not to youth organizations. As a result, the Depot staff has looked for ways to cut expenses (including a huge drop in utilities because of solar panels

coming on line over the winter) as well as to diversify income sources. We will be conducting some "direct ask" fund-raising through our web site and at the coffee counter during the last months of the year. We have also begun the process of creating a sister 501(c)3 organization "Friends of the Depot" to be eligible for funding that will only be directed to organizations with 501(c)3 tax designation. Resource Coordinator Jo Clare Hartsig will continue to submit grants and nurture relationships with potential funders to help stabilize the funding base for the Depot. It is ironic that we feel the resources pinch at precisely the time we are providing more area youth with programs and opportunities than at any other time in our history!



The 2010 Depot Halloween Party and Costume Contest was huge success!

Depot Staff members Ted Duepner and Jo Clare Hartsig represent The Depot in various settings throughout the community. Ted is part of the Three Rivers Trail Safety Task Force and is on the City of Hopkins Green Team. Jo Clare serves as the Community Chair of the Hopkins One Voice Community Coalition and is on the Hopkins in Motion planning team. They also attend community-wide networking meetings sponsored by Hopkins School District, Blake Corridor group, and other youth-focused groups. Ted also worked in the classrooms at Hopkins High School as part of an Advertising class of 25 students that create various promotional materials for use by the Depot youth programs and coffee business.



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